



Meeting **Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee No. 35**

Venue Bell Bunya Community Centre, Maxwell Street, Bell QLD 4408

Time 1:00 pm

Date 20 August 2020

Chair Rob Hart

Attendees *Committee Members - Neil French, Cyril Stewart, Bill Sparkes.*

Rob Hart (Independent Chair), John Young (AGL), Martin Mansell (AGL), Clare Wilkes (AGL), Carl Allcorn (GE), Robert McGrath (AGL), Lidewij Koene (WDRC), Andrew O'Connor, Jade Wenham, Delta Sparkes, Dafyd Martindale, Peter O'May (SBRC), Harry Clarke, Margaret O'Brien, Terry O'Brien, Simon Crooks (GE), Jim Scutt, Kate Scutt, Stuart Lamping (GE), Sue Hogan (AGL), Han Tay (AGL), Martin Scerri (AECOM), Colin Hill (AGL), Tom Villiers (PARF), Brian McEvoy (AGL)

Apologies

Jodie Taylor
Tom Hoare
Mick Cosgrove
Geoff Dutailis

Item

01

Welcome

Rob Hart opened the meeting at 1pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 11 March 2020 were distributed prior to the meeting.

Confirmed that all members received copies of previous minutes.

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously accepted.

Conflicts of interest

Rob Hart (Chair) called for any new conflicts of interest. None declared.

Rob requested update on last meetings action items.

Item 1 - Investigate mobile boosting options as an alternative to the construction of a mobile tower. Current technologies being used in CSG industry with great success, or fixed mobile booster antennas on residential houses under an AGL subsidised model.

Clare Wilkes announced that approval for the tower has been secured. The location may be around McQuakers Road, and it will definitely be for Cooranga North. Construction may not begin until as late as June 2022.

In the interim Clare has also been in preliminary discussions with regional provider Marchnet as to what other options are available (for example small scale boosters). Marchnet indicated Optus is good for broadband and data and suggested an Optus tower may assist in creating 'Smart Frams'. Clare's suggestion was to organise a workshop with community and landholders. A lot of general support for the idea.

Item 2 - Update to be provided on the progress of the viewing platform

Peter O'May of South Burnett Regional Council was present to provide feedback on the Council's view on the platforms. It is the view of the new formed Council that there is no budget for either the construction of viewing platforms, nor the ongoing servicing (ie, servicing of bins, provision of toilets etc).

Attendees addressed grievances that for at least two years now, assertions have been made to the committee by representatives of South Burnett that for both safety and tourism reasons the Council was in favour of the viewing platforms and was progressing towards them. Property owners raised concerns that in lieu of platforms motorists are currently using dangerous areas on the road to stop and take photos.

It was agreed that the committee would formalise this grievance in a letter to the Council for an official response.

Item 3 - AGL to put forward a proposed structure for the committee with respect to the incorporation and governance of the community fund

Clare Wilkes raised the issue of increasing personal liability in voluntary roles and committees. In this vein several structures were suggested that have been adopted by other sites. These include incorporated associations, proprietary limited by guarantee and outsourcing to the local government to administer.

Concerns were raised over complicated structures and the consensus was to keep it simple. Keep within the current committee structure. Clearly outline and communicate responsibilities that would come with being on the panel, and nominations to be accepted by those who agree to those conditions.

AGL to have a representative on the panel, but not in a decision-making capacity.

Nominations to be put forward at next meeting.

02 Project Update

Han Tay – Now AGL Project Director taking over the role from Brian McEvoy who has moved onto the role of Head of Construction.

Since the last meeting there have been changes in personnel. Michael Yeo and Peter Gibson have left the project as you can expect will happen nearing its completion. John Young is the current first point of contact.

Currently generating up to 293 megawatts which is about two thirds of the wind farms capacity with plans to ramp up substantially in the next couple of months. Last commissioning is now being done, with expected completion later this year.

03 Construction Update

Carl Allcorn – Consortium Project Director

All turbines are installed and commissioned and now going through the final process of reliability testing.

As the project ends, Carl will phase out and Stuart Lamping in his role of Supervisor will be taking over operations.

In response to a question from committee member Mick Cosgrove, Carl confirmed that there has been quality issues with the generators and they are in the process of changing those generators out. There were no noise related issues with these particular defects.

Defects with yaw brakes pads are causing noise issues. A program to change out yaw brake pads will rectify the noise issue and will be fully resolved by end of the year at the latest.

AGL wish to note that they currently have noise monitoring equipment on some properties. If Landowners reach out with noise related issues AGL can address them.

04 Community Update

Clare Wilkes – AGL Government and Community Relations

Clare led discussions around the structure of the new Committee. It was decided that nominations and voting would take place at the next meeting for those seeking a position on the panel.

Feedback was sought around the best method of advertising the next round of the Community Fund given the local newspapers have shut down. To be determined once the new committee has formed.

05 General Business and Q&A

Jim Scutt is very dissatisfied with the amount of noise that he is experiencing. This noise issue was also experienced by Terry O'Brien and Walter Gooderham. Jim expressed disappointment that AGL had not been proactive in contacting him. These complaints have not been lodged through the official channels, but it was expressed that many in the community would unlikely lodge officially because of the online platform for doing so.



John Young reiterated that there is noise monitoring equipment that is currently on site and can be deployed where there are issues. John committed to meeting with affected landholders after the meeting.

Brian McEvoy stressed that noise problems cannot be fixed unless they are reported. John's number to be handed to any resident having noise issues – AGL want to hear about these issues, if lodgement through website is too onerous John can be contacted directly.

Andrew O'Connor queried the tender process for GE maintenance. AGL will leverage off current contractors for the next 12 months, but thereafter will be seeking new tenders. John to provide further details on how to register interest, but contracts will be sourced locally where possible.

Bill Sparkes asked when the general maintenance was to be addressed. Many gates etc that are being used by the project have suffered wear and tear and not functioning as they did. AGL advised that Catcon has started going over these items and are working through the affected areas methodically.

06

Next Meeting and Close

Meeting closed 2pm

Next meeting:
 Wednesday, 10 December 2020
 Cooranga North Hall
 1.00pm to 2.30pm

Item	Action	Date	Who
1	Letter written on behalf of the committee to SBRC formalising the committee's grievance with the Council's position on the viewing platforms requesting an official response by the Council.	10 th December 2020	Mick Cosgrove
2	Workshop by Marchnet for community to learn and discuss internet and technology solutions.	10 th December 2020	Clare Wilkes
3	Nominations to be accepted for new committee panel for voting next meeting.	10 th December 2020	
	Noise Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John to do a ring around the affected area • If anyone in the community is having issues, John's number to be provided to them • John to address any complaints within a couple of days 	25 th August 2020	John Young