



MINUTES OF SAPPHIRE WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9am, Thursday 29 June 2023
Inverell Shire Council (Committee Rooms)
144 Otho St, Inverell

Attendees:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
David Williamson (DW)	Sapphire Wind Farm Representative
Anthony Alliston (AA)	Inverell Shire Council delegate
Ben Swan (BS)	Host Landholder
Chris Voll (CV)	Community Representative (Church Communities Australia & Inverell Chamber of Commerce & Industry)

Apologies:

Annabel Sides – Community Representative
Mike Norton – Community Representative
Neil Eigeland – Community Representative
Matthew Velcich – Business in Glen
Dane O’Connor - Department of Regional NSW
Cr Stewart Berryman –Inverell Shire Council
Cr Troy Arandale – Glenn Innes Severn Council

ITEM		ACTION/COMMENTS						
1.0 Welcome and Introductions CCC meeting opened at 9.10am by LA who welcomed all attendees. LA stated that she was waiting for Dane O’Connor to join the meeting via video-conferencing.								
2.0 Apologies As listed above. LA advised that Mike Norton has tendered his resignation from this CCC; stating that as there are only 2 turbines located in the GIS LGA and that he was comfortable with how the CEF was being managed. LA thanked him for his contribution and attendance over the years.		Acknowledged.						
3.0 Acknowledgement of Country								
4.0 Finalisation of Previous Minutes In accordance with the guidelines. The minutes from the 15 th September 2022 were finalised and distributed to CCC members on 7 th October 2022..		Emailed 7/10/22.						
5.0 Declaration of Interests LA advised that there have been no changes to her previous declarations. She is an approved Independent Chairperson with DP&E and engaged by Squadron Energy to chair the meeting.								
6.0 Business Arising Action Items from previous meeting:								
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing).</td> <td>DW</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		ISSUE	WHOM	1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing).	DW	
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2	Send Flyer to CCC members (complete – sent with final minutes)*	LA	*The Flyer was in relation to the proposed wind farm west of Guyra and community information sessions in September
<p>7.0 Correspondence as per email 15/6/23, with one additional item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15/9/22 – Email to members with the draft minutes from 15/9/22. • 27/9/22 – Email from TA with a copy of the Statement of Expectations. • 7/10/22 – Email to members with the finalised minutes. • 11/10/22 – Email from Glen Innes Severn Council advising that Cr Arandale is Council’s representative on this CCC. Acknowledged and thanked. • 13/2/23 – Email from DW advising of the merger between CWP Renewables and Squadron Energy. Forwarded on to CCC for their information. • 15/6/23 – Email Email to CCC members with Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this CCC. • 27/6/23 – Email to members with a reminder for this meeting and link to join via video-conferencing? 			Accepted.
<p>8.0 Project Update DW provided the project update:</p> <p>Ongoing annual maintenance of the wind turbines, site roads and weed management continue.</p> <p>Continued Improvement Modifications (CIM) are ongoing.</p> <p>Lightning protection system has been upgraded and completed on all blades. Monitoring and inspections ongoing.</p> <p>Year 2 of the Bird and Bat Management survey/report has been submitted to DPE for review and advice on the monitoring program moving forward. Currently awaiting response. Six monthly inspections to be implemented replacing monthly.</p> <p>Power generation was slightly over budget for 2022; with power generation ahead of budget for 2023.</p> <p>Squadron Energy (SE) acquired CWP Renewables in February 2023. Business operating practices remain the same. CWP CEO Jason Willoughby is now CEO of SE. As a result of the sale, SE now has two additional operating wind farms in Victoria, Murrawarra 1 & 2. As well as Clark Creek 1 under construction in QLD and a LNG offloading facility under construction at Shell Harbour.</p>			
<p>9.0 Solar & Battery Projects Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date for construction of the battery project is not confirmed, whilst it was targeted for the beginning of 2023, this has now slipped to Q1 2024. • The solar project is still in pre-construction tendering and financing process. It was proposed for construction in later 2023, however, this has been moved to later 2024 at the earliest. 			

<p>10.0 Community Benefit Fund</p> <p>BS advised that the CBF is going well and that there are still a good number of organisations applying for funds. He tendered the media release (attached to these minutes), which provided details of the 13 local organisation that were successful during the Round 2 of the 2022 Sapphire Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.</p> <p>CV enquired whether smaller groups are falling through the cracks for funding because they don't have the time or skills to make the applications. BS responded that support is there for groups to seek and receive assistance through this process. Just a matter of making contact and help will be provided.</p>	<p>See attached Media Release (15/12/22)</p>
<p>11.0 General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil. 	
<p>12.0 Meeting Schedule for 2023</p> <p>LA sought the committee's concurrence to continue with annual meetings. Reminding members that an extraordinary meeting can be called at the request of any community members, stakeholder group or the proponent.</p> <p>Accordingly, the next meeting of the CCC was scheduled for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thursday 27th June 2024, commencing at 9am, Inverell Shire Council meeting room, Inverell. 	<p>Agreed.</p>

Meeting closed at 9.40am with LA thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution.

ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM	ISSUE	WHOM
1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing)	DW