



Coopers Gap Wind Farm Project

Community Newsletter
2nd Quarter 2020



AGL Team Update

There have been changes to the Coopers Gap Project Team.

Brian McEvoy has been appointed as Head of Construction at AGL. Brian will continue monitoring this project.

Han Tay has been appointed as Project Director. Han has been working on Coopers Gap Project since construction commenced in 2017 and continue to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in project delivery. Han is held in very high regard by members of the team. He has met many of you previously at CCC meetings.

As we transition to the operational stage, there have been changes to our community team, with Michael Yeo and Sharyn Garrett both leaving the project. We appreciate their assistance in working with our communities and give a big thank you to their wonderful work on Coopers Gap.

We acknowledge another change to your contact representative may be frustrating and thank the community for their patience and understanding. It is no reflection on our commitment to you and is part of transitioning from construction to the operation stage.

John Young is your first point of contact for any issues you may have. He is no stranger to Queensland and has already been working on Coopers Gap for nearly a year in his previous role as Construction Manager for GE. John will work closely with Clare Wilkes and the community team and will help you with any issues.

For any concerns, please reach out to John at 0498 002 166 or jyoung2@agl.com.au.

Construction Update

A major project milestone was reached with the completion of construction of the final turbine in late April.

AGL Head of Construction Brian McEvoy said the final blade on the 123rd wind turbine was hoisted into place by crane and fitted to the turbine hub by the rigging crew on 24 April 2020.

You may have seen some local media on this. It was a celebrated milestone for our project team and the owner, the Powering Australian Renewables Fund.

It is a good time to reflect that since early 2018, over 1,200 components were transported from the Port of Brisbane to site.

Now, 112 of the 123 turbines had been commissioned and 293 megawatts of power was being generated into the National Electricity Market as the wind farm gradually ramps up to full capacity of 453 megawatts.

Community Update

The Community Fund has increased to \$80,000 annually, which will see greater improvements in donations and support around your local communities. While each round of funding sees difficult choices in picking the best applications, this means we can assist more of your important projects into the future. Our successful community fund recipients include:

- The Scout Association of Australia, Queensland Branch Inc – Dalby
- Scout Association Kingaroy
- Cooranga North Memorial Hall Committee Inc.
- Bell Bunya Community Centre Association Inc
- Jandowae Squash Club
- Jandowae Netball Club Association Inc
- Jandowae Men's Shed Inc.
- Kumbia State School P&C Association
- Bell & District Golf Club
- Nanango and District Cricket Club Inc
- Kumbia Kindergarten
- Kumbia and District Memorial School of Arts Inc

This information can also be accessed via the Coopers Gap Community Fund webpage.

TSBE Parliament Event

AGL sponsored the TSBE Enterprise Evening in Brisbane. This year, our Executive General Manager Customer Markets, Ms Christine Corbett, represented AGL. The event saw hundreds of key stakeholders from across the energy industry attend (pre restrictions). Many government MPs, including the Deb Frecklington MP, and Minister for Energy & Natural Resources Dr Anthony Lynham MP. Our local MP for the project, Mr Colin Boyce was also on hand. Colin talks regularly with Clare, regarding the project.

The event also gave us the opportunity to promote our recent partnership with VENA Energy. We have an offtake agreement for a new battery at Wandoan. The \$120 million project will store up to 150 megawatt hours and provide power to over 57,000 homes annually.

Mobile Towers

It is exciting to report Cooranga North has been chosen for a new mobile phone tower through Round 5 of the Blackspot Funding Program. Clare Wilkes confirmed the news with David Littleproud MP and the Federal Minister, Mark Coulton. Mr Littleproud said this was a direct result of advocating from AGL making representations to the Minister. Negotiations are also underway for a commercial agreement with the relevant telcos. We are working closely with GE and PARF to achieve more good news in the mobile comms space soon.

Clare understands the Telstra tower is planned for Maquakes road. We will have more info at the next CCC.

Farmers and Business Assist

If you are a farmer or rural small business operating in a recent or current drought affected area, you may be eligible to apply for assistance as part of AGL's \$2 million Farmers and Business Assist program.

AGL Energy has recently extended their Farmers and Business Assist program to support rural small businesses across a variety of sectors in drought affected regions. If you have been further impacted by COVID-19 or bushfires, additional support may be available. The program includes:

- Drought Relief Assistance, with up to \$1,500 existing debt wiped from your business energy bill,
- Solar Assistance, with upfront discounts on solar systems from \$2,500 - \$25,000,
- \$150 credits for volunteer firefighters,
- and no disconnections for anyone affected by bushfires or the pandemic.

For any of these issues or for help with solar, you can visit agl.com.au/ruralassist for the latest information on assistance or call 131 245.

And if you're currently a customer with AGL and struggling to pay your bills, please contact the Staying Connected team on 1300 659 925, so they can find a solution that works for you.

Site Team Update

In January 2020 over 100 ml of rain fell at Coopers Gap, this was quickly followed by 220mm of rain falling in February.



A total of 357 mm of rain fell in total which was significant and welcomed for local landowners in both Western Downs and South Burnett council areas and across the Coopers Gap Wind Farm.

Although the rain was very welcomed, it also brought with it some unwanted damage.



On the 15th and 16th of January, our project team joined community members and local council staff in Jandowae, cleaning up post the heavy rain.

The Coopers Gap Wind Farm project provided trucks, bobcats and twenty (20) site workers, led by John Young AGL Senior Construction Manager. Residents appeared grateful for the assistance, especially those who had serious damage to their homes from floodwaters.

Coronavirus

AGL is mindful of the pressures generated from the coronavirus restrictions and had Mates In Construction (MIC) return to site on Thursday 18th March to check on the mental health pulse with everyone onsite and also conduct some Connector training sessions with site personnel.



Amanda Edwards MIC Field Officer – Rural and Remote QLD returned to site in April to provide ongoing support. These visits did identify some site personnel whose mental health was at risk. These people were made safe and had follow up calls from Mates in Construction.

Coopers Gap Community Fund

The sixth round of funding closed for applications on 31st March 2020. Successful applications will be announced at the next CCC Meeting.

Next funding round will open in September 2020.

Community Consultative Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 15 July 2020*, from 1:00pm-2.30pm at Cooranga North Community Hall.

* Meeting has been deferred from June due to current interstate travel restrictions and group gatherings

Projected timeline



Contact:

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