

## **Coppabella Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee**

**Meeting No 6 – Café on Queen, 15 Queen Street, Binalong**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 – 5.00pm-7.00pm**

### **Present:**

**CCC Members:** Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), Cr Rita O'Connor (Hilltops), Paul Regan, John McGrath, Alan Cole (alt), Brenden McKay, Doug Painting, Paul Regan, Peter Holding.

**Proponent:** Sunny Rutherford, Medard Boutry & Tom Nielsen

**Observers:** Bruce Hazell, David Hazell, Andrew Bray, Angela Reagan, Barbara Folkard, Alison Deale - Goldwind Australia, Sandy Smith – Construction Manager Coppabella  
and Carlene Carmody (minutes)

**Invited Guest:** Judy Carmody (Rural and Remote Mental Health)

The Meeting opened at 5.10 pm

### **1. Welcome/Apologies**

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Apologies were received from Noeleen Hazell

### **2. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests**

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No changes to any Committee member's declarations.

### **3. Confirmation of minutes or previous Minutes**

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The minutes of Meeting No 5 held on 21 February 2019 were confirmed. All outstanding items on action sheet have been completed.

### **4. Annual Report**

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Chair advised that Annual Report for 2018 has been completed and is now on the Departments website.

### **5. Project Update – Tom Nielsen**

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Appeal process has delayed progress of the project by two months. This includes the upgrade plans for Whitefields Road. Now finalising these plans. Can't confirm timing for Hume Highway works as need to schedule with RMS.

Tender for main contractor close to being completed finalised. Now finalising contracts. Looking at a 24 to 26-month construction program.

Grid Connection. 9OR – New line designated by TransGrid.

Community Engagement – not too active at the moment. Office is open a couple of hours of week and attendance at Binalong Markets.

Question – do we know who the Contractors are?

Not as yet – awaiting final agreements to be signed with main contractors. There will be one contractor for electrical balance of plant and one for civil balance of plant. Currently in closing stages.

Peter Holding: What is the intention for sub-contractors? Are you intending using locals?

Sandy Smith: we have a data base (ICN Gateway) with Expressions of Interest lodged. Over 700 possible contractors are on it which are inclusive of local and beyond. This will be shared with the successful contractors.

Peter Holding: How will local contractors be aware of this opportunity.

Sunny Rutherford: Looking at having a local meeting for all prospective contractors being able to attend.

Sandy Smith: We facilitate a meeting which is publicised locally, papers, word of mouth, social media. People are invited to attend. Each main contractor will do a presentation and discuss opportunity for sub-contractors and the services they need. It is then up to the Contractors to engage sub-contractors.

Peter Holding: Is there any requirement to use local subcontractors. Will they require accreditation?

Sunny Rutherford: Generally, it depends on the Contractor. There is a push however within Goldwind to focus on local engagement.

Tom Nielsen: Hoping to announce Contractors by the next meeting.

Chair: If it happens before can we ensure that local communities are made aware.

Cr Rita O'Connor: Is there still an opportunity for local sub-contractors to enrol with ICN (Industry Capability Network).

Sunny Rutherford: Yes. Once Contractors announced we will give an opportunity. It was open for a long period of time but now closed. Will reopen to reinvigorate now that the works will be occurring.

Brenden McKay: What is the definition of local? I have heard that it is within 200km of project.

Sunny Rutherford: We generally use 200km in this context. The ICN listing includes companies from other States as well. It is a real mixed bag of companies on there.

Tom Nielsen: Contractors have indicated a mobilisation period of 2-3 months

Alan Cole: Changes to Whitefields are they all in the easement or on private property.

Tom Nielsen: Changes to Whitefields lane are all within the current easement corridor.

Alan Cole: What is the limits to the environment removal.

Medard Boutry: It has been limited to removal of up to 4 hollow bearing trees. We have been out there today with Ecologists looking at them.

Alan Cole: Have you climbed or droned the trees.

Medard Boutry: No

Alan Cole: Have there been any design or planning works completed to access turbine sites on private land.

Tom Nielsen: A full engineering design had to be completed for the planning modification. Further detailed design will be conducted by the contractor once they have been engaged.

Alan Cole: Will it be visible from the Hume Highway?

Tom Nielsen: It will be visible, particularly during construction, but revegetation works will reduce this, and the road will mainly be located on the top of the ridges so not expected to be highly visible.

Alan Cole: What grades will the roads be.

Sandy Smith: Sections between 14-18% grade. Main access roads will typically be 10-14%.

Tom Nielsen: Map of corridor in planning approval documents. Will forward to the Chair for distribution.

Medard Boutry: Contractor is not allowed to build outside the corridor.

Alan Cole: So you have no idea of how much cut and fill?

Sandy Smith: It is a work in progress – seeking a balance between cut and fill

Medard Boutry: The project is to comply with the Blue Book

John McGrath: I have spoken to two contractors who have told me it is an impossible task.

Paul Regan: Transgrid – are they reviewing environmental impact?

Tom Nielsen: They are undergoing a review process for environmental factors. That is their process and we aren't overly privy to it. They are seeing it as a low risk process.

Paul Regan: What do you mean as low risk.

Tom Nielsen: They have communicated to us that they don't see a huge range of impacts on environmental factors as it is within the same easement of the current line. They need to conduct geological works to quote on works.

## 6. General Business – without notice

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Questions for Goldwind Coppabella CCC 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 from John McGrath

1. *At last Coppabella CCC when I asked you at what stage was Goldwind going to admit that they were never going to get the power into the 99M?  
Given then that the 99M Summer/Autumn/Winter/Spring carries Nominal 125 MVA with the 99Ms existing constraints Summer 137 MVA, Autumn/Spring  
You answered that we would have or 280MW? Correct? According to Page 8 4<sup>th</sup> Paragraph from bottom you suggest that you could have connected 150MW whereas in reality there's only capacity on the existing 99M of 12 to 18 MVA?*

<i>Season</i>	<i>Day / Night</i>	<i>Normal Rating (MVA)</i>	<i>Contingency Rating (MVA)</i>
<i>Summer</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>137</i>
	<i>Night</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>138</i>
<i>Autumn / Spring</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>143</i>
	<i>Night</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>141</i>
<i>Winter</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>141</i>
	<i>Night</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>154</i>

*Then 280MW/MVA was never going to be delivered to the 99M?*

Tom Nielsen: No change to our previous position. I think you are confusing rating with loading.

TransGrid have always set the possible wind farm capacity.

Chair: It is not the Committee's position to question TransGrid, it is their issue and responsibility.

2. *Due to the recent election results and downturn in profitability of renewables is the Coppabella wind farm a financially secure investment considering that Goldwind are building the generators/associated infrastructure, and proposing to fund the duplication (parallel line) of the 99M from the Coppabella 132KV Substation to the Yass 330/132KV substation, without any power purchase agreements in place?*

Tom Nielsen: Correct. The whole time we have been involved there has been a Liberal Government so nothing changes. Our financial model is still the same.

3. *I question the inadequacy of BLA and NGH addressing the Swift Parrot in relationship to CWF? Considering at the 21<sup>st</sup> February Coppabella CCC Medard Bounty consider the bird addressed? I have question in relationship to pages 72 and 73 of the below document.  
Specifically, on NGH's and BLA's to addressing the impact of this project on rendering the area unsuitable for occupancy by this species P72.*

*P73 would this action disrupt the breeding cycle of the population? Will this projects action interfere with the recovery of this species?*

**NGH COPPABELLA WIND FARM  
PROPOSED TURBINE MODIFICATION  
IMPACTS ON BIRDS AND BATS NGH Environmental Pty Ltd**

Medard Boutry: The bird was considered, and the area was not considered as high risk that would warrant a significant impact. It has been reviewed by OEH, Department Planning and Environment and they did not consider it a high risk.

Alan Cole: My understanding that Temora is a key area for the Swift Parrot. It is not very far.

Medard Boutry: I am not a bird expert and we have commissioned studies and they have been assessed. There have been offsets put in place as well as a bird and bat monitoring plan.

4. Definition of HBTs? Why is it the definition of a HBT

*Viz **Hollow bearing trees** - means a dominant or co-dominant living tree, where the trunk or limbs contain hollows, holes or cavities suitable for **protected matters**. Such hollows may not always be visible from the ground but may be apparent from the presence of deformities such as protuberances of broken limbs, or where it is apparent the head of the tree has broken off.*

*Thus, there's no recognition of the fact that dead standing trees provide both shelter and breeding hollows correct? **(NB Please refer to accompanying Superb Parrot article)***

*Then it's acceptable to destroy dead standing trees which are and always have been HBT if not by definition?*

*Re. the **Superb Parrot you failed to answer my question on when is the breeding season of the Superb Parrot at the last Coppabella CCC 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019?** So then outside the breeding season its acceptable to destroy the nesting sites of this parrot?*

Medard Boutry: I haven't had a chance to read the article yet. Nonliving HBT have been counted.

Alan Cole: I am a forester by profession. It is dangerous to identify a tree from the ground. You need to climb it or drone it.

Tom Nielsen: We are not allowed to remove HBT during breeding season.

John McGrath: Do you know when the season is. I asked this last meeting and got no answer.

Medard Boutry: September to February.

Tom Nielsen: It has been minuted in February page 5 of the minutes from last February.

John McGrath: I disagree

Chair: Everyone needs to read and check the draft minutes when they are distributed. If you have any issues, please notify as soon as possible so they can be amended. We need to concentrate on what we are here for. We are here to represent the community not question what the experts and government departments are saying.

Sunny Rutherford: We are part of a very large organisation and have access to a lot of professionals. We are not experts in everything. That is why sometimes there is a need questions with notice.

Medard Boutry: We will be looking at minimising removal of HBT. There will be a HBT procedure.

Tom Nielsen: We have approval for removal of 4 trees on Whitefields Road.

5. *I would like to revisit the question of aircraft warning lights fitted to wind farm towers. You have mentioned before having been in negotiation with CASA about this issue, who does have the final say in fitting aircraft warning lights to wind towers please?*

Tom Nielsen: Coppabella is the first project to have conditions of consent stating that if lighting is to be installed it will incorporate an aviation detection lighting system. We have done a risk assessment which has been submitted to CASA. We are still working through with CASA and Dept of Planning. It comes down to the Department of Planning.

6. *I would like to revisit the issue of aerial suppression of fires, whether stated within the footprint of a wind farm or passing through the wind farms footprint. Can you explain current RFS policy on the procedure of aerial fire suppression around wind farms please?*

Medard Boutry: I am not aware of a specific policy that RFS have in relation to Windfarms. Generally, we would take advice from RFS on shutting down of turbines.

John McGrath: There has been a policy approved between RFS and National Windfarm Commissioner.

Alan Cole: Perhaps it was just someone's opinion.

Chair: The National Windfarm Commissioner does not have a regulatory role.

7. *Revisiting proposed water usage other than potable water usage for concrete batching it is invariably unlikely that Goldwind can "estimate" the amount of other water that it will use in the construction of the Coppabella wind farm?*

Medard Boutry: It is in the minutes from last meeting.

Sandy Smith: there are so many variables, you take an educated estimate. The difference between the current moisture of the soil will give can give you some idea.

Medard Boutry: You also have dust suppression to factor in. Test bore application is still underway. It has been submitted and being assessed. We have confirmation that Golden Fields have water to sell to us.

8. *In relationship to the Marshall Day Acoustics "Coppabella Wind Farm Modification Application Noise Assessment Rp R01 20169260 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017?*

*Tom as Goldwind's representative you have "taken delivery" of the Marshall Day Acoustics "Coppabella Wind Farm Modification Application Noise Assessment Rp R01 20169260 on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017?*

- 1. Are you au fait with this document?*

- a. *Then are you solely responsible for any future backlash from this document as far as future nuisance noise issues being raised akin to say at the Bald Hills wind farm in Victoria?*
- II. *Has an “updated background noise survey” been conducted as indicated by Paragraph 5 3.3 Applicable noise limits been conducted, if not why not?*
- III. *If not when is this “updated background noise survey” to be conducted?*
- IV. *# Does Marshall Day Acoustics have “Professional Indemnity” Insurance, if so who with?*

Tom Nielsen: I commissioned the work to be done by Acoustic Professionals.

John McGrath: If there are impacts will you take responsibility or do Marshall Day take responsibility.

Tom Nielsen: Ultimately the responsibility for compliance sits with the project. A noise assessment says that based on the layout you can comply with the requirements. If there was an issue with the modelling and that is the cause of the non-compliance, we still have to fix it but would have recourse with Marshall Day.

ii)&iii) Tom Nielsen: Not yet – we need to have the final design locked down to install the meteorological mast. Typically, projects don’t do this update but we did do this at White Rock. The background data we had was old, so we dismissed it and we based ours on 35dB compliance level, which is conservative. The reason for doing these measurements now is to have accuracy in testing. Will be done in the early days of construction, once we have a mast up.

iv) Tom Nielsen: They do. Who that is with is their business. We have contractual recourse with them.

9. *Section 5.2.2 Low Frequency Noise Paragraph 4 “Given the above, C-weighted noise levels for the proposed Coppabella Wind farm cannot be reliably predicted at this time.”*

- I. *Has further low frequency noise testing been conducted?*

Tom Nielsen: Low frequency noise can be assessed as C weighted noise as compared to A weighted noise. We will do testing during construction and operations.

- II. *If post commencement of operation of Coppabella wind farm and low frequency noise issues arise are you responsible as Goldwind’s signatory for this document?*

Tom Nielsen: The project company, Coppabella Wind Farm, is responsible for compliance.

- III. *If not, whom will take ultimate responsibility for low frequency noise issues in the future?*

Tom Nielsen: That will be the project company, Coppabella Wind Farm.

10. *Should the Coppabella Wind farm be constructed who will certify that the turbines are structurally compliant, and will that certificate be available to the community? Given the less than publicised Gullen Range blade throw incident several years ago?*

Tom Nielsen: The turbines are certified for loading over 25-year life. All that data is compiled and modelled. They are certified by a German company before the turbines are installed.

Sandy Smith: Footings are designed by a number of Engineers and verify that the loading is within capability of structure. We also engage third party Engineers to certify.

11. *What insurance will be put in place for the Coppabella wind farm? eg structural integrity, damages etc and what company do you intend using for insurances purposes?*

Tom Nielsen: We have insurance for our Windfarms.

Sandy Smith: Generally, they have varied insurances. Public liability, employee insurance, etc. Contractors are liable.

Tom Nielsen: I think you are also talking warranty – Contractor and Turbine manufacturer has warranty.

Sandy Smith: Builds are designed to contain spills and have erosion controls.

12. *What is the anticipated kill of bird and bat life for initial operation of Coppabella wind farm?*

*i. Well then, I take it from that date forward that all additional wildlife kills will be intentional and thus finable by law?*

Medard Boutry: I don't think that is something that has ever been estimated in terms of an actual number. It is classified as low risk or high risk. There is a bird and bat management plan with the State and Federal governments. There are trigger points which will initiate investigation.

#### **Other Questions**

*Alan Cole: Is there a trigger number to initiate investigation?*

Medard Boutry: We will publish an adaptive management plan based on monitoring.

*Alan Cole: How often are the turbines monitored for bird strikes.*

Medard Boutry: Monthly monitoring for a percentage of the turbines. We also do scavenger tests. Monitoring will continue for a two-year period.

*Paul Regan: Volume of concrete required per footing of turbine?*

Sandy: I don't have formal design, there are often more than one depending on the terrain. Typically, 500 cubic metres is an estimate of a pad.

*Paul Regan: Do we know the turbine manufacturer?*

Tom Nielsen: Goldwind.

*Paul Regan: Finance for the project?*

Tom Nielsen: Currently seeking equity finance. That won't happen until everything is resolved. It is a competitive process so cannot divulge.

*Paul: Does Goldwind have a biodiversity offset?*

Medard Boutry: We will need to have for the duration of the project. Once detailed design is developed, we can calculate number of offsets credits to retire. No agreement in place yet. We would endeavour to have them locally. They need to be retired within two years of commencement of construction.

## **7. Presentation by Judy Carmody**

Chair: At the last meeting Noeleen Hazell raised the issue of mental health. I have asked Judy Carmody a Coordinator from Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) to address the CCC.

Judy Carmody: it is about teaching rural people about mental health. I am a link to help people with services and provide education. Have a number of resources available here tonight. I am aware of the impact large scale projects like windfarms can have on people. First point of call for people should always be their GP.

Chair: I will put Judy's contact details in the minutes (Mob. 0417 131 301 – Judy.Carmody@health.nsw.gov.au) and give the resources Judy has provided to Allison Deale who operates the Coppabella Shop Front.

## **8. Next Meeting**

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Next meeting date 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019, 6pm.

Meeting closed at 7.00 pm.



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.	1. 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? 5c. If fenced what provisions are in place for vegetation control?	21/2/2019	Goldwind		

#### COMPLETED ACTIONS

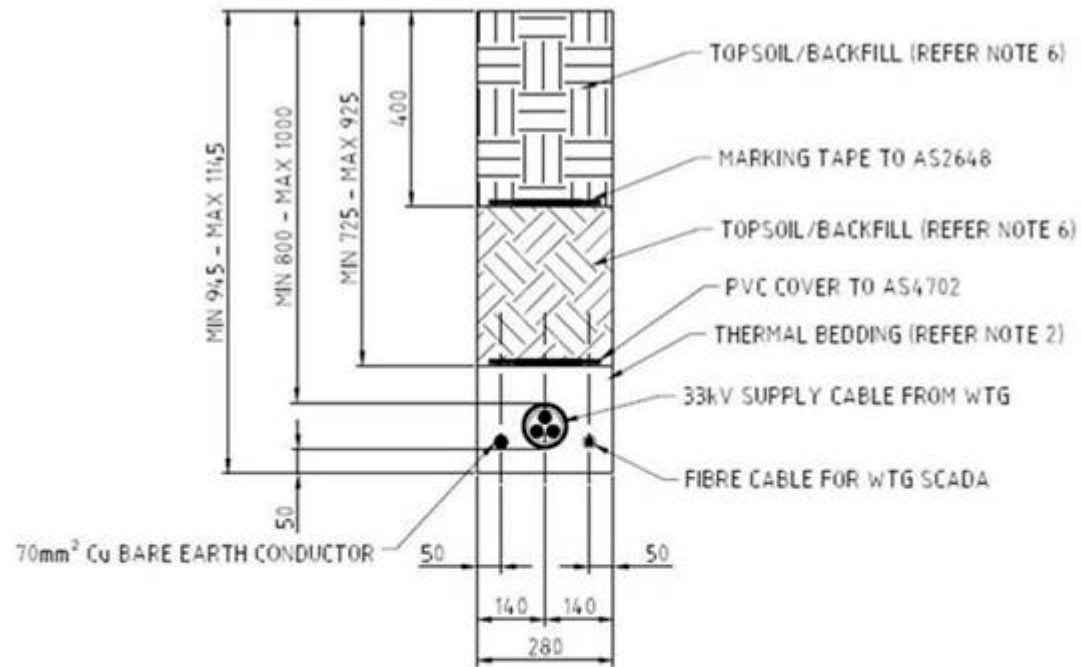
No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
1.	Provide a copy of overview presentation to committee members	5/10/2017	Goldwind	30/10/2017	Presentation provided
2.	Include specific community sponsorships in next brochure	5/10/2017	Goldwind	31/11/2017	Included in brochure
3.	Advise distance that towers will 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 <sup>st</sup> February 2019
14.	RPM for the rotor of the generator	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	Responded. Attached to minutes 21 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> February 2019
16.	Provision of information on harmonics	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	Responded. Attached to minutes 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2019
17.	Legal shooting distance near Wind Turbines	8/11/2018	Goldwind	Next Meeting	Responded. Attached to minutes 21 <sup>st</sup> 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  
 120mm<sup>2</sup> - 240mm<sup>2</sup>

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.

19.	Chair to contact all CCC members on their views of video recording future meeting.	21/02/2019	Chair	Next meeting	No one in favour contacted Chair. Quite a few against contacted Chair. Decision against.
20.	Chair to contact all CCC members on their preferred time for future meetings.	21/02/2019	Chair	Next meeting	Meeting time changed to 6pm.