

Coppabella Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee
Meeting No 8 – Café on Queen, 15 Queen Street, Binalong
6pm Thursday 28th November 2019

Present:

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

Proponent: Sunny Rutherford, Medard Boutry & Tom Nielsen

Observers: Bruce Hazell, David Hazell, Barbara Folkard, Nan Betts, Richard Hyles, Alison Deale (Goldwind) and Carlene Carmody (minutes)

Invited Guests: Katrina O'Reilly (Team Leader Compliance, DPIE), Kath Elliot & Conor Reynolds (TransGrid)

The Meeting opened at 6:05 pm

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies were received from Cr Rita O'Connor (Hilltops), Libby Elliott & Doug Painting.

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 7 held on 22nd August 2019 were confirmed. All outstanding items on action sheet have been completed.

4. Correspondence

Nil.

5. Project Update – Tom Nielsen

Tom Nielsen, Medard Boutry and Sunny Rutherford presented project update: Not a great deal to update in past 3 months. Reasons for delays explained. Presented slide show (see attached).

Alison Deale: Community Engagement Update – Opening hours changed – Wednesday afternoons and Thursday morning or by appointment.

Questions relating to the update:

John McGrath: You are only just getting approvals, yet this project was going to start.

Medard Boutry: There are strict conditions as to when Management Plans are in place and approved by relevant Authorities. Typically, these would be approved within 2 months of commencement of project. The primary approval has been obtained but these are secondary approvals. Construction activities cannot commence until all the pre-construction planning conditions have been satisfied.

Tom Nielsen: Construction contractors don't come on board until after the project reaches financial close. Once the construction contractor has been formally engaged, then they develop the detailed design which informs the various project management plans. This is a typical process across the industry.

John McGrath: Will your contractors be au-fait with total fire bans?

Medard Boutry: Goldwind has developed fire management procedures for Coppabella wind farm and consulted with RFS from both the southwest slopes and southern tableland regions. Feedback has been received from RFS and incorporated into procedures. Final details of arrangements during total fire ban days will be confirmed once the construction contractor has been engaged.

John McGrath: No more trees removed on Whitefields.

Medard Boutry: The approved Whitefields Rd design does not require removal of additional trees along Whitefields Rd. We had approval for 4 Hollow-bearing trees but managed to only remove 3.

Paul Regan: Who undertook work on Whitefields.

Tom Nielsen: ALTUS (traffic control), NGH (long term ecologist for project), Ecotrees (tree removal specialists) and Enspec (registered consulting arborist). Local Landcare group approached to assist with Whitefields Rd replacement tree planting work but were not interested in being involved.

Paul Regan: None local, was it offered to locals?

Medard Boutry: Had to be consulting arborists – there is a limited number of them, none of them particularly local. Several quotes were obtained.

Paul Regan: Water, where are we up to?

Medard Boutry: Been unable to drill as the contractor has had to be elsewhere. We have been in touch with Yass Valley and Hilltops Councils re purchase of water. We'd prefer to use less quality water where we can and will continue to monitor the availability of water.

Cr Geoff Frost: I wouldn't be counting on Yass due to community outcry over Bango. Currently reviewing our restriction policy. I believe the Bango Contractors have been going to Canberra.

John McGrath: Which Solar farm are you referring to?

Tom Nielsen: TransGrid cannot explicitly tell us what is being proposed on the network through connection inquiries and connection process agreements. There are two solar farms proposed near Wagga Wagga.

Paul Regan: Development footprint not finalised.

Medard Boutry: The development corridor is defined as per the Approval Mod 1. The final detail of the design is yet to be confirmed as it relies on the Contractor being confirmed, however the detailed design must remain within the approved development corridor

Tom Nielsen: We have a preferred contractor who won because their design was least impact which also results in less civil costs. We will receive the detailed design once the Contractor has been formally engaged prior to construction starting on site. We will then work with the contractor to microsite the civil footprint and perform compliance checks before finalising.

Cr Geoff Frost: Question to Sunny on Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). What does that involve? It also involves a Committee forming.

Sunny Rutherford: I have been engaging with Chris Berry to sign off on VPA agreement. Draft VPA went to Council in October. Chris notified me that from his perspective that is ready to be signed. It follows policy set by YVC.

Cr Geoff Frost: Is that amount indexed?

Sunny Rutherford: Yes, to CPI. But only from when it starts. Under the VPA there is preference for the funds to go within 20km of the project. If there are no suitable projects, it can go beyond that. Haven't looked at how we will put that \$100k fund together. Elsewhere it has been done in-house via a Community Reference group. That fund will be established at the start of operations.

Brenden McKay: Who are you talking to at Hilltops?

Sunny Rutherford: Andrew Raines and David Rowland

Noeleen Hazell: To Sunny re the neighbourhood agreements. There are how many? Are any new?

Sunny Rutherford: There were over 60 eligible and we have engaged with about 45. Agreements are based on current approval.

Noeleen Hazell: Those people signed they signed with you, not carried over from Epuron?

Sunny Rutherford: Any agreements Epuron reached were purchased by Goldwind/Coppabella as a package.

6. General Business – without notice

Special Guests from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and TransGrid.

Kath Elliot – Thank you for the invitation. My involvement is as a Community engagement, my colleague Conor Reynolds is involved with the more technical side. We have a presentation (copy to be sent to committee with minutes). The Review of Environmental Factors (REF) Submissions Report and Determination will be sent to the Chair for distribution. This is not currently on our website but will be once finalised.

Questions from John McGrath

I would like to publicly address an allegation of disrespect to other Coppabella CCC members from the May 23rd, 2019 Coppabella CCC.

1. Why did it take 2 months for an allegation of disrespect to another Coppabella CCC members to be raised with me? Coppabella CCC 23rd May 2019 until I received Coppabella CCC Chair Nic Carmody's email 23rd July 2019.

Nic Carmody: I was approached post meeting by the person who advised they felt you had breached the Code of Conduct by being disrespectful. We did speak on the phone and you agreed that yes you did get frustrated. We have to show respect for each other and receive it in return. I didn't feel that it warranted being dealt with immediately. The issue was discussed at the following meeting (7) and again now. I see no reason to name the person who made the complaint but is a community member appointed by the Department.

2. Can we from now on address issues of alleged disrespectful comments on the day and have the same resolved by the Coppabella CCC Chair as in the Guidelines to NSW CCCs?

Nic Carmody: In an ideal world we would go that way. However, people are often not comfortable to do this at the time. It is similar to whistle-blowers. They need to feel that they can make complaints freely. We cannot run like Parliament where things are said and then retracted.

Goldwind

1. Why are the goal post forever moving back?
2. Why are the same goal post forever being moved? That is nearly every Coppabella CCC since October 2017 when this committee started there's seems to be new information arising? How much longer must the community be subjected to push backs of construction dates?

Tom Nielsen: This project has is one of the longest approval processes for a Project in NSW. We have been keen to get construction started as soon as possible. Things pop up that are out of our control. The recent grid connection rule changes have taken additional time to address.

3. What made Goldwind believe that Bowning-Bookham Landcare Group would supply trees to them for their Coppabella project when there is so much information out there in the community in general is aware of the damage Goldwind either intended to or already have completed environmentally on this site?

Medard Boutry: I made the enquiry to provide endemic local plantings for the best environmental outcome. The local Landcare wasn't interested and so sourced the plants elsewhere.

4. Blade incidents from Goldwind X 3? Blade blown down at Gullen Range wind farm. Cattle Hill Blade rollover? Damaged blade donated to Glen Innes as a tourist display. Plus, the 3 injured personnel from a vehicle rollover constructing White Rock July 2017 this information doesn't instil confidence in safety re Goldwinds work practices? What is Goldwinds response to that?

Sunny Rutherford: Any of these safety incidents is of concern to us and they are investigated, and procedures reviewed. Safety is our top priority. For Cattle Hill we have delivered 528 oversize items to the project.

5. I believe that Coppabella wind farm construction is not to commence now until mid-2020, then why such premature clearing of vegetation including HBTs on Whitefield's Road? Why not allow species such as the Superb Parrot to utilise this possible nesting resource for 1 more breeding season?

Tom Nielsen: It wasn't our intention to move the goal posts back. We wanted to get a start to avoid delays. We need the Grid Connection to finalise funding. We are trying to control the delays we can control and unfortunately, we have had delays we can't control.

John McGrath: You say delays outside your control, surely you can pre-empt.

Tom Nielsen: National Electricity Market rule changes we can't predict

Goldwind/DPIE

1. Why approve a project with an eventual negative economic impact on the community?

Tom Nielsen: I'm not sure what you mean

John McGrath: Eventually these things will be sitting there and not be decommissioned.

Tom Nielsen: There is a commitment to decommissioning in our approvals.

2. Why is the DPIE approving a project with a massive visual impact on the surrounding region, to be seen for kilometres such as the Coppabella wind farm when projects such as the Star Casino planned for Barangaroo, (incidentally I note that Goldwind has its head office based in Barangaroo) are rejected because of visual impact on some Sydney residents?

Is there a 2-system tiered planning system here? One for the rural residents and the other for city dwellers?

Addressed to Katrina.

Katrina O'Reilly: I cannot come close to answer. It is a much bigger assessment process. The projects are assessed on their merits and some are approved others are rejected.

TransGrid/DPIE

1. I can see no reference to an alternate grid connection other than the existing overhead transmission line in Yass Valley Wind Farm IPC statement, where is that authority located please?

Katrina O'Reilly: I haven't had a good chance to look at it. The approval talks about the conditions. I am aware Nicole has responded to you. Assessment Report is different to the Conditions of Approval. There is a requirement there that it will be connected to the transmission line. I am generally happy that it is in accordance with.

2. How many separate transmission lines can be with the 1 easement?

Conor Reynolds: It is to do with the EMF calculation. We also look at a few other things and we have legislation we have to comply with.

John McGrath: I have been told by the Dept PIE that because the connection is going into the same easement and therefore it is the same line. They don't have permission to connect to a new line. I want clarification.

Planning and Transgrid will take it on notice.

3. TransGrid. Why did it take TransGrid so long to realise that the generated power of the Yass Valley Wind Farm would never be accepted by the 132 KV (Kilovolt) transmission line the 99M given that TransGrid made the decision many years ago to refuse connection to either of the "southern" the 132 KV (Kilovolt) transmission lines the 970 and 990, whilst also rejecting connection to the 03 330 KV (Kilovolt) transmission line? Leaving the 99M as the only natural choice? Why the delay in realising that the 99M never had the capacity to carry the combined output of the conglomeration of wind farms forming the "greater" Yass Valley Wind Farm, combining to name some precincts, Conroys' Gap, Marilba, Carrols Range, Birrema and Coppabella?

Conor Reynolds: I am not on the planning side. Can we take that on notice?

4. Why did it take TransGrid so long to realise until the announcement at our previous CCC 22nd August that any generated power from the Coppabella wind farm could not be delivered to the 132KV bus at Yass 330/132KV Substation?

Conor Reynolds: Again, that is a planning one. I will take it on notice.

5. Likewise, why on the 22nd August by Goldwind was it announced that there was to be a step-up 132KV to 330KV transformer installed at Yass 330/132KV Substation, required by TransGrid?

Conor Reynolds: I think I know some of the answer but not all. I will get back to you.

6. Whose decision was it to request the installation of a step-up 132KV to 330KV transformer at Yass.

Conor Reynolds: We will get back to you.

7. What is the cost of this installation of this transformer including all ancillary equipment in a switch bay either side of that transformer?

Conor Reynolds : We will get back to you.

8. What will be the cost to the taxpayer?

Kath Elliot: This is a customer arrangement. We can get further information for you.

9. Why has it now become necessary for TransGrid to reposition/relocate recently installed upgraded transmission structures on the 990, 970 and 973 to facilitate access to Yass 330/132KV substation by the newly thought of 90R, cannot TransGrid pre-empt this?

Conor Reynolds: We already know how we want to come into it. When this was done, we didn't know about Coppabella. I don't have the history. I can't answer that here and now. Will get back to you.

10. According to TransGrid Work Instruction page 60 Review of Environmental Factors_ Transmission Line 99M Yass Murrumburrah 132KV Uprating April 2018, Wooden poles and butts will be disposed of in accordance with TransGrid Work Instruction-Disposal of Redundant Timber poles, what does this entail, please describe the requirements of that TransGrid Work Instruction?

Conor Reynolds: We will get back to you on this. It is standard operating procedure we make sure we dispose of them in the correct manner.

11. Why is it when TransGrid claim that they will remove all the material from the previous that creosote impregnated power line structure posts are sawn off at ground level? Then left between structures 482 and 483 on the 990 132KV transmission line for instance?

Conor Reynolds: It is not policy. I will look into it. What you need to remember on this project we will have a contractor that we will monitor.

12. Why do TransGrid contractors leave heavily scarred ground which is eroding under both the 99M and then the 990/970 upgrades?

Conor Reynolds: Do you have photos of that as well? I will look into that as well. It is not policy.

13. Why aren't TransGrid contractors educated about hot works, including earth moving/excavation/compaction work on Total Fire Ban Days?

Conor Reynolds: We have a policy in place, and it is agreed with the RFS. I would say with the drought and the catastrophic fire days we will be reviewing. All hot works stop. We budget a certain number of fire ban days.

14. What is expected of TransGrid when machinery is rolled, and all mineral based fluids pour out of the machine and contaminate the soil of private property?

Conor Reynolds: Please provide me a copy of that photo. There is a policy and we are very strong on how things like this is dealt with.

Questions from an affected landholder under the 99M that has 8 existing pole structures spread across their property on the 99M

1. What measures are in place by TransGrid to deal with the devaluation of concessional blocks and future development by the presence of the raised to 40-meter towers, carrying double strung conductors within the vicinity of these blocks or across the property in general?

Conor Reynolds: Is that a question raised in the REF? We sent letters to the landholders asking them for comments on the REF. I am just confirming that we aren't doubling up.

Kath Elliot: That would be done by our Property section. We will get back to you.

2. What measures are in place by TransGrid to deal with the emissions, proximity exposure, human health and environmental biosecurity, given the relatively recent conditions of biosecurity placed on all landholders producing food and fibre?

Conor Reynolds: Again, that will be commented on in the REF. On other projects we are offering to those landowners that we will pay to get Biosecurity notices on fences and on gates. Biosecurity plans have been handed to landholders for them to use them.

Kath Elliot: We will take that on notice.

3. What measures are in place by TransGrid to deal with environmental disturbance, damage to property management practices, ie sheep disturbance or movement, gates left open etc?

Conor Reynolds: I believe I have read that in the REF.

4. What measures are in place by TransGrid to address compensation per time per site?

Conor Reynolds: Again, that is one for Property Section.

Kath Elliot: It is done in consultation with each individual landholder.

5. What mitigation devices are in hand with TransGrid based on the original test boring contractor breaking multiple drill bits to do those test bores on this property, does the breaking of drill tips indicate to TransGrid the implications of difficulty trying to construct this duplicated transmission line?

Conor Reynolds: That is why we do the Geotech.

John McGrath: How did Cr Ingram receive Goldwind?

Sunny Rutherford: I haven't met him.

Tom Nielsen: I met him briefly at the Kite Festival several years ago.

John McGrath: Why do we have to register sharing agreements? If windfarms are so wonderful why do, we have to them.

Sunny Rutherford: We don't have to have them. Goldwind's approach is to focus on neighbour and community benefit sharing fund. It is completely voluntary.

Noeleen Hazell: Can the landholders where the transmission lines are going in can they object?

Kath Elliot: Landowners are provided the opportunity to make submissions to TransGrid through the REF process.

Paul Regan: For TransGrid. Are Transgrid still going to the use the original plan?

Conor Reynolds: It will be done through the REF.

Kath Elliot: The purpose of the REF is to understand the local issues and attempt to address them.

Paul Regan: The result of the studies by EVISION being supplied to Transgrid.

Tom Nielsen: Yes, they will be.

Cr Geoff Frost: Is Goldwind still confident of getting finance?

Tom Nielsen: Yes. We expect to get Equity finance. We are well progressed. But nothing will get signed until we have Grid Connection.

Cr Geoff Frost: Will it be Australian

Tom Nielsen: We have a number of interested parties.

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting date 27th February 2019, 6pm.

Thanks, given to our Guests.

Meeting closed at 7:59 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.	<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	Closed	Addressed during Meeting No. 7 (22 nd August 2019)

COMPLETED ACTIONS

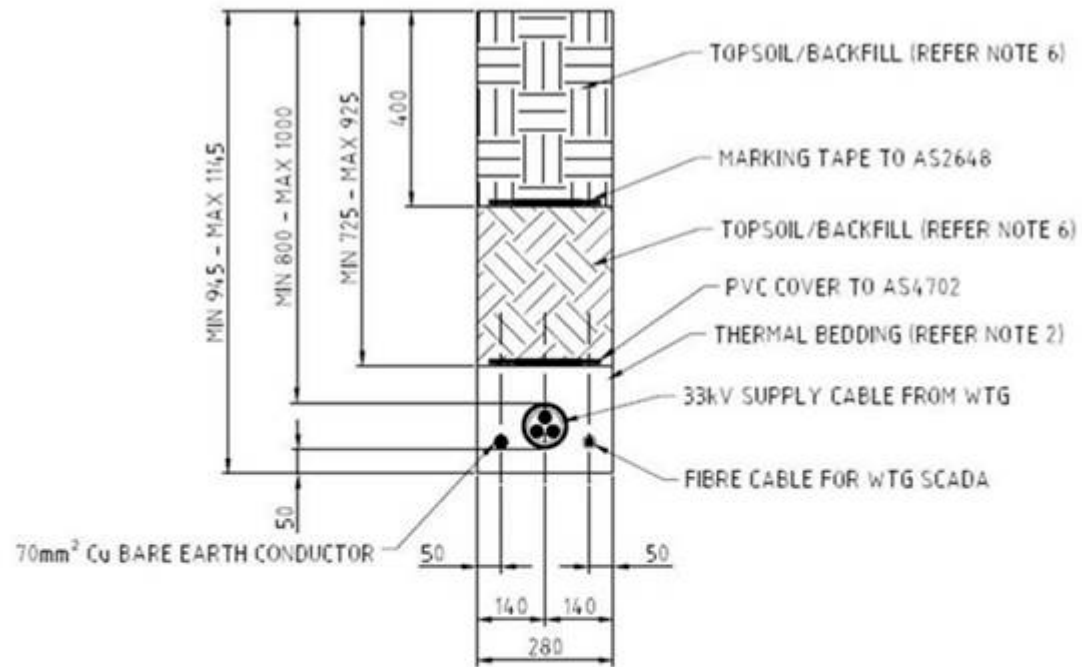
No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
1.	Provide a copy of overview presentation to committee members	5/10/2017	Goldwind	30/10/2017	Presentation provided
2.	Include specific community sponsorships in next brochure	5/10/2017	Goldwind	31/11/2017	Included in brochure
3.	Advise distance that towers will 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.

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.