

Coppabella Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

Meeting No 5 – Café on Queen, 15 Queen Street, Binalong

Thursday 21st February 2019 – 5.00pm-7.00pm

Present:

CCC Members: Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), Cr Geoff Frost (Yass Valley), Paul Regan, John McGrath, Noeleen Hazell, Brenden McKay, Libby Elliott, Doug Painting

Proponent: Sunny Rutherford, Medard Boutry & Tom Nielsen

Observers: Bruce Hazell, David Winterflood, Barbara Folkard, Alison Deale - Goldwind Australia and Carlene Carmody (minutes)

The Meeting opened at 5.14 pm

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Rita O'Connor (Hilltops).

2. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

No changes to any Committee member's declarations.

3. Confirmation of minutes or previous Minutes

The minutes of Meeting No 4 held on 28 November 2018 were confirmed. All outstanding items on action sheet have been completed.

4. Community Consultative Committee Guidelines reviewed

The guidelines for Community Consultative Committees have been reviewed with only minor changes – the Chair advised members of the changes made. Guidelines are easily accessible on the Departments website.

5. Project Update – Tom Nielsen

Modification application – IPC has endorsed Dept of Planning's approval.

Referral received from DPE in October.

Public Meeting held, followed by a site visit. Attended by IPC, Tom and 3 others.

Written submissions deadline after the meeting.

IPC endorsed the consent a month later.

Construction preparation is progressing. Two preferred contractors – expecting to go to one contractor next month. Construction Manager has been hired.

RMS finalising design and costing for the upgrade at Whitefields Lane intersection.

Grid Connection – Transgrid connection is now based on a direct connection from the Windfarm to the Sub Station. This was due to constraints in the area. Transgrid currently conducting a review of environmental factors. Requires upgrades to poles east of Coppabella Road to Yass substation. Will go from dual pole to single pole design.

Community Engagement – (Alison Deale) been quiet since October due to the Christmas break. Have sponsored the Binalong Brahams Football Club and installed the AED(Defibrillator) at IGA Supermarket in

North Yass. Started going to Binalong Markets. Now reduced the hours that the shop is open – Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Pioneer Park refurbishment works have also been sponsored.

Questions:

1. Chair allowed question from observer Barbara Folkard – It seems like a lot of bowing and scraping to constituents. What are you doing for people who are against it?

Sunny Rutherford – If you would like to set up a meeting to talk about direct concerns about the project. We have found that a lot of the concerns are misinformed. Find that talking one on one a lot of issues can be clarified.

Chair – The CCC is set up to address any concerns of community members. Any issues can be brought to the attention of any CCC member who will ensure the matter is appropriately answered.

Tom Nielsen – Also going to be a fund during operations of \$270K.

Sunny Rutherford – We have an agreement with Council of funding per Turbine. Within conditions of consent the Voluntary Planning Agreement must occur with Councils before construction commences.

Noeleen Hazell – it is all about money. Money isn't going to compensate

2. Brenden McKay: Seeking clarification – consent is for how many turbines?

Tom Nielsen - 75 maximum and limited to the network connection availability. Planning to connect 69

Split between Councils – maximum 10 Yass & 65 Hilltops, but final split is yet to be determined.

Likely timeframe for commencement of construction – looking at mid-year. Looking to get some infrastructure built before winter rains.

3. Paul Regan: Asked about Construction company – are you able to divulge?

Tom Nielsen – Not yet. There will be one main Contractor for each of the Civil and Electrical works.

4. Paul Regan: Is there more specific detail about water source for Concrete batch plant?

Medard Boutry – currently we are following up several sources. Last year touched base with Yass Valley Council and Goldenfields Water. They have the availability and are willing to sell us treated water. Typically, in our projects we use water available on site – farm dams or bores with a backup to purchase water from a third party. Water access licences have been obtained for bores. Looking at installing bores within Lachlan Fold Belt. Will apply for Test Bores and establish volume with a hydrogeologist. Hydrogeologist is confident there will be enough water.

Ground surface water from farm dams – depends on what is available. Suitability/quality needs to be looked at.

Batching is usually a smaller component of use on-site. Dust suppression is a major use as is moisture content requirements for material placement. Amount for dust suppression will also be dependent on weather conditions.

Volumes of water are yet to be determined – approx. 200 megalitres over the life of construction and approx. 6 megalitres (potable) for the concrete batching.

5. Doug Painting – Bores – what guarantee are there for the adjoining landholders. Will it have an impact on bores from neighbouring properties?

Medard Boutry – there aren't any local bores within 5 kms in central part of project. Bores aren't necessarily capped and sealed. Licences can possibly be transferred to the landowners.

Brenden McKay – have you been given points from the Councils where you can access potable water.

Medard - Jugiong and the stand pipe at Yass Valley Council Depot. Would prefer not to as it will add to costs and result in more vehicles on the roads.

Cr Geoff Frost – The proposed water supply bores – the Lachlan Fold Belt. What is the recharge rates? Have you been in contact with Department of Land & Water Conservation?

Medard Boutry: We have been in talks with them and the application process involves an assessment by WaterNSW. The Lachlan Fold Belt is a large aquifer with many available allocations.

6. General Business – without notice

John McGrath – General Questions

1. I have been asked by more than 1 member of the community can future Coppabella CCCs be video recorded? The wider community wish to see how the CCC works and the line of information disseminated, and the line of the questions asked. Thus, I am putting that question to the Coppabella CCC members as a conduit from the local community. **Can future Coppabella CCCs be video recorded please?**

Video recording of many similar meetings is now common place?

Response: Chair

Referred to Guidelines. Guidelines say the meetings can be recorded. This refers to audio recording, primarily for minute taking purposes. The Committee isn't a decision-making body only here to represent the interest and views of the community. If all Committee members agree with pursuing Video Recording, I will have the request followed up. Costs however can be prohibitive and the issues of who pays? and who controls the content? will need to be addressed. For the CCC to pursue this there needs to be all members in agreement, not just a majority. I will email all members in the next week and would appreciate everyone's personal view. Then at the next meeting I will advise if all members are in agreeance – If so, I will progress the matter with the Department.

2. Likewise, I have been asked by more than 1 member of the community can the future Coppabella CCCs be held at a later timeslot so that working members of the community could attend as observers, obviously if suitable to the committee?

Thus, I ask can we push back the commencement time of future Coppabella CCCs please?

Rye Park CCC is held at night.

Response: Chair - I do not think it will be possible for everyone to agree on the 'best time' to have meetings. Perhaps I can email everyone with three options for people to select and bring results to next meeting? Committee agreed to this action.

Questions for Goldwind - John McGrath

3. Outstanding unanswered question from October 2017 CCC
What is the distance of stand back of turbines from hollow bearing trees that Goldwind envisages?

Medard Boutry: Number of conditions in the approval that relate to this. With regard to turbines specifically under Schedule 2 condition 9(d). minimum 50 metres from existing hollow bearing trees, or where the proposed wind turbine location is already within 50 metres of one or more existing hollow-bearing trees, the cumulative distance between these hollow-bearing trees and the turbine is either maintained or increased. We should try to avoid and minimise but that is the condition we must adhere to. Vegetation offset – remove 1 replace with 10. We are seeking to secure offsets in local area. Trees are guaranteed with a legally binding agreement with the landholder that they won't knock it down.

John McGrath: But not necessarily in our eco system.

Paul Regan – who polices vegetation removal?

Medard Boutry – site has been mapped. Once earthworks have commenced, we work with the Contractor to verify that impacts are consistent with approval and minimised where feasible. There are commitments that are policed through audits, weekly, daily checks, drones flying over the site. This is done internally and externally by independent auditors and DPE Compliance team.

4. Outstanding unanswered as yet from November 2018 CCC

What constitutes the protection of Goldwinds underground 33KV conductors laid at 750mm below ground surface level? Goldwinds Project Manager could not answer this question at October 2018 Coppabella CCC

Tom Nielsen – I will pass through a diagram to all members which displays this.

Chair – I will attach this to the minutes.

5. What is Goldwinds underground 33KV cabling easement width?
 - 5a. What is the configuration of the 33KV underground cabling? Single trench or multiple?
 - 5b. Will the underground 33KV cabling easement be fenced? - No
 - 5c. If fenced what provisions are in place for vegetation control?

Tom Nielsen – will take this on notice and get an accurate answer for members – place as an action item.

6. What mitigation process has Goldwind in place to effectively offer protection from kilometres of underground cable trenching disrupting/altering the naturally occurring water table?

Medard Boutry: It is about understanding the soil types. You want avoid surface water entering a trench. A lot of erosion and sediment control measures. It can be diverted via bunds, vegetation planting. Underground installation of plugs. The key is to have ground cover back over the ground. Typically involves ground seeding which is generally sprayed on. Cover crop to come up first and then followed by further vegetation. Sugar cane mulch suppliers are certified as weed free. There is a construction warranty on all works that usually lasts two years after the completion of construction, then responsibility turns over to the Windfarm operators.

7. Please explain what exactly is happening with the 99M 132KV transmission line Yass 330/132KV substation Murrumburrah 132KV substation interconnector/transmission line please? (I would like to reiterate that in October 2017 Goldwind didn't know the name of this transmission line)
 - Is it duplication of Coppabella 33/132KV substation to Yass 330/132KV substation section by Transgrid as delivered by you 8th November 2018 Coppabella CCC?
 - Or an upgrading to both the conductors and structures to allow for the extra capacity of the Coppabella wind farm by Transgrid from Coppabella 33/132KV substation to Yass 330/132KV substation section of the 99M?

Tom Nielsen – 99M and Coppabella Yass on same structure. There are no proposed changes to the line between the project and Murrumburrah.

8. At what stage was Goldwind going to admit that they could never deliver the full alleged rated power output of the Coppabella wind farm to the 99M? Contrary to information initially provided by Proponents that the 99M had the capacity to accept the alleged rated power output of the Coppabella wind farm.

Tom Nielsen – it did for the 280 MW. There were 3 steps. We could only connect 150MW to existing 99M. Have a switching station north of site. Transgrid then came up with an offer if Goldwind pay to upgrade 99M from there to Yass then it has capacity of 280MW. Since then Transgrid have advised that other new generators will create constraints on this line and so we are now going with a dedicated line.

Chair - Transgrid are the owners of all the external transmission infrastructure, so they dictate where and when it can go. Obviously, their advice can change over time.

Paul Regan – what is the source of the existing power for 99M.

Tom Nielsen - It is getting power drawn from path of least resistance – it is the network in general – hydro, coal, solar, windfarms.

John McGrath – so you are saying it is a radial feed, which is why the South Australian network collapsed. So, there isn't an alternative feed?

Chair – that is an issue or question for the network owners.

9. What mitigation process has Goldwind in place to effectively offer physical and food sourcing protection to the Superb Parrot *Polytelis swainsonii* during its breeding season within the area of the Coppabella wind farm both during construction and during operation? Since the 1960s I have been aware that this bird regularly nests in the Coppabella Berremangra area.

Medard Boutry: I was in Canberra last week with the Superb Parrot National Recovery Team to discuss the funding of a research program. There is still a lot that is not known about the Superb Parrot – its migration patterns for example. The research program is yet to be signed off but its development is well progressed. Want to better understand risks the Superb Parrots. The consent for the project must minimise the removal of hollow trees.

Tom Nielsen: the point is protecting the nesting trees which have been mapped out. Hollow-bearing trees suitable for Swift parrot nesting cannot be removed between September and February which is when they are nesting.

10. Why wasn't the Swift Parrot *Lathamus discolor* ever addressed in the Coppabella EIS?

Medard Boutry: I believe it has been addressed at some point in this project and if it hasn't in detail then it was because it was considered a low risk. This would be done in consultation with Department of Planning, Office of Environment & Heritage and others. Swift Parrot breeds in Tasmania.

11. Previously you advised that there appears to be no requirement from CASA that Coppabella's wind towers require lighting at 171M to tip height? Why not?

John McGrath – tip speed covered and lighting in your project update thanks.

12. State Governments have requested financial modelling for these projects. Will this information be available?

Sunny Rutherford – this was asked last meeting. We haven't had any requests for that.

Noeleen Hazell

1. Please explain why the Whitefield Road is the access road when there is an alternate Berremangra Road, (without destroying one tree) before entering a Hosts' property?

Tom Nielsen: the key here is that there was an approval already in place when we purchased the project. Approvals take a long time. Try to keep changes to a minimum during the modification. It is about 1km of public road to upgrade from the highway. There are not many landholders that use this road and it has direct highway access. There are other issues with Berremangra Rd that were considered including added distance for upgrades, major upgrades to watercourse crossing, increased use of the road by the public and proximity to dwellings located close to the road.

2. Please explain how approval has now been granted for this same road, that has been continually assessed since the development commenced as 'the highest ecological value of the entire site - there is to be 'no disturbance to any roadside vegetation' in 2012-13 to proceed the developers were required to construct a road through the neighbours property as per this map in 2018 approval has now been granted to clear this road a 5 metre minimum with no maximum?

Tom Nielsen: Minimum was set by the Councils. Maximum is set by environmental constraints.

Chair raised questions to Goldwind - received from a community member who could not attend the meeting.

1. How much in Government subsidies does Goldwind expect to receive in total for the life of the turbines?

Sunny: Goldwind won't receive any direct Government subsidies for this project. The renewable energy target – Coppabella isn't covered by this. This may change with changes to Government policy. Accreditation of new power stations won't be approved after 2020. Coppabella won't be covered by this as it won't be built in time. At the moment they are legislated to purchase a certain number of certificates.

Nic: Effectively the Federal Government don't give them money they allow the providers to "tax" people.

2. What are the projected profits to Goldwind from the Coppabella project?

Tom Nielsen: That is commercial in confidence

3. How will residents other than those already financially benefitted be advantaged by the project? Given most of the Coppabella wind farm hosts are absentee landholders.

Tom Nielsen: As previously minuted in this meeting.

4. Has the area in question (Coppabella wind farms footprint) been re zoned as industrial?

Tom Nielsen: No.

5. Why not have this land allotment rezoned as Industrial as that's what it is? It's no longer rural.

Chair – that is a statement rather than a question – but I understand that this is a state-wide issue that could very well be addressed by those responsible for land zoning.

Paul Regan

1. Question from a community member. Who is responsible for Mental Health issues in relation to Windfarms? How will that be addressed by the developer?

Sunny Rutherford: We don't have a dedicated person within Goldwind. We do have a Community Relations team. If there are specific concerns, then they can be approached, and it will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Chair: there is an organisation called Rural and Remote Mental Health. Rural and Remote Mental Health delivers mental health programs and services to people in rural and remote Australia. If any member is alerted to any issues, please refer them to www.rrmh.com.au

Cr Geoff Frost – there are also Mental Health services provided by local Community Health in Yass.

Noeleen Hazell

1. From a community member. If someone from Bango comes and says they want a Windfarm can landholders stop.

Chair – if someone wants to put in a Development Application for a Windfarm they are entitled to do so – unless it is a prohibited use. Local Councils can take a stance of no more, but they are not the consent authority - It is a State Government issue. However, you cannot force a landowner to have a wind tower on their place.

Brendan McKay: If they cannot get consent from the Landholders then it cannot proceed.

*Discussion of the Marilba portion of the previous application and the previous DA for 132 towers.
Goldwind advised they purchased the entire project from Epuron – but the agreements with landholders have now expired.*

Doug Painting: Whitefields Road – the obvious entry point was straight off the highway through the property of one of the non-host landholders.

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting date 23rd May 2019.

Meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

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No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
9.	Advise of any suggestions to improve community engagement	6/3/2018	CC Members	Ongoing	No approaches provided, happy to receive at any time.
18.	<p>1. What is Goldwinds underground 33KV cabling easement width?</p> <p>5a. What is the configuration of the 33KV underground cabling? Single trench or multiple?</p> <p>5b. Will the underground 33KV cabling easement be fenced?</p> <p>5c. If fenced what provisions are in place for vegetation control?</p>	21/2/2019	Goldwind		
19.	Chair to contact all CCC members on their views of video recording future meeting.	21/02/2019	Chair	Next meeting	
20.	Chair to contact all CCC members on their preferred time for future meetings.	21/02/2019	Chair	Next meeting	

COMPLETED ACTIONS

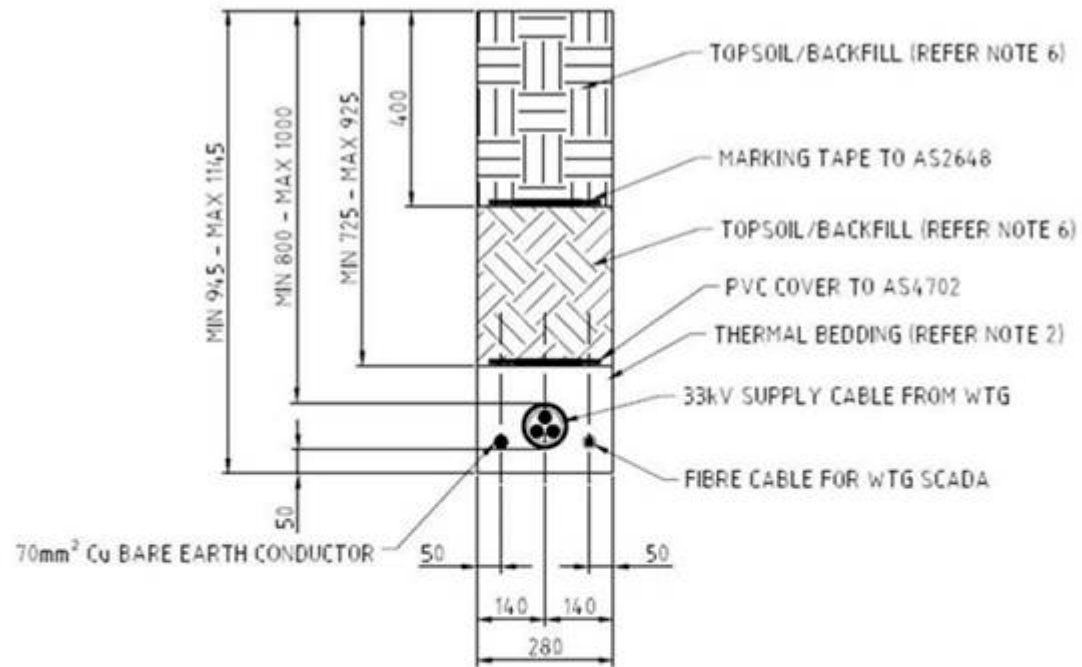
No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
1.	Provide a copy of overview presentation to committee members	5/10/2017	Goldwind	30/10/2017	Presentation provided
2.	Include specific community sponsorships in next brochure	5/10/2017	Goldwind	31/11/2017	Included in brochure
3.	Advise distance that towers will stand back from hollow bearing trees	5/10/2017	Goldwind	Next meeting	Information provided. Modified Consent Section 2 9d.
4.	Provide information to the Committee regarding the National Electricity Guarantee	6/3/2018	Goldwind	30/3/18	Information provided

5.	Provide link to information on specifications on new turbines	6/3/2018	Goldwind	30/3/18	Link provided
6.	Provide original gradient of road to Committee members	6/3/2018	Goldwind	30/3/18	Information provided
7.	Provide a copy of site map to Committee members	6/3/2018	Goldwind	30/3/18	Information provided
8.	Provide Committee Members with a link to the PAC website	6/3/2018	Goldwind	30/3/18	Link provided
10.	Advise of depth of cable trenches and length of blades	19/6/2018	Goldwind	31/07/2018	Completed
11.	Advise who would be responsible for the administration of the Community Enhancement Fund?	19/6/2018	Goldwind	31/07/2018	Completed
12.	Provide copy of Responses to Submissions to Report to members	19/6/2018	Goldwind	31/07/2018	Completed
13.	Mechanical protection to be used for the underground cabling	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next meeting	Responded. Attached to minutes 21 st February 2019
14.	RPM for the rotor of the generator	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	Responded. Attached to minutes 21 st February 2019
15.	Definition of a light and heavy vehicle and proposed use of these vehicles on Berremangra and Coppabella roads	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next meeting	Responded. Attached to minutes 21 st February 2019
16.	Provision of information on harmonics	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	Responded. Attached to minutes 21 st February 2019
17.	Legal shooting distance near Wind Turbines	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	Responded. Attached to minutes 21 st February 2019

10.	Mechanical protection to be used for the underground cabling	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next meeting	
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While the chosen engineering contractor will have their own specific design, below is a typical example of the mechanical protection utilised in the industry for underground cables.

The mechanical protection is provided by the marking tape (this is just a soft warning tape) and PVC cover (known as hard board). The hard board is usually 280mm wide, and 4mm thick and is laid directly on top of the bedding sand. The cable is also laid to a minimum depth of 800mm to top of cable, which prevents disturbance under normal farming practices. The cable also has dual protective sheaths, and a copper screen which provides additional mechanical and electrical protection in the event of cable damage. It is also worth noting that the cable is identified with marker posts at all road and fence crossings, and that all As Built drawings are supplied to the relevant authorities, as well as the landowners once complete. All of these requirements together provide a high level of safety for the installation.



1 x 3 CORE AL. 33kV XLPE
 1 x BARE EARTH
 FIBRE OPTIC CABLE
 120mm² - 240mm²

DETAIL A
 TYPICAL WINDFARM CABLE TRENCH
 CROSS SECTION
 SCALE 1:10

11.	RPM for the rotor of the generator	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	
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RPM and tip speed:

- The cut-in RPM for the GW136/4.2 is 6 rotations per minute. The rated RPM for the GW136/4.2 is 12 rotations per minute.
- This equates to an outer tip speed range of 43-86m/s (155-309km/h).

12.	Definition of a light and heavy vehicle and proposed use of these vehicles on Berremangra and Coppabella roads	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next meeting	
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The Conditions of Consent stipulate specific restrictions on oversize vehicle usage offsite:

Restriction on Transport Routes

31. The Applicant shall ensure that all over-dimensional and heavy vehicle access to and from the site is via the primary access routes identified in the EA (and shown in the figure in Appendix 6) unless the applicable roads authority approves otherwise. Note: The Applicant is required to obtain relevant permits under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (NSW) for the use of overdimension vehicles on the road network.

(Appendix 6 is attached for reference)

A heavy vehicle in NSW is classified as a motor vehicle or trailer exceeding 4.5 tonnes.

Currently there is approval to use a 2.2km section of Coppabella Road as a secondary access route but it must first be upgraded to an all-weather gravel surface seal. As per the above clause, it is not currently approved for over-dimensional or heavy vehicle access though limited use for activities such as water and concrete trucks may be sought for approval from council.

There are currently no plans for utilising the remainder of the Coppabella and Berremangra roads for anything other than light vehicle access, but once a civil contractor has been awarded the project build they may seek to negotiate with council to utilise sections of Berremangra or Coppabella road.

13.	Provision of information on harmonics	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	
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The natural frequency of 100m tower for the GW136/4.2 is 0.235Hz.

14.	Legal shooting distance near Wind Turbines	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	
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We are unaware of any 'legal shooting distance' concept near wind farms.

It is not expected that typical farming practices such as permitted shooting would be affected by the presence of the wind turbines. It should be noted though that any shooting must comply with both the general criminal law (regarding injuring third parties and causing property damage) and the common law of negligence. For example with negligence, a shooter could be found negligent and liable to pay damages if he/she recklessly undertook the activity in such a way that caused direct damage to persons or property. The test is usually whether that person did what a 'reasonable person' would do in the circumstances and context.