



MINUTES OF SAPPHIRE WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9am, Thursday 8 May 2025
Inverell Shire Council (Committee Rooms)
144 Otho St, Inverell

Attendees:

Michael J. Silver OAM (MJS)	Independent Chairperson
David Williamson (DW)	Sapphire Wind Farm Representative
Cr Carol Sparks (CS)	Glenn Innes Severn Council delegate

Apologies:

Chris Voll - Community Representative (Church Communities Australia & Inverell Chamber of Commerce & Industry)
Ben Swan – Host Landholder
Greg Dolman – Inverell Shire Council
Kath Elliott - Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Community Relations, Squadron Energy
Dane O'Connor – Regional Economic Development Manager, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

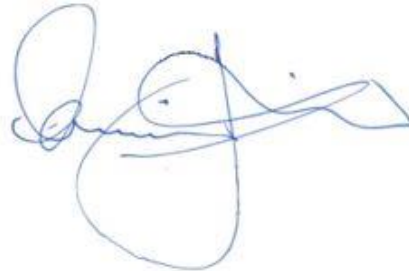
ITEM			ACTION/COMMENTS												
1.0 Welcome and Introductions CCC meeting opened at 9.10 am by MJS who welcomed all attendees and noted the apologies.															
2.0 Acknowledgement of Country The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is being held and their continuing connection to land, water, and culture, paying respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.															
3.0 Finalisation of Previous Minutes The minutes from the 20 June 2024 were finalised and were distributed to CCC members and placed on the Proponent’s website.															
5.0 Declaration of Interests MS advised that his declaration has been lodged with DPHI. His expenses as Independent Chairperson are borne by Squadron Energy.															
6.0 Business Arising Action Items from previous meeting: <table><tr><th></th><th>ISSUE</th><th>WHOM</th></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects COMPLETED</td><td>DW</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>NE REZ information to be provided by DO for distribution to CCC COMPLETED</td><td>DO/LA</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>CCC Terms of Reference to be distributed to CCC. COMPLETED</td><td>LA</td></tr></table>				ISSUE	WHOM	1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects COMPLETED	DW	2	NE REZ information to be provided by DO for distribution to CCC COMPLETED	DO/LA	3	CCC Terms of Reference to be distributed to CCC. COMPLETED	LA	Action 1 covered in 9.0 Solar and Battery Projects Update
	ISSUE	WHOM													
1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects COMPLETED	DW													
2	NE REZ information to be provided by DO for distribution to CCC COMPLETED	DO/LA													
3	CCC Terms of Reference to be distributed to CCC. COMPLETED	LA													
7.0 Correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Glen Innes Shire Council – Advising appointment of Cr Carol Sparke as delegate to the CCC															

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neil Eigeland – Seeking advice on status of shares held by community investors and managed by Doma Co. DW advised he should take the matter up with Doma Co. • Inverell Shire Council – Advising appointment of Greg Dolman as delegate to the CCC. 	
<p>8.0 Project Update</p> <p>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. Monitoring and inspections are ongoing.</p> <p>Following DPHI's approval, inspections have been moved to bi-annually. One in summer and one in winter. There has been no significant changes and no significant concerns since implementing this process.</p> <p>Power generation for 2024 was slightly under budget by 5% due to low wind. The 2025 period is on track to meet the generation budget. DW also advised that bird strikes are low, being less than 20 annually. He advised there had been no formal complaints during the period.</p> <p>In response to MJS he indicated that the full-time employment on the site currently is 10.</p>	
<p>9.0 Solar & Battery Projects Update</p> <p>DW reported that following the sale to Squadron Energy the business structure was reviewed. Consequently, it is not proposed to proceed with the Solar and Battery storage projects. The focus of Squadron will be on its wind assets. He advised that the energy market has moved on and due to Sapphire Wind Farm's size, it no longer aligns with the business strategy for battery storage. Battery sizes and capacity have increased and therefore they need more generation to be viable.</p>	
<p>10.0 Community Benefit Fund</p> <p>DW advised there has been over \$1.2M allocated in the community since commencement. He indicated that the Inverell Community Fund was operating under two rounds – winter and summer. During 2024 ten (10) organisations were funded, totalling \$107,000. During the first round of 2025, \$85,000 was allocated to community groups. Glen Innes continue to receive an annual allocation of \$5000.</p>	
<p>11.0 General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCC Operation – General discussion proceeded on the future of the CCC given the decline in membership and the reduction in issues impacting the community. It was agreed MS would discuss the future operation of the CCC with DPHI. 	<p>Action: MS to discuss future operation of the CCC with DPHI.</p>
<p>12.0 Next Meeting</p> <p>Tentatively scheduled for May/June 2026 at a date to be confirmed.</p>	

Meeting closed at 9.40am

ACTION ITEM:

ITEM	ISSUE	WHOM
1	Discuss future operation of CCC with DPHI	MJS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Silver', with a large loop at the end.

Approved: 19 May 2025

Michael J. Silver OAM
Independent Chairperson