

Coppabella Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

Meeting No. 22 – Binalong Golf Club

6pm Thursday 5 June 2025

Present:

CCC Members: Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), John McGrath, Noeleen Hazell,

Proponent: Ben Carney (Manager), Paul McMahon (Stakeholder), Renae Gifford (Community)

Observers: Alison Deale, Tania Gonzalez (Asset Manager), Barbara Folkard (Comm. Alternate)

Invited Guests: Nil

The Meeting opened at 6:05 pm

Welcome/Apologies

Alvaro Charry (YVC), Libby Elliot, Doug Painting

1. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

Nil

2. Confirmation of minutes or previous Minutes

The minutes of Meeting No 21 held on 21 November 2024 – approved.

All outstanding items on action sheet have been completed.

3. Correspondence

Correspondence in/out from Yass Valley and Hilltops Councils. Both Local Councils have now appointed representatives from newly elected Councillors.

Several emails regarding timing of this meeting – Interest from other Community members to attend

Invitation from BJEI Australia, Erin Fletcher, to attend an Open day. BJEI Australia are exploring the viability of installing a BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) at the Gullen Range Windfarm.

4. Project Update – Ben Carney

Presentation – see attached.

Community engagement:

Binalong drop-in shop open Monday and Thursdays

Coppabella Windfarm continue to support local community groups. Recently: Sponsorship – \$9,000.00 Binalong Golf Club, \$7,500.00 to the Binalong Brahmans Rugby League Club & \$8,000.00 to the Bookham Community Association

Project update:

Project has reached a mature development stage

A team of up to 30 people has been involved with the development of the project in the last year.

Acceptable sale terms were reached with an investor in December 2024. Investor unable to proceed.

Project has been assessing the addition of a BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) to the wind farm to further enhance the project's viability. The BESS is expected to be distributed across the wind farm with a BESS unit co-located at each turbine.

Appetite in the market for BESS to enhance timely dispatch of energy generation in the market.

The Electrical and Civil contractors have provided input and construction costings for the addition of BESS to the construction of the wind farm.

Primary approvals for construction of the wind farm have been secured. Secondary approvals project is waiting on a couple of minor things. Preparations to submit modifications to both existing grid (5.3.9) and Development Approvals (MOD2) for the addition of BESS are underway.

Transgrid's price firming activities for grid works have been completed and contract finalisation activities remain.

Project is focussed on a Notice To Proceed – 4th quarter 2025 – pending investment funding arrangements.

Timeline (refer presentation)

The addition of BESS is reflected in the timeline with anticipated works expected to commence Q4 2025 / Q1 2026 as shown.

GW has approvals for the wind farm and is now seeking approvals for the addition of BESS to Coppabella

Project is actively seeking investment funding.

Planning – compliance plans

Civil Designs Stage 1 complete

BoP retenders – complete and retained

Grid Works 132kV – TransGrid's full Offer To Connect is now finalising

Initial Works including the deployment of met masts and upgrades of the public roads will be followed by construction activities in the project site area.

There is potential for NTP (Notice To Proceed) to push out into Q1 2026 pending investment funding arrangements.

Planning (refer presentation)

Variation to Condition of Approvals (as described) was granted by both State and Federal in May 2025

BMP is the last management plan to be approved – post meeting note : State & Federal approved.

Modification in Development Application for BESS to be lodged soon

Overview of BESS (refer presentation)

BESS – Battery Energy Storage System

BESS sizing is to be optimised

BESS comprises – pre-fabricated, preinstalled, open framed 40ft container format, located in close proximity to turbine base

Utilises lithium iron phosphate chemistry – considered more thermally stable than 1st generation lithium-ion chemistry

Each BESS has dedicated protective systems – including smoke, heat and suppressant

BESS units will not use any additional land, using existing footprint

Project will notify committee when it goes on public exhibition.

Questions on presentation:

Barbara Folkard: how much?

Ben Carney: The cost associated with BESS addition is Commercial-In-Confidence.

Noeleen Hazell: will batteries add a lot of cost?

Ben Carney: It is less than a doubling of the cost of the wind farm.

Chairperson: Shelf life of BESS?

Ben Carney: Goldwind BESS is warrantied for 20 years design life. Subject to maintenance regime.

John McGrath: Landholders are all up to speed? People haven't heard from TransGrid.

Ben Carney: Landowners with the Coppabella project are fully aware.

John McGrath: How far have things blown out?

Ben Carney: Transgrid's costs are commercial in confidence. Project receives a commercial offer inclusive of these costs. On a general note there have been significant increases (30-40%) in construction costs across different sectors. Consequence is that these costs are passed on by TransGrid to the Project.

John McGrath: Biodiversity project sites – do we have a firm location?

Renaë Gifford: Offset arrangements will be either go to the open market or at a site within the project area. Project has up to two years to finalise following start of construction.

John McGrath: Swift and Superb parrots don't matter?

Renaë Gifford: Habitat is connected to ecological community which has been mapped. Offsets have to accurately match this community.

Noeleen Hazell: Will this be viable given other projects nearby?

Ben Carney: The Coppabella project is viable. The addition of BESS adds to this.

5. General Business

Noeleen Hazell: What about Decommissioning?

Tania Gonzalez: Whoever owns the windfarm is responsible for decommissioning.

John McGrath: Are there cameras on towers?

Ben Carney: Answer has been previously provided – please can I refer you to previous meeting minutes.

Chairperson: Another reminder to CCC Members – you do not have to wait for next meeting to ask questions. Please email them to me and I will forward to proponents to respond to the Committee.

6. Next Meeting

Next meeting date Thursday 11 September 2025. Meeting closed at 7:30 pm.

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS ITEMS

No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
1.	nil	05/06/2025			