

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

Thursday 9.30am, 21 August 2025

SQE Office 16 Maughan Street, Wellington.

Attendees	Initials	Position
Garry West	GW	Independent Chairperson
Lindsay Hough	LH	Community Representative
John Goodworth	JG	Community Representative
Brad Bliss	BB	Community Representative
Pip Smith	PS	Community Representative
John Southwell	JS	Chamber of Commerce Representative
Councillor Richard Ivey	RI	Dubbo Regional Council Representative
Malcolm McPhan	MMcP	UWF Project Manager, Squadron Energy
Kath Elliott	KE	Head of Stakeholder and Community Engagement, SQE
Rebekah McLachlan	RM	UWF Community Relations Advisor, SQE
Vince Chaplin	VC	UWF Senior Environmental Advisor, Squadron Energy
Bart Sykes	BS	Regional Economic Development Manager, Squadron Energy
Catherine McGufficke	CMcG	Stakeholder and Community Manager, Lumea (MS Teams)
Maki Okamura	MO	Project Manager, Lumea (MS Teams)
Shaun Smith	SS	NACAP
Justin Toomey-White	JTW	First Nations Engagement Facilitator, Squadron Energy

Apologies	Initials	Position
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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 Rebekah McLachlan and Vince Chaplin to the meeting in their new roles with SQE.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No new declarations.

Previous Minutes

GW confirmed the minutes of the CCC meeting 22 May 2025 had been circulated and have been uploaded to the Squadron Energy project website.

Safety First Issues

NIL

Business Arising

LH noted the causeway surface issue he raised at the last meeting has not been rectified and now limits speed considerably. SS indicated he would follow it up.

Dubbo Regional Council Renewable Energy Zone Benefit Committee Update

Cr Richard Ivey advised that no funds were currently available for distribution. Sought clarification of the role of the CCC providing advice on grant applications. GW felt applications would be notified to the UWF CCC for a recommendation back to the DRC Benefit Committee. IR and GW to discuss with DRC to clarify process.

Project Update

MMcP (Project Manager) provided a project update.

- Twelve Mile Road – Upgrade is now completely handed over to Dubbo Regional Council (DRC). However, the consortium will remain responsible for maintenance during the Project construction timeframe.
- Goolma Road & Twelve Mile Road intersection – Work has commenced end of July with traffic control now in place. Works are progressing as planned with a completion expected December 2025.
- Wind farm construction – works have progressed well during this period with approximately 8.5 kms of access tracks capped and complete. All vegetation clearing is complete and all 75 kms of access tracks are in various stages of construction. Blasting program continues across the Project site and no complaints received.
- Transgrid / Downer are now well established on site with works on the Switching Station and transmission tower pads well underway. First Transmission tower pad was completed on 4 August 2025.

Question: JS asked how many towers are planned to be constructed? MMcP advised 28 towers between the switching station and the sub station. Excavation for towers has commenced and onsite concrete batching will commence in September for the pads.

Question: JS asked what happens with the excavated soil from the pads? MMcP explained the project will work on a 'cut/fill balance' across the site and there should be no excess at the end.

Lumea Update – Transmission Connection Project

MO reported that the Uungula Wind Farm Connection project will connect Uungula into the National Electricity Market.

To do this they will construct:

- 330/33kV substation
- 11.6km 330kV single circuit transmission line linking the substation to the switching station
- 330kV switching station
- An overhead cut-in connection from the switching station to the existing TL 79, including installation of new greenfield tower mid span and tower structure strengthening works.
- 18km of UGFO (underground) from Uungula Switching Station to Wellington West 330kV Substation.

Switching Station civil works are underway and the foundation pad construction is close to completion.

Transmission tower no. 5 has been erected and is awaiting stringing works.

Local business engagement is ramping up with Micky D's Cleaning, Coates Dubbo and their subcontractors; Strait Up Cranes; A1 Earthworks/Maas Group; Local vehicle services; Hot Engineering; KB Concrete, DeWitt Surveying and plumbing packages with local plumbers.

There will be varied heavy (10-15) and light vehicle (15-20) movements over the next 3 months.

During August 2025 remaining 1-4 transmission line towers installations, September 2025 will see possession of the site for the Substation and in February 2026 transformer deliveries will commence to the site. Practical completion is expected in December 2026.

Environmental Update

VC (Senior Environmental Advisor) provided an environmental update.

Environmental Incidents

- 2 minor spills associated with plant use were reported. No environmental impact as the soil has been removed from the site. VC noted there were 131 large pieces of equipment on the Project site.

Environment Performance

- Continued bulk earthworks movements within the windfarm site
- Associated vegetation clearing completed for the earthworks
- Transmission line clearing is underway
- ERSER controls working well during rain events
- Progressive rehabilitation / Hydromulching activities are ongoing ahead of the Spring growth season.

Environmental Inspections / interactions

- Daily environmental inspections are ongoing
- Post rainfall inspections occur as required and following rain events

- Fauna management is ongoing
- Weeds management focus via onboarding process

Goolma Road / Twelve Mile Road

- Out of hours work will continue until December 2025. They will only occur every 2nd weekend as the EPC Contractor is on a 10:4 roster. Community consultation was undertaken by the EPC Contractor prior to OOH works commencing.

Port of Newcastle

- First delivery of WTG components arrived to Port
- No movements are expected until the end of 2025

Question: JS asked what are the ERSED controls? VC explained they are velocity flow controls to minimise erosion impacts.

JG asked who is monitoring Twelve Mile Rd? VC advised the Consortium were until the construction period concludes.

JG asked what community consultation occurred before the OOH works were agreed? VC advised impacted landholders were consulted on the basis that introducing the OOH works would lessen the period of impact and the work had to comply with the OOH noise limits set in the Consent Conditions. GW noted the CCC was not consulted.

Question: RI asked whether the vegetation removal required offset credits? VC confirmed they were.

Economic and Employment Development Opportunities

Bart Sykes (Regional Economic Development Manager) provided an update.

Accommodation in Wellington and Dubbo

- Bellhaven – 100% First Nations renovation project and local to Wellington and Dubbo.
- Currently looking for contractor/s to operate the facility.

Training for workers

9 local First Nations men and women undertook \$130,000 worth of training. All passed and some have moved into employment with Nacap and PCL.

Training for Business

- First workshop occurred on 20 August, and another is planned in October
- 25 hours mentoring in between
- 12 local businesses have been identified and will participate.

Advanced wastewater recycling

Sod turning event took place on 11 August 2025 with a \$3.6m commitment from SQE.

Renewable Energy and Career Training Centre (REACT)

SQE and three other developers including ACEREZ are funding the business case for a REACT centre. DRC has submitted an application for government support for the centre in Wellington. The project has been funded for approximately \$11m using Access Rights money.

Squadron Link

Further testing has occurred. An additional location licence is required. Final testing due in 2 weeks.

Trainees

SQE continues to support (and fund) a scholarship idea valued at approximately \$40,000 and are looking for recommendations from the CCC.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Kath Elliott reported:

- Appointment of Rebekah as new Community relations Advisor
- Out of Hours notifications were undertaken
- Local emergency management committee meeting with local residents and emergency service providers
- Information about the Goolma intersection upgrade into TMR has been communicated to community members
- Upcoming works on Mitchell Highway and Goolma Road intersection were communicated to community members
- Feedback is sought from CCC members on activities
- Sponsorship activity is increasing
- 2 x complaints were received: Project use of Twelve Mile and Guroba Roads – dust and disruption to farming operations (action closed). Project change activity times and consultation requirements (ongoing action).

Recent sponsorships include the Wellington Amateur Theatrical Society, Wellington Public School, Wellington District Cricket Association and St Mary's Central School. SQE joined the Twelve Mile committee which is a feast for relief lunch fundraising event for the farmers in the Southwest Queensland floods. SQE donated \$5,000 plus RM Williams boots and signed Dragons jersey. More than \$250,000 was raised. PS thanked SQE and Nacap representatives for their support.

General Business (Community Feedback)

GW explained this section of the agenda should be renamed to Community Feedback in the future.

LH raised concern regarding the number vehicles using Ilgangerry Road to access the Project without adequate consultation.

JG raised a question regarding proposed out of hours work for concrete work and refuelling commencing at 1am Monday to Sunday and who has been consulted? SS explained Nacap had only just commenced consultation with landholders for a proposal to adjust hours to undertake concrete pours and refuelling stationery machinery, optimising plant performance during day working hours. All work will still have to comply with the OOH noise restrictions. Following consultation Nacap will request SQE to lodge a Modification with DPHI. It is hoped to commence these activities in September.

JG asked about whether the impact of flashing lights at those hours as well as the vehicle movements would have on livestock?

GW raised concern that no plan had been mentioned regarding consultation with the CCC. Three modifications had already been lodged with DPHI (one still to be determined) without CCC consultation. GW explained that he expected SQE and Nacap to consult with the CCC prior to an application being lodged with DPHI.

Meeting Closed 11.40am

Next meeting

To be arranged when SQE and Nacap prior to Out of Hours Modification being submitted to DPHI.

Next scheduled quarterly meeting 20 November 2025 TBC