

**Minutes of Uungula Windfarm  
Community Consultative Committee (CCC)**

**Thursday 9.30am, 20 February 2025**

**Wellington Soldiers Memorial Club, 75 Arthur Street, Wellington.**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Position</b>
Garry West	GW	Independent Chairperson
Lindsay Hough	LH	Community Representative
John Goodworth	JG	Community Representative
John Southwell	JS	Chamber of Commerce Representative
John Xuereb	JX	Community Representative
Pip Smith	PS	Community Representative
Councillor Richard Ivey	RI	Dubbo Regional Council Representative
Keiyana Guihot	KG	Community Representative
Malcolm McPhan	MMcP	UWF Project Manager, Squadron Energy
Kath Elliott	KE	Head of Stakeholder and Community Engagement, Squadron Energy (MS Teams)
Cindy Smith	CS	UWF Environmental Advisor, Squadron Energy
Bart Sykes	BS	Regional Economic Development Manager, Squadron Energy
Peter Stewart	PS - NACAP	Lands, Environment and Cultural Heritage Manager, NACAP
Melissa Bird	MB	UWF Community Relations Advisor, Squadron Energy
Mick McGuire	MMcG	UWF Operations Manager, Squadron Energy
Catherine McGufficke	CMcG	Stakeholder and Community Manager, Lumea (MS Teams)
Malcolm Moore	MM	UWF Site Representative, Squadron Energy (MS Teams)

<b>Observers</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Position</b>
Chad Taylor	CT	Landowner
Jamie Sattler	JS	Wellington Sand & Gravel

<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Position</b>
Brad Bliss	BB	Community Representative
Darran Reeves	DR	UWF Civil Supervisor, Squadron Energy
Jay Bean	JB	Construction Superintendent, NACAP
Justin Toomey-White	JTW	First Nations Engagement Facilitator, Squadron Energy

### **Introduction and Welcome**

GW welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the country on which the meeting is being held. Acknowledged Elders past, present and future and all First Nations persons present.

GW welcomed Keiyana Guihot as a new member of the CCC and Chad Taylor and Jamie Sattler as observers.

### **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

No new declarations.

### **Previous Minutes**

GW confirmed the minutes of the CCC meeting of 21 November 2024 had been circulated and have been uploaded to the Squadron Energy project website.

### **Safety First Issues**

JG concerned about the steep drop off from new road and that there is insufficient pull over points along the alignment.

PS concerned about the number of flat tyres occurring along the route.

### **Business Arising**

VPA arrangements with Dubbo Regional Council. Members wish to know who advertises for Community Grants and is the CCC able to make recommendations. MB and GW agreed to seek advice. RI asked if this had been resolved. BS advised DRC has decided to establish one locality wide committee with each SD Project represented to review and advise on applications made through the respective project VPAs.

**ACTION: GW & MB to follow up and report back to the CCC in the next meeting.**

### **Project Update**

MMcP (Project Manager) provided a project update.

- Twelve Mile Road – Works continuing with surface sealing activities completed for the first 6 km. Remaining section scheduled for this week. Minor exception is a small area near Hugh Taylor’s property, where there is a culvert which requires full replacement.
- Twelve Mile Road – Installation of permanent safety barriers and demarcation posts has commenced. NACAP have started spraying hydro mulch to assist with stabilisation of batters and drains.
- Goolma Road & Twelve Mile Road Intersection – Major asset relocations have been completed in preparation of the wind farm works. Works currently scheduled to

commence during the March period pending TfNSW final endorsement for road works to commence.

- Ilginery road works were completed with a final walk through with the relevant project groups and DRC representative.
- Transgrid / Lumea are progressing with the mobilisation of resources over the coming weeks to commence work on the north entrance (left hand side) off Twelve Mile Road to the switching station.
- Wind farm pre-construction minor works will continue to allow establishment of site facilities and access tracks for the project along with the substation preparation.
- Intersection on Uungula Road approved by DRC. This work will commence during the next reporting period. SQE will issue notification when the Works will commence.

Question: RI asked if the drop offs design had been approved by DRC? MMcP confirmed they were.

### **Environmental Update**

CS (Environmental Advisor) provided an environmental update.

#### Environmental Incidents – January

- Hydraulic oil spill <10 litres to ground
- Diesel spill <20 litres to ground
- 10 environmental incidents recorded for the project since commencement

#### Environment Performance

- Assisted on ground support in fire and storm responses
- Hydro mulching along TMR

#### Fauna Interactions

- January – 2 interactions
- Total for project 50 interactions

#### Weekly Environmental Inspections – January

- Monitoring inspections – 18
- Weed hygiene inspections – 30
- Post rainfall inspections – 6
- Total environmental inspections for project – 194

Members reported different reactions to ability to access attending the recent fire. Road crews need to adopt standard procedure for emergencies.

### **Economic and Employment Development Opportunities**

BS (Regional Economic Development Facilitator) provided an update.

#### Accommodation in Wellington and Dubbo

- Bellhaven – SQE are engaging with contractors to use Bellhaven for UWF workforce. Refurbishment may be required.
- Soon to submit DA for a 400 person village in Dubbo, which is intended for the Spicers Creek Wind Farm, but may be used for UWF as well.
- Local landlords still demonstrating interest in providing accommodation

RI indicated there may be an opportunity to work with Marantha to provide extra accommodation.

### Introduction to the wind industry course

As previously advised, in partnership with NSW TAFE a TAFE course has been developed called 'Introduction to the Wind Industry' an online course that explains the industry and what jobs are available on a wind farm, talking to employment opportunities on a wind farm site. Enrolments are still available for anyone interested. Justin Toomey-White (First Nations Facilitator) is to run a program with Wellington High School students.

### Business Uplift / training for workers

Planning is underway for a program for local businesses in mapping a pathway to opportunity / capability statements / WHS compliance / tendering checklists / connecting with buyers.

As the UWF workforce builds SQE are looking for opportunities to train local people so they can compete for positions on the windfarm. The right training and qualifications will ensure people are employable right the REZ build out and into operations.

### Advanced wastewater recycling

Tenders closed in December for the Advanced Waste Water Recycling (AWWR) plant. This Public Private Partnership with Dubbo Regional Council is aimed to achieve 700ML per annum recycling capacity. SQE have rights to use a percentage of the recycled water during construction of our renewable projects in the CWO REZ and then leave it as legacy infrastructure for Dubbo Regional Council. The plant is expected to be complete by November 2025.

DRE have submitted an application for government support for the Renewable Energy and Career Training Centre (REACT) to be in Wellington. SQE and 3 other developers have contributed funds for the business case.

### Squadron Link

SQE need to ensure scalability across NSW, VIC and QLD project areas. Therefore, there is a delay in this development in Wellington and this has been communicated to potential customers.

SQE continues to support (and fund) two first Nations trainees from Wellington. Both are currently working with ARC wind and will come onto the UWF later.

### **Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

- MB (Community Relations Advisor) has been continuing engagement with landowners on Twelve Mile Road and discussing property management plans that involve communicating

with the host landowners and discussing upcoming works on the landowners property for their information and consultation.

- The December UWF project newsletter has been published to the Squadron Energy website and distributed via email.
- Recent sponsorships include:
  - Wellington District Junior Cricket association
  - Wellington Golf Club
  - Central West Black Trackers
  - Wellington Wedgetails (Rugby League tournament)
  - Wellington Cowboys Junior Rugby League
  - Western Plains Science and Engineering Challenge
  - 2025 Wellington Show
  - Wellington Amateur Swimming Club
  - Wellington Redbacks Junior Rugby Union
  - Macquarie home stay (Dubbo)
  - Wellington High School

The Wellington Public School Boys Shed group celebrated in December 2024 their end of year celebration trip to Sydney. UWF funded the boy's accommodation and the trip to the water park.

### **Uungula Wind Farm Transmission Connection Project**

CMcG (Stakeholder and Community Manager, Lumea) provided details of the UWF connection into the National Electricity Market.

The connection needs:

- 330/33kV substation
- 11.6 km 330kV single circuit transmission link linking the substation to the switching station
- 330kV switching station
- An overhead cut-in connection from the switching station to the existing TL79, including installation of new greenfield tower mid span and tower structure strengthening works.
- 18 km of UGFO from Uungula switching station to Wellington West 330kV substation

The timing is subject to change:

**February 2025:** Downer to mobilise on site and work begins on the switching station with the project being complete by June 2026.

**Traffic impacts:** over the next 3 months 10-14 light vehicles daily and 4-5 heavy vehicle movements daily and 8 over dimensional vehicle movements in May.

Wellington is the preferred location for accommodation depending upon availability.

The project is being delivered by a partnership between four organisations:

- Squadron has contracted Lumea to build, operate and maintain the substation, switching station and transmission lines.

- Lumea has engaged Transgrid as their delivery partner to manage compliance with planning approvals during construction and commissioning of the project. Both Lumea and Transgrid are members of the Transgrid Group.
- Transgrid have engaged Downer to undertake the construction work required.
- Once construction has been completed and the substation, switching station and transmission lines are commissioned, Lumea will operate and maintain them.

## **General Business**

PS concerned about the time delays to traverse the route by operating the route in 4 zones. MMcP indicated 2 zones was the original proposal, however as a result of significant delays due to inclement weather and unsuitable materials encountered, Works progressed in all 4 zones to minimise the overall time impact to the travelling public. The project also received approval to work 7 days a week with extended hours up to the end of February to try to minimise this disruption.

LH, on behalf of Kate and Howard Courts advising they need a culvert installed in front of the double gates which is an access for the power line and farm machinery in case of a fire. The road at the double gates is much higher and needs a reduction. In addition, the skirting of the exclusion fence has been covered with dirt which will end up rusting the fence and rendering it no longer an exclusion fence. Their driveway was originally bitumen, and they would like the surface reinstated. Blue metal has been pushed into the front grid and needs to be cleaned prior to sealing.

### **ACTION: MMCP to follow up**

LH raised his concern regarding the property access on Ilgingery Road being built for Squadron Energy Wind Farm and the advice he has received from Peter James, Senior Transport Asset Specialist from Dubbo Regional Council. The dispute hinges as to where a new intersection stops, and a private road starts. LH indicated he has the advice disputed by Squadron and it needs to be resolved in compliance with the NSW Roads Act.

### **ACTION: MMCP to follow up**

JS advised he was concerned that local suppliers were not being used for supply of gravel. Jamie Sattler confirmed that product he has meets required specifications.

### **ACTION: PS (Nacap) to follow up**

JG indicated he felt the number of parking bays provided on TWR is not enough.

### **ACTION: MMCP to follow up**

MMcP advised that transformers as part of the Transgrid Works are scheduled to mobilise to site in July / August 2025

This mentioned at the end.

## **Next meeting**

Next meeting – Thursday 22 May 2025 at 9.30am to be held in the Squadron Energy office, 16 Maughan Street, Wellington.

2025 Meeting Schedule: 20 February; 22 May; 21 August & 20 November