

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

Thursday 9.30am, 22 August 2024

Squadron Energy office, 16 Maughan Street, Wellington.

Attendees	Initials	Position
Garry West	GW	Independent Chairperson
Lindsay Hough	LH	Community Representative
John Goodworth	JG	Community Representative
John Southwell	JS	Chamber of Commerce Representative
Malcolm Moore	MM	UWF Site Representative, Squadron Energy
Cindy Smith	CS	UWF Environmental Advisor, Squadron Energy
Bart Sykes	BS	Regional Economic Development Facilitator, Squadron Energy
Malcolm McPhan	MMcP	UWF Project Manager, Squadron Energy
Peter Stewart	PS	Lands, Environment and Cultural Heritage Manager, NACAP
Jay Bean	JB	Construction Superintendent, NACAP
Melissa Bird	MB	UWF Community Relations Advisor, Squadron Energy
Joe May	JM	Offsets Manager, Squadron Energy
John Bullock	JB	Local landholder (Observer)

Apologies

John Xuereb	JX	Community Representative
Brad Bliss	BB	Community Representative
Pip Smith	PS	Community Representative
Councillor Richard Ivey	RI	Deputy Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council
Kath Elliott	KE	Head of Stakeholder and Community Engagement, Squadron Energy
Darran Reeves	DR	UWF Civil Supervisor, Squadron Energy
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.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No new declarations

Previous Minutes

GW confirmed the minutes of the CCC meeting of 23 May 2024 had been circulated and have been uploaded to the Squadron Energy project website.

Safety First Issues

JG advised his wife had incurred a safety incident when travelling on Twelve Mile Road which was satisfactorily resolved.

JS raised the question of traffic control. How would he enter and exit a work area that was controlled by traffic lights to complete his task of emptying portable toilets. JB explained JS should always stop in at the Nacap office compound first before entering the work area, to gain positive communication to access and exit these areas of work with him and the Maas Supervisor.

LH raised the issue of stock carting. MMcP advised that one lane will always be kept open while road construction works are ongoing, and work is planned during these sale days to ensure as minimal as possible delay to the traffic to flow. Toolbox of information of dates and times of stock sales has already been communicated to the Twelve Mile Road work group and ongoing communication of upcoming stock sales will be communicated to all of the work parties involved.

Business Arising

Biodiversity Offset requirements – see Agenda item.

Project Update

MMcP (Project Manager) provided a project update. Road upgrade works continued on Twelve Mile Road including clear and grub, drainage, earthworks, mass block wall construction and associated activities such as survey and geotechnical testing.

Traffic control continues to be an area of concern for local residents on Twelve Mile Road. Squadron Energy and Nacap and continue to work in line with current State and local government approvals. MMcP noted to please raise any concerns community may have with Squadron Energy and Nacap..

The Goolma Road and Twelve Mile Road intersection is requiring liaison with external asset owners – Jemena, Telstra / NBN and Essential Energy to design close-out relating to the relocation of existing assets.

There were no Environmental Incidents during the quarter and all ERSED controls are in place and operating effectively.

Transgrid / Lumea are progressing with design and procurement activities.

Squadron Link negotiations continue with the network operator for deployment and management of the network along with preparation of licence agreements for the first five relay stations.

LH raised concern that the road base was not adequate due to local soil conditions. MMcP noted the concerns but assured members the road is being built to State road standards.

Biodiversity Offsets

JM (Offsets Manager) explained that biodiversity offsets are required to balance biodiversity loss resulting from development. Biodiversity gain is achieved from protection and management at a Biodiversity Stewardship Site. Biodiversity offsets are achieved by acquiring and retiring biodiversity credits, either by land purchase and establishment of a 'Stewardship Site' or by purchasing credits from the market.

There are two types of Biodiversity Credits. *Ecosystem credits* which measure the value of ecological plant communities and threatened species habitat that can be reliably predicted to occur. *Species credits* refer to all threatened species that are found at a location and cannot be reliably predicted to occur within identified ecological communities.

The Ungula Wind Farm Offset requirements are 9,612 ecosystem credits and 2,721 species credits (these are Koala specific). It takes roughly 1 ha to produce 3 ecosystem credits, meaning 3,200 ha of land is now being managed for conservation to offset the impacts of the UWF. Credits have been sources in the following ways:

- Working with landholders to establish a Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement (BSA)
- Buying credits from landholders that have already established a BSA; and
- Making payment into the Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

All the offsets are in place and fully funded and located in the Inland Slopes Bioregion.

JS asked if feral animals have an impact on credits. JM Yes.

Environmental Update

CS (Environmental Advisor) 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. Weed inspections continue to be conducted for all new and returning vehicles and machines to the site. Weekly inspections are conducted at the office compound and in different work zones.

Road upgrade works are continuing with erosion and sediment controls in place and working well with no observed deposition outside worksites. No incidents to report and some vegetation clearing is still required, mainly in zone 4. PS noted some critical species can't be cleared but trimmed to minimise impact.

JB (Observer) commended the contractors on their workmanship and how well he has been consulted on work on and surrounding his property. JB also commended the work groups on the quality of work they were undertaking, and how well received the upgraded road will be for the residents of Twelve Mile Road.

JS thought there was some positive media to be achieved while this work was in progress. MB took this on board.

Economic and Employment Development Opportunities

BS (Regional Economic Development Facilitator) provided an update on the Advanced Waste Water Recycling Public Private Partnership negotiated with Dubbo Regional Council. The project will deliver 700 ML per annum recycling capacity with construction quality water being provided with no need to rely on existing sources, such as bores and the town supply, which is under pressure in dry periods, and there is the possibility of using this water for the UWF Project.

Squadron Link has commenced, and relay stations have been built by a local Wellington contractor. The first relay station will go up at the start of Twelve Mile Road. 5 licences have been signed with 6 landowners for execution and Agtech subsidies are continuing to be investigated.

The Wellington office was officially opened on 19 June 2024 and is fully functional with a strong local staff presence. Local trades completed the work and are involved in the ongoing supply of goods and cleaning. The demonstrates SQE commitment to the local community.

Industry sessions are continuing to inform and engage with local businesses about the UWF project Squadron Energy activities and CWO REZ activities. Local businesses are being identified and linked into rolling opportunities with invitations to sessions planned for late September.

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.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

MB (Community Relations Advisor) has been engaging with Landholders 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.

Recent sponsorships St Mary’s Catholic School, Wellington Primary School, More Cultural Rehabs Less Jails, Wellington Warriors Football Club, Wellington District Junior Cricket Association, Wellington Primary School Naidoc day and the Wellington Cowboys Squadron Energy community day.

CCC Membership

GW (Chairperson) reminded everyone to be on alert for potential CCC members particularly as the construction gets underway.

General Business

LH asked what is the completion time for the Twelve Mile Road. MMcP advised Christmas 2024 is the plan. To achieve this timeframe work hours may need to be extended due to wet weather.

LH advised the Wuuluman Bush Fire Brigade is in need of a new 3 bay fire shed and asked Squadron Energy to consider assistance. MMcP and MB provided information on how to apply for the Squadron Energy community sponsorship application, via the Squadron Energy website. .

Next meeting

Next meeting – Thursday 21 November 2024 at 9.30am to be held in the Squadron Energy office , 16 Maughan Street, Wellington.

Actions

	1	Voluntary Planning Agreement details (outstanding from May CCC meeting)	MMcP	
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