

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

**Meeting No 7 – Café on Queen, 15 Queen Street, Binalong**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 – 6:05pm-7.30pm**

### **Present:**

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

**Proponent:** Alison Deale, Medard Boutry & Tom Nielsen

**Observers:** Bruce Hazell, David Hazell, Barbara Folkard, Richard Hyles, Sandy Smith – Construction Manager Coppabella, Shengyi Dai – Project Developer Coppabella  
and Carlene Carmody (minutes)

The Meeting opened at 6:05 pm

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

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Apologies were received from Cr Rita O'Connor (Hilltops), Libby Elliott, Sunny Rutherford (Goldwind), Alan Cole.

### **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 6 held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 were confirmed. All outstanding items on action sheet have been completed.

### **4. Correspondence**

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Nil.

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

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Tom presented project update:

Planning Approvals - Crown Lands licence offer received and accepted

Heritage Management Plan approved & Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMLP) developed in consultation with Yass Valley Council and approved by State and Commonwealth

Whitefields Road Upgrade Preparation - Works commenced on the 19th Aug to remove trees and trim branches necessary for the upgrade of Whitefields Road. This work is being completed prior to the Superb Parrot nesting period. The road design, alignment and width has been subject to extensive impact minimisation. It has then been undertaken as per the approved RVMLP and involved: Removal of up to 10 mature trees, incl. 3 of the 4 hollow bearing trees.

Construction Preparation - Tender for main contractor finalised. Awaiting financing to sign contracts and make announcement. Establishment of groundwater test bores to commence on the 16th of September 2019.

Grid Connection - TransGrid Review of Environmental Factors was on public exhibition from 17th June to the 9th August 2019. Response to submissions currently being organised by TransGrid.

Alison Deale: Community Engagement Update - Shopfront has seen a pickup of visitors. There has been an increase in sponsorship – Bookham Sports shear 2019, Binalong P & C Playgroup play equipment and Binalong Community Club – lighting & signage.

Questions relating to the update:

Geoff Frost: Finance for the project – what does it entail?

Tom Nielsen: Getting finance can either be from debt financiers or equity investors. There will be no finalisation of the financing until we have received a grid connection agreement. This has been delayed due to the change from Transgrid regarding the connection solution.

Paul Regan: Do you have a contractor?

Tom Nielsen: We have a preferred tenderer however we cannot sign a contract without finance being in place.

Paul Regan: Test bores – are they in the footprint?

Medard Boutry: Yes. Approval for the test bores has been obtained.

Paul Regan: And the quality, does it influence things?

Medard Boutry: Yes, it will be tested, to determine suitability for concrete batching. High quality water is required for concrete batching but if the water is of a lower quality, it can still be used for material conditioning and dust suppression (which make up the greatest water requirement)

Paul Regan: How many bores and where?

Medard Boutry: 4 test bores and all on Hosts land.

John McGrath: Are the bores registered as Domestic or Industrial?

Medard Boutry: Once the test bores are established and determined to be adequate, they will be converted to production bores (Industrial) with temporary allocations. After the construction period they can be converted to Stock and Domestic.

Geoff Frost: Update on the sale of power?

Tom Nielsen: Coppabella is planned to be operated fully merchant, similar to the Collector Wind Farm and White Rock Wind Farm. The project will not be eligible for renewable energy certificates under the current Renewable Energy Target due to being planned for commissioning after 2020. The project will connect directly into the Grid and compete on the wholesale market.

Paul Regan: Will this impact on finance?

Tom Nielsen: It can impact on who is willing to provide finance

Brendan McKay: Has the target date been set/goal for the contractor announcement?

Tom Nielsen: Unwilling to give a fixed date for this at present – end 2019 or early 2020 planned.

Nic Carmody: Perhaps a Project timeline might be helpful to the community?

Brendan McKay: There is lots of talk regarding start

Paul Regan: Will Goldwind start before proposed upgrade to the transmission connection?

Tom Nielsen: Both projects will run concurrently once contracts are signed between the project and TransGrid.

Upgrades to Whitefields lane and its intersection with the Highway have to occur before the start of the wind farm. There is no more tree clearing anticipated for Whitefields Road.

Paul Regan: Transgrid have an 18-month timeframe, will this delay the project?

Tom Nielsen: When we sign a Connection Agreement between Transgrid and Goldwind, works can start. We are waiting on connection studies. These were close to complete but with a new connection solution these were delayed by over 4 months. Expected end November to early December. Advisian perform these connection studies and then these studies are supplied to TransGrid for review and approval.

John McGrath: Why will there be a new transformer for Yass?

Tom Nielsen: TransGrid's proposed connection solution was previously to connect into the 132kV side of the Yass substation. External network studies have since determined that the network operator, AEMO, would likely curtail the project to account for possible contingency events in the 330kV network (where this power would then be redirected into the 132kV network). By building a new 132kV/330kV transformer in Yass that is dedicated to the project, the project will not be subject to any curtailing or congestion in the 132kV network as it would instead connect directly into the 330kV network.

## 6. General Business – without notice

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Questions for Goldwind Coppabella CCC 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 from John McGrath

1. *Can you please name the TransGrid designation for the duplicated line to the 99M?*

Tom Nielsen: 90R

2. *To Tom Nielsen.*

*After your disclosure at last Coppabella CCC Can you give me your interpretation of the meaning of "contingency rating"?*

Tom Nielsen: I was referring to having head room available in the 132kV network to account for possible major faults in the 330kV network

3. *Please refresh my memory does Goldwind have a "power purchase agreement" with Transgrid or is the agreement a "merchant's agreement"?*

- a) *If "merchant's agreement" does that mean Goldwind only get income when they deliver to Transgrid?*
- b) *Therefore if there are periods when there's no income to Goldwind will the hosts get paid, or will they have to wait until Goldwind receives income again?*

Tom Nielsen: No Power Purchase Agreement.

- a) TransGrid is the network service provider, the project will sell electricity directly into the wholesale electricity market.
- b) Hosts will still receive income from the project regardless.

4. *Would Coppabella wind farm be constructed without the duplicated line having been constructed?*  
*Question withdrawn*

5. *Considering today's AMEO and National Energy Ministers report that there's a very high likelihood of extensive blackouts across NSW and Victoria, how does Goldwind rate its position to deliver power when called upon, given that Goldwind have already admitted that wind farms cannot supply base load? Also with companies such as Goldwind owning generation infrastructure thus privately owned in your opinion does the NSW Government what guarantees does the general public have of electricity being delivered?*

Tom Nielsen: The wind farm will provide electricity into the wholesale electricity market whenever the wind is blowing. Wind farms have very low base operating costs as there are no fuel costs and low maintenance costs. This allows wind farms to bid into the network at a lower price point than traditional generators. The Coppabella wind farm will operate between 3-25m/s wind speeds (11-90km/h) on a 10 min average basis. The wind turbines will withstand wind gusts to much greater wind speeds without tripping off also.

Nic Carmody: How often do they turn off?

Tom: The energy impact of the high wind shutdowns has been evaluated by external consultants to be 0.3% based on the measured wind data at the site. This means that extreme wind events that turn the wind turbines off are expected to be very rare at this site.

The reason for the shutdowns in these events is to protect the wind turbines from extreme loads and ensure their 25-year design life can be achieved.

**6.** *What gives Goldwind the right to commence clearing Whitefield Road when Goldwind is clearly acting in contradiction to the Conditions of consent for approval? Mod 1 SSD 6698? Page 1 dot point 3*

Tom Nielsen: The clause referred to is in the introduction section of the NSW DPE's Modification Assessment Report and describes an aspect of the approved project prior to the modification. The updated conditions of consent do not specify a specific connection solution as this is outside the project boundary and not within the scope of the project as assessed by the NSW DPE.

**7.** *How does Goldwind envisage dealing with using water for construction of the Coppabella wind farm when we have suffered now through many years of drought?*

*That is how does Goldwind see their impact on existing low community water reserves?*

Medard Boutry: We are willing to look into using non potable resources and alternatives. Yass Valley Council has previously advised that they won't allow the project to take the recycled water from the sewage treatment plant, but we can ask the Council again in due course. Both Yass Valley Council and Goldenfields water have both advised that they can sell treated water to meet the project water requirements. May need to go further afield if water is not available locally.

Paul Regan: Are there any arrangements with neighbouring landholders?

Tom Nielsen: No just the Host properties.

**8.** *Are Goldwind hoping to subsidise the allocation of water from Yass and Jugiong with bore water?*  
Already answered.

**9.** *Are you after months able to disclose your knowledge of the breeding season of the Superb Parrot? Not as per minutes August to February.*

Medard Boutry: This has been answered the same way at each recent meeting. September to January as per the Federal Government guidelines.

Tom Nielsen: It is expected that the period stated in the Federal approval is a conservative one with a little bit of buffer either side (in case there are early arrivals or late departures).

John McGrath: I disagree with that, there are more exact dates. So you don't know. The Government does not know. So, no answer from you again.

**10.** *How does habitat clearance outside the breeding season of the Superb Parrot not impact this species chances of survival? That is both suitable breeding trees will be cleared and also suitable feeding habitat will be destroyed during construction of CWF.*

Medard Boutry: The recent works have removed 3 out of the 4 hollow bearing trees approved for removal prior to the breeding season – thus removing these as an option to become nest trees. There are a lot of other potential nesting trees in the nearby surrounding area that are not being removed. We have minimised the impacts in this corridor as best we can and don't anticipate removing any further trees along Whitefields Rd.

Questions for Goldwind Coppabella CCC 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 from Noleen Hazell

**1.** *Complaints lodged against a CCC member.*

Noleen Hazell: I wasn't at the meeting but was told by others that there wasn't anything in it. We have to speak with passion.

Nic Carmody: explained that all members signed a Code of Conduct which outlines expectations of behaviour. I understand at times committee members frustrations, but the Code must be adhered to. The Guidelines say you can be cautioned 3 times before further action must be taken.

*2. Mental Health as ccc 21-2-19 – Statement only no question*

*3. Premature Clearing and Pruning on Whitefield Road*

Tom Nielsen: Advised that the clearing performed was not premature but had to be performed prior to the Superb Parrot breeding season in order for upgrade works to occur later in the year. No more trees are expected to be removed on Whitefields Lane. Hollow bearing tree sections have been left on the ground as habitat for other fauna.

Medard Boutry: We inspected all hollows before removal. One possum and two geckos all relocated.

John McGrath: Do you recognise that Windfarms kill things. Swift Parrot, Superb Parrot – they don't fly around wind turbines. Where is the justification for this?

Medard Boutry: Studies have been done – low risk to the Superb Parrot due to flight elevations. Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan outlines reporting, investigation and actions. Workers will report all incidents via photos to the experts and the animals kept on site in a freezer for identification. Any strikes to threatened species must be immediately reported to the regulators.

#### **Other Questions**

John McGrath: I second Noeleen – feel like we are being overridden by DPE – we have no say.

Doug Painting: I had questions about water and timeframe – both are answered.

Barbara Folkard: Question about finance – How much will it cost? have you got the money?

Tom Nielsen: The project will cost approximately half a billion dollars to construct. We are in the process of securing the necessary financing but need all our "Ducks in a row". Looking at Equity Finance but have other options.

Paul Regan: Hollow bearing trees – live or dead?

Medard Boutry: Mixture of both – 2 dead, one alive.

Paul Regan: Upgrade to 99M – will this influence the ownership of the line?

Tom Nielsen: It will be a TransGrid asset. The financing arrangement is that they initially pay for it, own it and operate it, then the project pays TransGrid fixed connection costs over the life of the project, including a premium (i.e. a fee) for the initial costs incurred by TransGrid for the upgrade works. . The line will remain their asset throughout.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

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Next meeting date 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 6pm.

Meeting closed at 7.30 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

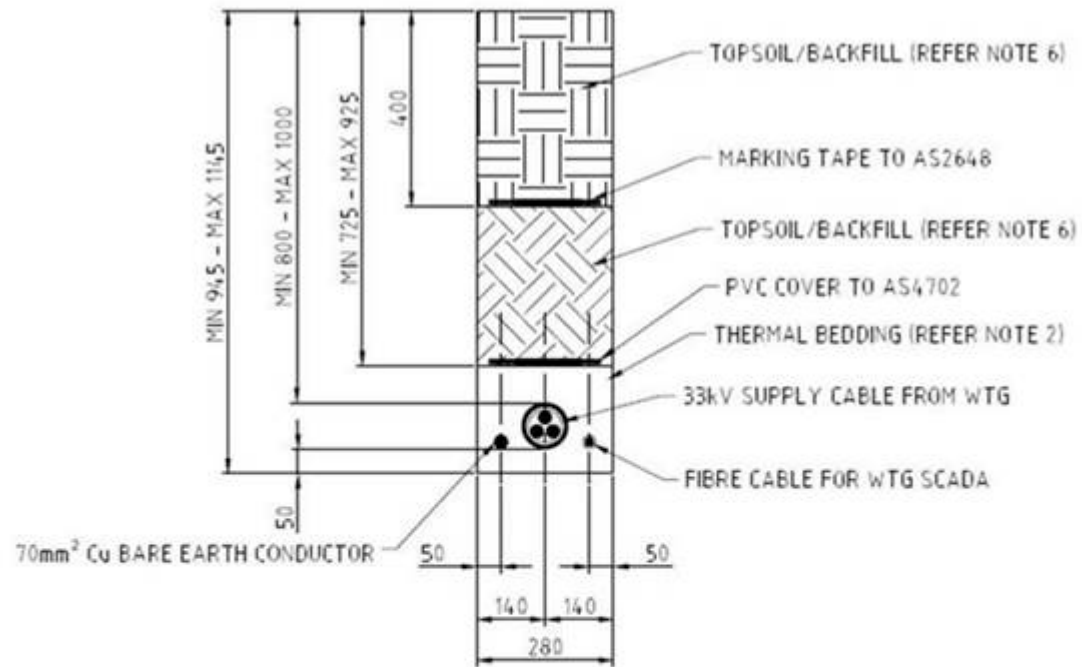
6.	Provide original gradient of road to Committee members	6/3/2018	Goldwind	30/3/18	Information provided
7.	Provide a copy of site map to Committee members	6/3/2018	Goldwind	30/3/18	Information provided
8.	Provide Committee Members with a link to the PAC website	6/3/2018	Goldwind	30/3/18	Link provided
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.