

**MINUTES OF THE BOCO ROCK WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday 27 February 2023
Nimmitabel Community Centre**

Attendees

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Howard Charles (HC)	Community Representative
Bill Garnock (BG)	Host Landholder
David Laing (DL)	Site Manager – CWP Renewables
Matthew Flower (MF)	Senior Project Manager – CWP Renewables
Peter Bascomb (PB)	General Manager - Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Jessica Petersen (JP)	CWP Renewables Project Manager
John Harrington (JH)	Community Representative
Maryanne Renfrey (MR)	CWA's Representative (Nimmitabel Branch)
Fiona Taylor (FT)	Community Representative

Apologies

Vickie Pollard – Nimmitabel Advancement Group representative

Item	Action									
<p>1.0 Welcome and Introductions <i>Meeting opened at 3.07pm.</i> <i>CWP provided a hard copy of the CCC presentation.</i></p> <p>LA welcomed all attendees and re-introduced David Laing, site manager for the BRWF & Jessica Petersen Development Officer with CWP. LA introduced Matthew Flower, Senior Project Manager, who provided members with a brief background on himself.</p> <p>MF informed the CCC of the company update, advising that CWP Renewables has joined forces with Squadron Energy to become the Australian market leader in renewable energy.</p>	<p>Moving forward MF will be involved with the CCC.</p> <p>Slide 2</p>									
<p>2.0 Apologies – As listed above.</p>										
<p>3.0 Declarations of Interest LA declared that she was an Independent Chair, approved by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and engaged by CWP to chair the CCC meeting.</p>	<p>LA to send governance forms to MF for completion and return. No changes to members' previous declarations.</p>									
<p>4.0 Business arising The minutes of 1st March 2022 meeting were finalised and sent to CCC members on 15th March 2022. Action items from the previous minutes were:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Issue</th> <th>Action By</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Keep CCC informed of CEF outcomes.</td> <td>DL – Ongoing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Provide CEF grant acquittal information/audit to CCC when available. Report complete, copy to be sent to LA for distribution to members.</td> <td>PB</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Issue	Action By	1	Keep CCC informed of CEF outcomes.	DL – Ongoing	2	Provide CEF grant acquittal information/audit to CCC when available. Report complete, copy to be sent to LA for distribution to members.	PB	<p>1. Moved to General Business for discussion.</p> <p>2. PB advised that the audit/grant acquittal report has been completed and reported to Council. LA requested a copy. Action.</p>
Item	Issue	Action By								
1	Keep CCC informed of CEF outcomes.	DL – Ongoing								
2	Provide CEF grant acquittal information/audit to CCC when available. Report complete, copy to be sent to LA for distribution to members.	PB								

3	CWP to consider whether a sign should be at the corner of Avon Lake Rd & Snowy River Way. Discussions on location of signage, decided to go through changes to Google Maps.	AW	<p>3. This item discussed. Issues with Google Maps. JP to arrange for "PIN" to be changed to assist people coming to site. Action.</p> <p>4. DL advised that there is now an updated template, which he will send through to LA for distribution. Action.</p> <p>5. Complete. Application determined on 23/12/22.</p>
4	CWP to consider providing signs or templates to assist with the creation of signs so that community projects can identify that funding was received through the CEF. (In accordance with approval conditions.) Complete – DL sent this through.	BD	
5	Make application under GIPA to DPIE regarding Stage 2. Telephone calls and emails with DPE assessing officer and Team Leader on a monthly basis to get an update on the determination. All information received indicated that it was progressing to determination.		
<p>LA advised that MR wanted to raise an issue regarding the latest round of CEF applications, subsequently, moving this item to General Business for discussion.</p>			
<p>5.0 Correspondence Report (emailed 1/2/22) with 1 additional item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/3/22 – Email from OB, SMRC advising that she is happy to be Council's contact person for enquiries. Acknowledged and thanked. • 3/3/22 – Email to DL with governance forms for completion and return. • 4/3/22 – Email to CCC members with the draft minutes for review. • 9/3/22 – Email from DL with completed governance forms. • 15/3/22 – Email to CCC members with the finalised minutes and advice regarding Action Item 5. • 25/5/22 – Email from Heather Studley who is undertaking a survey of farmers re environmental awareness and literacy, seeking members input. This email was forwarded through to members on 26/6/22 without any endorsement. • 29/8/22 - Email from FT regarding potential maintenance work occurring on Old Rd. This enquiry forwarded through to DL who advised that it was not CWP undertaking works. • Email to members moving the CCC date from 21/11/22 to 1/12/22. • 22/10/22 – Email from DPE advising that they are discussing the conditions with CWP and determination is likely within a month or so. • 9/11/22– Email to CCC with the Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report for this meeting. • 24/11/22 – Email to CCC postponing the CCC for 1/12/22 as Stage 2 has not yet been determined. • 16/12/22 – Email from JP advising that Stage 2 has been recommended for approval. Information sent to members the same day suggesting 24/1/23 as a potential meeting date. • 20/12/22 – Email to members with Save the Date for 27/2/22 • 23/12/22 – Email from DPE advising that BRWF modification was approved. Forwarded to members the same day. • 1/2/23 – Email to members with Meeting Notice and Agenda for this meeting • 24/2/23 – Email to members with the reminder for this meeting. 			
<p>6.0 Reports/Updates Stage 2 JP commenced with the update on Boco Rock Stage 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modification approval received on 23rd December 2022 • The previous approval allowed for the development of 122 wind turbines generators (WTGs) up to 152m high and associated infrastructure. • Stage 1 - 67 WTGs constructed at 137m tip height • Stage 2 – modification increased tip height to 200m. 			<p>Slides 3 - 7</p>

Relinquished approved Boco cluster and reduced the number of turbines from 32 to 20 in the Yandra cluster. Stage 2 will share key infrastructure, including transmission cabling and grid connections with the existing project. What's next?

- Integration with Squadron Energy (No changes to existing management of Stage 1)
- Discussions with ECGO as owner of Stage 1

FT enquired whether there was a requirement for DPE to assess the modification within a certain timeframe. JP answered no. The Stage One approval had an expiry time frame for commencement of 5 years.

JP advised that there is still flexibility for micro-siting and finalising the turbine layout. Stating that the modernizing of the project to contemporary wind turbine sizes and DEP's modernizing of the conditions to contemporary guideline.

BG asked if it was true that the longer tip blade can produce twice as much wind, with a small increase in expenditure. JP responded yes, that is one of the reasons that the technology has changed since the original approval in 2010. BG enquired what the latest size was. MF advised of a project that he is working on at the moment with an approved tip height of up to 250m and the electrical capacity could be a 6MW machine. Stating that some off shore turbines in Europe are 14MW. DL commented that this and other developments in NSW are limited by the transmission line capacity.

HC commented on the additional bush fire conditions, wondering if it was because of one of the turbines catching fire near Goulburn. Further wondering what the terminology "vicinity" was. MF advised that the conditions are based on "common language" used by DPE and the modernizing of standard conditions.

DL explained the current procedures on site and management plan to mitigate the risk of fire and the maintaining of the asset protection zones. He works with RFS and has a water cart on site. DL commented that there is a lot of 'fuel' in and around the properties due to the amount of rain received.

BG enquired about the filling and replenishing of the 20,000 litre tanks. DL advised that there are 2 tanks at the office and these on site tanks will be checked regularly and filled by the water carrier.

JP advised that CWP's compliance team are working with DL to ensure compliance with the new conditions of approval.

JP advised that one of the key changes to the modified consent was in relation to the Community Enhancement Fund. Confirming that the additional funds will be added, once Stage 2 is operational. It was noted that the condition stated that the funds would be available to the whole of the SMRC LGA.

Discussions ensued about the size of the amalgamated LGA and that suburbs not in the area affected and impacted by the development

should not be allowed to benefit. PB commented that Council had not put in a submission to DPE and had not requested this condition. CWP & LA confirmed that this is a standard condition on SSD consents to include the whole LGA.

It was agreed that the wording of the consent, indicated the "intention" of the fund to support projects in and around the Nimmitabel district and that this could be better defined in the Charter for the CEF, that the CEF Committee worked under when determining applications.

FT enquired whether Council had a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with CWP for ongoing maintenance of roads around the project site. PB advised – no.

JH advised that a dilapidation report had been carried out on the roads prior to the construction of the wind farm and that any damage, had to be remediated to the original condition.

JP informed the CCC that the Department has included new bio-diversity conditions:

- DPE recommended a condition requiring the Proponent to prepare and implement a Research Program with one off \$50,000 funding contribution targeted at further study into the Whitethroated Needletail, including how and when the species moves across eastern Australia, flight paths and potential mitigation for future wind farm design.
- This species is listed as migratory under the EPBC Act
- The Department has also recommended increasing the setback distance from hollow-bearing trees (from 30m for Stage 1 to 50m for Stage 2) which have the potential to provide roost or nesting habitat for bird and bat species identified to be at risk of rotor collision at Stage 2

HC commented that there are a number of hollow trees, so this may be difficult.

BRWF Stage One - Current Operations

- DL advised that it has been business as usual with no concerns.
- GE are continuing to carry out the servicing of turbines as per the schedule.
- Weed management is a problem and they have had to put extra effort in controlling this issue, which has been caused by the above average rainfall.
- Civil works have been undertaken from the main road to the substation.
- Bird adaptive works have nothing to report.
- Major works planned for Q2, which will occur for 2–3 weeks.
- A biobanking audit was undertaken over a 2 day period.
- There is an ongoing issue of gates being left open. There is currently a trial of a new system being undertaken with the contractors. Changes will be made to the locks on the gates to update them and provide better security.

Action: LA to write to SMRC asking that they review the Charter when a new committee is formed to ensure the charter reflects the intent of the condition of consent and the sentiments of the community.

Slide 8

BG advised that the cattlegrid ramp has been fixed. Commenting that the gate system changes will be a good improvement as gates are often left open by contractors

Discussions on weed management. HC advised that the government has just approved the recruitment of a Weeds Commission for a 2 year appointment, mainly to concentrate on Love Grass. FT commented on the possible budget constraints to CWP given the extra work needed. DL stated that he has been receiving the necessary financial support to carrying out the works.

BG raised the matter of Springfield Road. He presumed that the developer was partly responsible for its maintenance. PB advised no, that Council had received funding and has been successful in receiving grants for "residual amenity".

HC provided an update on the Lake Williams cycle pathway, which had been delayed due to COVID, wet weather conditions, an Aboriginal Land Claim, etc. The Lions Club hoped to break ground this Thursday. Whilst they won't have enough funds to complete the project yet, most of it will get done and the Nimmitabel Lions Club will apply for further monies from the CEF to finalise.

PB informed the CCC of the timeframe for the next round of CEF applications: Opens 5th June, Closes 10 July with a meeting date on 1st August.

JP advised that the Bango Wind Farm CEF nominates that priority is given to projects within a 20 kilometre radius of the site, advising that there is a "weighting" system used to consider project funding.

Action: LA to send a link to the BWF CEF charter.


7.0 General Business

MR commended the discussions surrounding the CEF advising that the last round of applications had some deficiencies; some applicants were unable to attend the on-line meeting and weren't able to speak with anyone. MR provided information that 2 applications that she knew of; Nimmitabel Advancement Group and the CWA weren't even considered. When she enquired with Council, the reason why, she was told that they had been lost.

PB informed the CCC that he had been briefed about this issue and that 3 applications were missed, stating that there was a break down in the process. He stated that this is the first time it had happened and has discussed the matter with staff and put systems in place so it is unlikely to happen again. Discussions about possible formal acknowledgement of applications and publishing a list prior to the applications being considered so that groups knew they were included.

MR provided background on groups being able to apply for further funding to complete projects, thereby not taking funds in one lump sum. The loss of the latest application meant that their project remained unfinished.

FT commented that the system should not be too hard or bureaucratic that makes it difficult for volunteer/not for profit groups to apply.

MR recommended that training be carried out, mentoring and a stricter criteria be implemented to assist CEF committee members in determining applications and community groups in being successful with their grants.	
8.0 Next Meeting LA proposed to continue to hold bi-annual meetings until Stage 2 commences construction:  Monday 28 August 2023, commencing at 3pm Reminding members that an extra-ordinary meeting may be scheduled if needed.	Agreed. Location: Nimmitabel Community Centre.

Meeting closed 4.49pm with LA thanking all for their participation.

Action Items:

Item	Issue	Action By:
1	Keep CCC informed of CEF outcomes	DL – Ongoing
2	Send Governance Forms to MF for completion and return	LA
3	Change Google Maps “pin”	JP
4	Provide updated template for CWP logo	DL
5	Write to SMRC requesting review of the CEF Charter to include “intent” of development consent condition.	LA
6	Provide CCC with a link to the Bango Wind Farm Community Enhancement Fund Charter	LA/JP