

# Coppabella Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

## Meeting No. 23 – Binalong Golf Club

6pm Thursday 16 October 2025

### **Present:**

**CCC Members:** Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), John McGrath, Libby Elliot, Doug Painting, Paul Regan

**Proponent:** Ben Carney, Paul McMahon, Renae Gifford, Alison Deale.

**Observers:** Linn Armour, Orida Armour Lushmoor, Barbara Folkard

**Invited Guests:** Nil

The Meeting opened at 6:02 pm

### **Welcome/Apologies**

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Alvaro Charry (YVC), Brenden McKay, Noeleen Hazell

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

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Nil

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

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The minutes of Meeting No 22 held on 5 June 2025 – approved.

All outstanding items on action sheet have been completed.

### **3. Correspondence**

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Nil.

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

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Presentation – see attached.

#### **Community engagement:**

Few sponsorship / grant applications received. Looking to complete by December.

Dates for Mod 2 Public Exhibition TBA. Exhibition is for two weeks.

Coppabella website will be updated.

A framework to manage how the Community Enhancement fund will work with the Local Councils will be determined by the Project.

#### **Project update:**

Balance of Plant contractors have been nominated and retained.

Actively securing development funding. Entering into sale, hopefully by the end 2025, early 2026.  
We are currently targeting construction to begin 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2026.

Program of works. TransGrid will provide a detailed schedule for connection to grid on initiation of NTP.

Project is closing out remaining pre-compliance conditions.

Grid Connection Agreement updates are pending finalisation. The technical offer to connect (5.3.4. a letter) is renewed annually as needed.

John McGrath: Previously said TransGrid access was done. Is it done or is it still being worked on?

Ben Carney: The easement is secured for construction. TransGrid are responsible for this. The Connection Agreements are documenting arrangements.

John McGrath: Hardstands. Do you need to remove the batteries to deploy crane for repairs.

Ben Carney: Generally speaking it is rare to use cranes, it is costly so try to avoid. We would not ordinarily seek to temporarily remove the batteries for craneage access but would do so if required.

Paul Regan: Last correspondence I had from TransGrid advised that Coppabella couldn't commit to upgrade of 99M.

Ben Carney: Please share that correspondence. That isn't my understanding.

Paul Regan: Is the finance still pending?

Ben Carney: Yes - but is determined by the investor

Paul Regan: Contractors have they been engaged?

Ben Carney: Electrical and Civil contractors have been retained pending investment construction funding.

#### **Planning update:**

Preconstruction management plans all approved

Biodiversity offset requirements met

Two years after construction to retire credits

May need to update some plans closer to construction

Traffic Management Plan – working with TfNSW

Bird and Bat management plan drafted – working on update. Doesn't need to be in place until commissioning of turbines.

John McGrath: What about the Swift Parrot

Renaë Gifford: We don't have a particular obligation to that parrot. The specification is obligation to the Superb Parrot. Bird and Bat Plan is adaptive. Need to keep adjusting it.

#### **Proposed addition of battery systems:**

Mod 2 submitted with Dept Planning Housing.

Decision has been made to go with up to 4-hour option.

Paul Regan: Why are you going down this path?

Ben Carney: Battery installation boosts the returns of the wind farm. Makes it more attractive to investors. Also, investors in the markets are looking for hybrid power generation. Preference in the market is to 4-hour.

Paul Regan: Will it impact on agreement with TransGrid?

Ben Carney: No material impact on the Connection Agreements is envisaged.

Once accepted the Mod 2 application will be placed on exhibition for 14 days.

Studies completed to submit application.

Battery chemistry is Lithium Iron Phosphate

No additional site clearing as they will be on hard stands.

Shipping container size.

Meet recognised international safety standards

John McGrath: Are you going to have electrical isolation? You will need a circuit breaker.

Ben Carney: The battery is DC-coupled to the DC bus of the wind turbine's converter. The battery is isolatable from the convertor.

Studies conducted:

- Radiant Heat analysis
- Preliminary Hazard Analysis & Risk Assessment
- Bushfire Risk Assessment

John McGrath: Whose responsibility is it to ensure clear zones

Renaë Gifford: The Operator. Batteries will be fenced. To prevent livestock and unwanted access.

- Traffic impacts
- Noise Impacts
- Visual

**Questions on presentation:**

Paul Regan: By adding BESS to wind farm how does that impact? Does it increase capacity?

Ben Carney: It complements power generation but doesn't change the maximum export capacity.

Paul Regan: Will it effect returns to landholders having the battery storage?

Ben Carney: The confidentiality of leases applies.

John McGrath: You said it was 280MW.

Ben Carney: 290 MW - name plate size is 289.8 MW. The curtailed output is 270 MW. Not permissible for the Operator to dispatch energy in excess of 270 MW.

**General Business – without notice**

Other Questions:

John McGrath: Gravel procurement? Will you bring gravel in?

Ben Carney: Civil construction is optimised to keep net cut or fill volumes to a minimum.

John McGrath: The bores that were put down. Will they have the capacity to supply, or will water need to be carted in?

Ben Carney: Bore water is adequate for concrete batching and dust suppression. Not expecting any cartage of water onto site.

John McGrath: Any change to requirements to sound output of turbines.

Ben Carney: Turbine model is centric to original DA

John McGrath: What is the closest dwelling to a turbine?

Renaë Gifford: Taken on notice.

Doug Painting: Nil

Barbara Folkard: Nil

Libby Elliot: Nil

Paul Regan: Nil

**5. Next Meeting**

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Next meeting date Thursday 5 February 2026 at 6pm.

Meeting closed at 7:30

**OUTSTANDING ACTIONS ITEMS**

| No | Action                                     | Meeting    | Owner | Deadline | Comment |
|----|--|------------|-------|----------|---------|
| 1. | Distance of nearest resident to a turbine? | 16/10/2025 |       |          |         |
|    |  |            |       |          |         |