

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

Wednesday 9.30am, 23 May 2024

Maliyan Cultural Centre 13A Namina Crescent, 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
Cr Richard Ivey	RI	Dubbo Regional Council Representative
John Southwell	JS	Chamber of Commerce representative
Darran Reeves	DR	Civil Supervisor, Squadron Energy
Malcolm Moore	MM	Uungula WF Site Representative, Squadron Energy
Kath Elliott	KE	Stakeholder Engagement Manager, SQE
Cindy Smith	CS	Environmental Adviser, Squadron Energy
Bart Sykes	BS	Regional Economic Development Facilitator, SQE
Malcolm McPhan	MMcP	Project Manager, UWF, SQE
Justin Toomey-White	JTW	First Nations Engagement Facilitator, SQE
Peter Stewart	PS	LECH Manager, NACAP
Jay Bean	JB	Construction Superintendent, NACAP
Melissa Bird	MB	UWF Community Relations Advisor

Apologies

John Xuereb	JX	Community Representative
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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 and also acknowledged Elders past, present and future and all First Nations persons present.

GW requested all present introduce themselves.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No new declarations

Previous Minutes

GW confirmed the minutes of the CCC meeting of 22 February 2024 had been circulated and have been uploaded to the project website.

Business Arising

BS advised that residents in the Cadonia Estate were eligible to join Squadron Link and DR reported that required road width for the OSOM vehicles will be able to be accommodated within the upgraded road width of 8 metres including the shoulders.

Project Update

MMcP provided a Project update. Reporting that vegetation clearing has commenced on Twelve Mile Road along with a number of work zones as culvert works commenced. Twelve Mile Road residents have been advised of the current activities however it has not been notified to the broader community. CCC members indicated they believed broad community announcements of the project activities is essential.

Service relocation scope is being developed for the Goolma Road intersection and the connecting link is well underway. Some of the initial pre-stripping of the road has commenced. A detailed analysis of the proposed Squadron Link has been completed and it will proceed providing city internet speeds for the landholders that has signed up.

RI felt the clearing of trees was not handled well in regard to public relations. Other members felt the details of the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) had not been well communicated following its approval. KE gave a summary of the minutes of a meeting held with key stakeholders regarding measures adopted in the revised TMP.

LH felt that issues regarding the interaction between cattle sale day movements and the OSOM vehicles and bush fire procedures during construction had not been adequately resolved at this stage. MMcP advised that the movement of OSOM vehicles will not occur until November 2025, however there will be some TransGrid equipment expected to be brought onsite in July/August 2025 and that there will be extensive communications prior to those activities commencing in accordance with the TMP.

CCC members sought advice on what offsets and biodiversity offsets were required as a result of the tree clearing. MMcP indicated he would find the detail and report back. [ACTION]

The UWF Management Team undertook to review their communication strategy following the meeting feedback.

JG raised concern about a safety issue arising with the traffic signals. GW expressed the need to an agenda item at the commencement of each CCC meeting where members could highlight safety issues to the Project Team.

JG sought advice which gravel pit was to be utilised for the roadworks. DR advised the gravel will be blended and will meet the civil standard that Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) specifies.

Environmental Update

CS provided an environmental update including the number of trees removed to date and the necessary fauna protocols which have been followed for detection, removal and avoidance. There were no incidents to report. No go Zones had been established and 4 trees have been avoided. During April weed inspections were conducted for all new and returning vehicles and machines to the site. Three environmental incidents occurred during April 2 involving hydraulic oil spills and 1 unexpected asbestos find as a result of past dumping. All incidents have been closed satisfactorily.

Site salvage of artifacts has been undertaken between 6 – 10 May in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP).

Discussions with the EPA have been ongoing and the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) for the Project is nearing completion with some minor updates required.

Road upgrade approval has been received from DRC on 30 April 2024 for 1km of Ilginery Road.

Economic and Employment Development Opportunities

BS advised that a Wellington shopfront fit-out was underway in co-operation with local trades people and the landlord.

Traineeships for locals has commenced - two positions funded by SQE. Trainees are based with ARC Wind (sub-contractor) and will have training and experience to be able to move home and work on projects close to Wellington.

Squadron Link has commenced with electrical/ relay and licences out for execution together with the necessary ag technical product selection being investigated.

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.

A Renewable Energy Awareness and Career Training (REACT) Centre is being investigated. The old Soil Conservation site is a possibility. CCC members commended SQE for this initiative. DRC is reviewing a business case for a training module to be included.

Housing and accommodation initiatives are being continually investigated and works to be undertaken at Bellhaven are currently being scoped.

Skills and employment outcomes involve bringing skills to the regions. SQE have 10 FTEs in Wellington / Dubbo area.

SQE is currently developing a program for workshops to provide local businesses with an understanding of the project and how they can become involved.

Community and Employment Benefit Fund \$128 forward funded access fees. BS advised that this was being conducted by EnergyCo; all renewable energy projects in the CWOREZ will make a financial contribution to community benefit.

<https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/news/community-and-employment-benefit-program-online-briefing>

Community Co-Investment Scheme

Nat Fienns (DomaCom Limited) joined the meeting online and explained SQE has partnered with them to launch a new investment program for community members in the Central West Orana region who are interested in supporting the development of renewable energy projects in the region. The Community Investment Fund is being launched through DomaCom’s online retail investor platform where residents will have the opportunity to invest as little as \$1,000.

There will also be an additional ‘matched’ investment initiative offered by SQE of up to \$2,000 to those residents living within 8km of either the Uungula Wind Farm or Spicers Creek Wind Farm projects.

A webinar is proposed on 28 May 2024 and SQE will provide details for people to join. [ACTION]

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

MB has been engaged as the community relations advisor and provided a report on community and stakeholder engagement activities.

The main focus has been with Landowners on Twelve Mile Road

Recent sponsorships include: Wellington Show, St Mary’s Catholic School, Wellington Primary School, More Cultural Rehabs, Less Jails, Wellington Warriors Soccer Club and Wellington Wedgetails Rugby League Club.

CCC Membership

GW advised that he had received a request for a local First Nations representative to become a member of the CCC and requested members to consider if the CCC membership needed to be reviewed for the delivery phase of the project.

General Business

PS questioned if SQE had been briefed on the painting of silos that a local committee is progressing. PS to provide the details to MB.

Members requested the Voluntary Planning Agreement be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Next meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 22 August 2024 at 9.30am to be held in the SQE Wellington Shopfront , 16 Maughan Street, Wellington.

Actions

1	Biodiversity offsets requirements	MMcP
2	Co-Investment Webinar details to members	KE

