

# Coppabella Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

## Meeting No 17 – Café on Queen, Binalong

6pm Thursday 27 July 2023

### Present:

**CCC Members:** Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), Cr Kim Turner, John McGrath, Noeleen Hazell, Paul Regan.

**Proponent:** Ben Carney, Richard Mackie, Allison Deale,

**Observers:** Adrian Sykes

**Invited Guests:** Nil

The Meeting opened at 6:08 pm

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

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Apologies were received from Libby Elliott, Richard Hyles & Medard Boutry.

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

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No changes to previous declarations.

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

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The minutes of Meeting No 16 held on 27 April 2022 were confirmed. All outstanding items on action sheet have been completed.

### **4. Correspondence**

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Nil.

### **5. Project Update – Ben Carney**

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Presentation displayed to be attached to minutes.

Community Engagement

Office, looking to get lease.

Seeking engagement on funding community events such as Harden Kite Festival and Yass Celtic Festival.

20-30 people now engaged and working directly on the project.

Gone out to market to get pricing in. Costs have gone up. Reviewing tender submissions.

Integrated schedule for between now and December.

EPL is prepared and will be lodged when timings confirmed.

Transgrid engaging with market soon. Offer to connect expected 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2023.

Engaging with landholders for neighbour agreements

Transgrid land access for 99M.

John McGrath: Transgrid have been denied access to several properties.

Richard Mackie: Will confirm.

Paul Regan: Had no consultation from Transgrid to this point. How is the 99M upgrade being paid for?

Richard Mackie: by Annuity payments – becomes a cost per year to project. Done by contractors not Transgrid themselves.

Paul Regan: Will Goldwind commences construction on Windfarm before 99M upgrade?

Richard Mackie: Happen concurrently.

Timeline

First quarter of 2024

Planning compliance – EPL for early works

Early works expected mid quarter 4 2023

Offer to connect is key to committing capital.

Wrestling with substantial costs in marketplace.

Planning

Focusing on biodiversity offset taking shape with NSW Biodiversity Diversion

Vegetation remapping completed

VMP been prepared.

Progressing Management plan

Working on Bird and Bat management plan

Progressing offset arrangements

EPL application prepared

When effect habitat for plant or animal species need to create offsets to preserve that type of habitat elsewhere. If we effect 1 sqm we need to protect 6-10 sqm somewhere else.

Process changed a few years ago so we have to remap from old system to new system. Consultations proposal and BCD review and approve. That mapping process has been approved.

Now need to establish what offsets are. Going to try to get it as locally as possible. There is some areas actually on the site.

Paul Regan: Can I get a copy of it?

Richard Mackie: Will be released publicly when it is completed. Taken on notice to get back to PR.

Minimise removal of superb parrot habitat.

Water supply works approvals. Test bores.

Provided answers to outstanding items – in slides

1. Chips from blades  
Standard organic synthetic resin in manufacture in blades. Not aware of residual VPA. Used in chemical reaction.

2. SF6 gas will be used in Coppabella project.  
Response repeat of previous response. Transgrid has responded that it is used to suppress arcing. Looking for substitutes.

Responses to be provided ahead of meeting for committee to review.

## General Business – without notice

John McGrath

1. ***Where will the components come into the country for the Coppabella project, please?***

Richard Mackie: Most likely Port Kembla then via Hume Highway. Will advise if it will be via Mt Ousley

2. ***In light of the recent publicity of the community's annoyance of being held up by the transport of wind turbine components on the Hume Highway and lesser arterial roads etc. What strategies has Goldwind in place to minimise traffic holdups and disruption for component transport that will alleviate community backlash against transporting these components on public roadways?***

Ben Carney: Logistics division that look at routes. It is in our interest to take easiest route. Permitting processes also required. Will be a broader coverage of the route applications. Not for each one. TMP is on website will cover that.

Richard Mackie: In other sites we have had to establish pull off bays.

3. ***In light of the recent public disclosure by Nick Cater from the Menzies Research Centre of the disused turbine blades from the Windy Hill Windfarm near Ravenshoe Far North Queensland, is this a sign of future hiding of non-recyclable wind turbine blades?***

Richard Mackie: Only saw the links today. Not across it.

Ben Carney: It is not our policy to put spent blades in a quarry. It is Goldwind policy to dispose of appropriately in an environmentally conscience away.

4. ***Nick Cater asked the quarry's owner "What was the future of these relatively small wind turbine blades?" In a text message to me yesterday Nick Cater told me that the quarry owner said that the blades where to be turned into fence posts? Nick added make of that what you will?***

***Is there a future for disused wind turbine blades for retrofitting into fence posts?***

Richard Mackie: Unlikely. A lot of research into how to recycle blades. Currently turbine blades are chopped up and buried in approved land fill sites as a method.

5. ***Who pays for all the repositioning/realignment of several 132KV transmission lines to facilitate the connection of the Coppabella wind project to the Yass 330/132KV substation?***

Richard Mackie: The project pays for it. It is a Goldwind cost.

**6. Referencing back to exploratory test hole boring on the Coppabella Range 2016-2017 as being classed as physical commencement of work on Coppabella?**

**Considering it is now almost 5 years since the IPC approved Mod 1 Coppabella December 2018, it appears that Goldwind have no idea of the project thus how can exploratory test hole boring on the Coppabella Range 2016-2017 be classed as commencement of physical work when**

**In response to questions from 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Response to me question on vegetation removal question 14 Medard answered Don't have detailed design yet. But there's a corridor that we cannot go outside. There are also limits to the vegetation that we can clear.**

**Response from Richard Mackie to Noeleen Hazell's question from 2019 re percentage component of overall project what will be earth works? Richard's response like Medard's recorded in minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 was We have to look at it-it is yet to be finalised?**

**Thus, suggesting that Goldwind as of the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023, still have no idea what they are doing on the Coppabella Range yet claim that test hole boring 2016-2017 as commencement of physical work? Obviously if Goldwind don't know what they are doing in April 2023 how could they possibly know where to test hole bore in 2016-2017?**

Richard Mackie: Detailed designs are yet to be finalised. Preliminary design – road positions etc, planning envelope. Some concept designs on cut and fill. The next stage is detailed design but we will not have that until we have a contractor on board.

Ben Carney: When the contracts are executed then that initiates the detailed design process. Standard process for construction.

**7. Goldwind's safety record continues to get worse? Post a turbine blade blowing down the range at Gullen Range during construction indicating very serious safety breach? Followed by an obvious damaged blade that Goldwind proudly have on display at Glen Innes ex White Rock. Indicating another safety breach? 3 people injured in a vehicle rollover off an access track at White Rock in July 2017 resulting in serious injuries?**

**Now there's been 2 blade rollovers on Goldwind's Cattle Hill project in Tasmania? September 2019 and July 2023 things are not looking good then for Goldwind and safety?**

**How can community be assured that your safety record will be improved.**

Richard Mackie: We do have rigorous safety processes in place. Processes are always improving. These are instances involving sub-contractors. We need to ensure sub-contractors are behaving correctly. Lessons learnt to improved safety processes. Capturing data lead indicator data to head off issues before they happen.

Ben Carney: Make sure sub-contractors are regularly audited.

John McGrath: In theory don't Goldwind take responsibility for contractors?

Richard Mackie: In those instances, the contractors had the safety issues. That isn't to say that Goldwind isn't responsible for safety. There are significant reputational implications.

**8. From minutes of Coppabella Wind Farm CCC 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 Richard Mackie states We could connect to the 99M. TransGrid and Goldwind admitted that connection to the 99M wasn't an option due to lack of capacity at the end of 2018, even though TransGrid modified the 99M circa 2017 to "take the power from the wind farm" inferring Coppabella as they told the property owners that the 99M passes through? The 99M never had the capacity to accept further generation? So why does Richard Mackie state We could connect to the 99M.?**

Richard Mackie: Because we could. But why would we want to connect? The strongest reason is cost. Negatives – capacity is limited, constraints. MLF – greater loss of energy. Always a cost benefit analysis for us. Result is current proposal. It is an old scenario we are not exploring anymore.

Ben Carney: Is there a specific question you would like answered? Not in the habit of building a windfarm but not being able to put it back in the grid.

John McGrath: Some landholders aren't happy about having Transgrid back on their place.

**9. I asked this question of Goldwind at the April 27<sup>th</sup> 2023 Coppabella CCC at White Rock Glen Innes Goldwind pushed the top off 1 hill to fill the valley across to the top of the next hill. Would this occur on the Coppabella Range?**

Richard Mackie: The nature of earthworks is to take material from a higher point to a lower point. However, talking about taking the top of a hill to fill a valley it is a no. No, we will not be pushing the top off all the hills.

Ben Carney: We are not levelling the Coppabella Ranges.

Paul Regan: How area is need for a hardstand area of one turbine

Richard Mackie: 65x50 metres - Levelled

### **8. Gang Gang Cockatoo**

In response on presentation

### **9. Bogong Moth**

In response on presentation

**10 Are Goldwind staff still in denial of who they actually work for? Who owns Goldwind? Does the communist party own Goldwind?**

Richard Mackie: Goldwind Australia is owned by Goldwind International Hong Kong. Parent company Goldwind Science and Technology. Investors in stock exchange. Larger owners an insurance company. China 3 Gorges (government in China but not a controlling interest) 5-6%. Rather diverse ownership.

John McGrath: People are getting concerned about Chinese Government ownership.

Chair: The project has been approved by State & Federal Governments like the Foreign Investment Review Board

Noeleen Hazell: Who can we talk to about this?

Chair: If you have concerns regarding foreign ownership, I suggest you contact your elected representatives.

Richard Mackie: There is an Act Security .... That is one of the mechanisms that protects Australia. Goldwind is compliant with that.

### ***11. Intermittent generator. How will supply base load?***

Richard Mackie: In the end it will be a mix of technologies – hydro, solar and wind.

### **Other Questions**

Cr Kim Turner: Yass Valley Council is particularly interested in Whitefields Road activity.

Paul Regan: Community enhancement fund, what is happening there?

Cr Kim Turner: Think Councils share will be so small not relevant. Most turbines are within neighbouring Councils.

Chair: This project is quite unique as most of the impacted residents will not benefit from the Enhancement Fund. \$100K was to go to impacted communities, is that still the case.

Richard Mackie: Yes, that is still part of the plan. Want to get benefits to those most impacted.

Paul Regan: Who is responsible for that?

Richard Mackie: Process is to set up a committee to do that. In some instances, Councils provide that facility. Better to have functionality remain within the community group.

Chair: Local Councils will hold funds on behalf of Committee.

Paul Regan: Financial investor in project – has that been resolved.

Ben Carney: Financial investor currently going through their due diligence at present.

Richard Mackie: Goldwind is also likely to be an investor likely to be 51%

Noeleen Hazell: Nil.

Chair: Guidelines are now out for CCCs. Majority of the changes is information is on setting up committees. It is all on the website. Will forward links.

## **6. Next Meeting**

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Next meeting date Thursday 23 November 2023.

Meeting closed at 7:30 pm

**OUTSTANDING ACTIONS ITEMS**

No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
1.	nil	06/08/2020			