

Coppabella Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

Meeting No. 24 – Binalong Golf Club

6pm Thursday 19 March 2026

Present:

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

Proponent: Paul McMahan, Renae Gifford, Alex Kuo (Head of Community Engagement)

Observers: Alison Deale, Philip Bennett, Alisa Bennett, Linn Armour, Orida Armour Lushmoor, Bruce Hazell

Invited Guests: Nil

The Meeting opened at 6:05 pm

1. Welcome/Apologies

Chair welcomed the numerous observers and introduced Alex Kuo (Head of Community Engagement Goldwind) to the CCC members.

Apologies: Ben Carney, Cr Alvaro Charry (YVC), Brenden McKay, Barbara Folkard

2. Declaration of any new pecuniary or other interests

Nil – no changes declared

3. Confirmation of minutes or previous Minutes

The minutes of Meeting No 23 held on October 2025.

Outstanding items from CCC 23

Q. Distance to nearest resident A: 2.65 km

4. Correspondence

Secretary Kiersten Fishburn - Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure distributed with the committee.

5. Project Update – Paul McMahan

Presentation – see attached.

Community engagement update: Alison Deale:-

Sponsoring the Harden Rodeo

Asked by State Government to put up LTESA reporting documents on the Coppabella Wind Farm website every 3 months

Project update: Paul McMahon:-

BESS modification engagement. The Community drop-in centre was open for two weeks during exhibition to assist community members. Good time to speak to people about proposed changes.

Not everyone received letter box drops.

Construction funding progressing

Mod 2 – submissions Report stage – will respond to submissions

Connection application lodge Feb 2023. Offer to connect provided July 2024. Renewal happening now.

Ordinance survey underway

Neighbour agreements are continuing to occur.

Environmental assessment will be provided by an independent firm approved by Dept of Planning.

Whitefield's road intersection works to happen before any construction. Work is scheduled to commence 2nd quarter 2026 (pending construction funding). Will take 4 months. Initial works to provide appropriate access to the project site.

Planning update: Renae Gifford:-

85 submissions were received from the Mod 2 application – highest number of submissions were related to fire.

We submitted our Response to Submissions Report back to DPPI on 16 March 2026

DPPI will now ask Local Councils and Authorities for comment.

There are no statutory timeframes for the final decision / hopefully in approx. 6-8 weeks.

Grid update: Paul McMahon:-

TransGrid works are underway

Slide incorrect – Murrumburrah not Murrumbateman

John McGrath: Is the new line on top or adjacent to the current transmission line.

Paul McMahon: I will take that on notice as TransGrid are responsible for the works.

Delivery Program

The current 3-year project timeline was presented.

Questions on presentation:

John McGrath: is the merging lane starting in the April-June quarter? Is funding in place for this?

Yes, and soon as the funding is in place

6. General Business – without notice

John McGrath

Questions for Goldwind Coppabella CCC 19th March 2026

1. *Physical switchgear.*

At the last Coppabella CCC October 2025 I asked where regarding the Coppabella wind turbines where the physical switchgear viz circuit breaker/breakers, air brake switches, earth switches etc would be located between the wind turbine and the BESS? All your response was that there will be electronic control? Could you please answer the question, physical switchgear?

Paul McMahon: DC converter is part of the container that the batteries sit in. Cabling goes underground and into turbine. Switch gear is on container.

2. *Whilst I know that it was the Coppabella CCC Chair Nic Carmody's call to postpone this meeting why is it that paid employees of a multinational company such as Goldwind cannot adhere to attending meetings such as the Coppabella CCC planned months in advance when volunteer community representatives can lock in a date and be here? This does not instil confidence in a company such as Goldwind to bring closure on a multimillion-dollar project such as the Coppabella wind turbine project?*

Chair Nic Carmody: After contacting the proponent as to where they were up to with the Mod 2 submissions. I changed the date, as there was no updated information available for the committee. It was more valuable to the CCC to defer for a few weeks. I sent out an email advising members of my decision and asking them to respond if they had an issue. No issues were received.

3. *Why is Goldwind "hell bent" on pushing forward with Coppabella when there are already wind turbine developments constructed that cannot connect/deliver to the grid? Crookwell 2 and Crookwell 3 for example as confirmed to me Saturday night 14th March 2026 in Crookwell, when Goldwind has admitted that Coppabella will be constrained to a paltry 270MW?*

Renae Gifford: It is our view the Project is viable, we wouldn't be proceeding if it wasn't.

4. *Considering that you have informed the members of the Coppabella CCC on multiple occasions that Goldwind's intention is to on sell the Coppabella Wind Turbine project as soon as they can locate a financier, have you informed all the host landholders likewise? If so, what has been their reaction to that information from the host landholders that Goldwind will desert this project?*

Paul McMahon: any contracts that are in place must remain in place. Landholders are aware that there is an on-sale process.

Taken on notice

5. *Time to respond-given the general public has very limited time of 14 days or similar to deliver submissions for the Coppabella BESS right on Christmas 2025 why does it take a company of paid employees such as Goldwind more than 3 months to respond to those submissions, when it's obvious that the absolute majority of submissions oppose Goldwind's Mod 2 Coppabella "Decentralised BESS" including well written and factual submissions, including 1 from each local council involved Hilltops and Yass Valley that oppose the Coppabella BESS, both in particular rightly raised the fact that their respective council roads will be heavily impacted by the extra vehicle passes required to transport in the components associated with the BESS?*

Your response please?

Renae Gifford: We have met with both Yass Valley and Hilltops Councils. Pointed out how they miscalculated the traffic movements. There are about 318 movements approx. 2 per week. An upgraded intersection on the Hume Highway can cope with 2 movements per week.

John McGrath: What are your plans for the erratic behaviour of construction workers, that has happened on other projects?

Renae Gifford: We are aware there have been many concerns raised by residents at other wind farm projects. We will ensure there will be a greater focus on it.

6. *Infrasound, with the proven impacts of Infrasound on neighbours to wind turbine developments what contingency plans has Goldwind in place to compensate neighbours of the Coppabella wind turbine development against the impact of Infrasound?*

Renae Gifford: not familiar with term Infrasound. Taken on notice

7. *Decommissioning, with the public announcement by NSW Premier Chris Minns 3rd March 2026 that it's the host landholders' responsibility to decommission infrastructure such as wind turbines, with a "pointed case" being the Jemalong solar generation factory at Forbes where the proponent VAST SOLAR "liquidated" and seemingly walked away from late 2025 what has been the Coppabella host landholder's reaction to the announcement that it is their responsibility to decommission the wind turbines?*

Renae Gifford: It is our contracts with host landholders that it is the responsibility of Coppabella Wind Farm Pty Ltd.

Chair Nic Carmody: This has contradicted what the NSW Premier has said.

I will write to the Minister of Planning on behalf of the CCC to ask for clarification. Also raising concerns from community members of the timing of the exhibition period for the Mod2.

Alex Kuo: Coppabella Wind Farm Pty Ltd will be maintaining and operating the asset for the next 25 years.

8. *Coppabella Mod 1-given the fact that impacted landholders whom I have spoken to were signed up to "neighbourly agreement" on the original height of 150M turbines for Coppabella and once they had signed a "neighbourly agreement" with Goldwind, that Goldwind within days applied for Mod 1 Coppabella 2018 to raise the turbine tip height to 171M, is this action likely to occur should Mod 2 be approved? What guarantee has the general public got that Mod 3 Coppabella will not immediately follow approval of Mod 2 should it occur?*

Alex Kuo: Modifications are allowed as part of the contracts.

9. *What are the consequences and contingency plan for of the tree clearing on Whitefield's Road August 19th to 23rd 2019 if Coppabella doesn't proceed?*

Renae Gifford: We did tree planting in 2023 along the verges. Tree clearing was done lawfully in compliance with Yass Valley Council's requests.

Alex Kuo: This project intends to move forward. What do you want us to do if the project doesn't proceed?

John McGrath: You could have waited to do the works until the project actually started.

Renae Gifford: At the time they were getting close to an expected construction date. Then works were delayed for several reasons. Better access was required, at that time, to the project site.

Chair Nic Carmody: Can a copy of Whitefield's Road design works be presented to next meeting?

Paul McMahon: Yes, we can do that.

10. *What contingency plans have Goldwind put in place to rectify what will be certain TV reception interference from Coppabella wind turbines GW136 to neighbours considering that at Goldwind's Biala wind turbine installation the residents of Grabben Gullen experienced immediate TV reception interference from Goldwind's GW140 turbines? What are Goldwind's contingency plans regarding TV interference once/if Coppabella should energise please?*

Renae Gifford: studies we have done tell us there will be no interference. If there is, we negotiate with the impacted person to mitigate.

John McGrath: How much SF6 gas will be used?

Renae Gifford: Taken on notice

John McGrath: Swift Parrot. How many feeding hectares will be impacted.

Renae Gifford: Will stick within our approvals and comply with them.

Noeleen Hazell:

A question and statement I would like recorded in the minutes as they relate to the latest Goldwinds modification request.

Ben at the June CCC when announcing your intent to install a BESS at the base of almost all the 75 (69) turbines on the Coppabella's you presented an excellent presentation including 'Next Steps Going Forward'

1. *Landowner consent – easy*
2. *Planning modification through NSW Government*
3. *14 Days public exhibition (plus others)*

The question is why was the application for the modification held back until 2 weeks before Christmas?

Renae Gifford: The timing was a decision of the DPHI.

Noeleen Hazell: *The Dept of Planning lodged the submission on 3rd December to close on 17th December with two very concerning points:*

1. *The Minister for Planning and Public Spaces has NOT directed that a public hearing should be held;*
2. *More concerning: Should the application be APPROVED there is NO right of a merit appeal to the NSW Land & Environment Court by OBJECTOR
The public had 14 days during the Christmas season to submit objections, Goldwind have from the 19th December 2025 until 31st March 2026 to respond to the submissions (87 objections, 1 comment, 1 approve).*

Renaë Gifford: *Size of battery changed between June and October. Only 53 of turbines will now be having BESS. Some landholders disagreed. Conditions are part of the legislation*

Noeleen Hazell: *Regarding the cost of the batteries at the June meeting. Goldwind's response 'The cost associated with the BESS addition is Commercial in Confidence.'*

To my comment 'with the added cost of the batteries the project would surely not be viable' The response was 'It is less than a doubling of the cost of the wind farm and the project will be more viable.

When submitting the application for the modification I noticed Goldwind was asked the cost and it may have been \$200 million?

Renaë Gifford: *Yes, that is correct*

Noeleen Hazell: *At the June meeting I again asked about the decommissioning and Tanya was quite correct. The owner of the Wind Farm is responsible for decommissioning; thankfully the NSW Premier Chris Minns has now confirmed the Landowner (owner) of the project is fully responsible for the decommissioning.*

While the response will be Commercial in Confidence!!!

I will ask Goldwind now have to renew their contracts with the host landowners???

Alex Kuo: *We have no intention to do so.*

Other Questions:

Outstanding items from CCC 23

Q. Distance to nearest resident

A: 2.65 km

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting date 6.00pm Thursday 18th June 2026.

Meeting closed at 8pm

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS ITEMS

No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
1.	Is the new line on top or adjacent to the current transmission line	19/03/2026	Paul McMahon	Next Meeting	
2.	Goldwind to raise with TransGrid lack of consultation on 99M	19/03/2026	Paul McMahon	Next Meeting	
3.	Infrasound, with the proven impacts of Infrasound on neighbours to wind turbine developments what contingency plans has Goldwind in place to compensate neighbours of the Coppabella wind turbine development against the impact of Infrasound?	19/03/2026	Rena Gifford	Next Meeting	
4.	Write to Minister of Planning	19/03/2026	Chair	Next Meeting	
5.	Whitefield's Road design works be presented to next meeting	19/03/2026	Paul McMahon	Next Meeting	
6.	How much SF6 gas will be used?		Rena Gifford	Next Meeting	