



**Meeting**                    **Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee No. 32**

**Venue**                     Cooranga North Memorial Hall, Cooranga North

**Time**                      1:00 pm

**Date**                      24 October 2019

**Chair**                      Rob Hart

**Attendees**                *Committee Members* - Mick Cosgrove, Neil French, Cyril Stewart, Bill Sparkes, Tom Hoare, Russell Glode.

Rob Hart (Independent Chair), Sharyn Garrett (AGL), Peter Gibson (AGL), Carl Allcorn (GE CatCon), Michael Yeo (AECOM), Celeste Nelson (Jandowae B&C Group), Gordon Globe, Beth Globe, John Marker, Dafyd Martindale (SBO), Kate Djumas (AECOM), Martin Scerri (AECOM), Jim Cuskelly, Fred Drake, Michelle Davis, Alice Sharp, Finlay Sharp, W H Gooderham, Delta Sparkes, Cheryl Cosgrove, Val Stewart, Kevin Searle (SBRC), Ros Heit (SBRC), Robbie McGrath (AGL), Colin Hill (AGL), Han Tay (AGL), Wendy Jones, Lewis Babe, Dale Wiessner (GE), Kearton Scott (Jacobs), Vaughan Mitchell (AECOM), Carmel Trebbin, Phil Trebbin, Katie Barnett (PARF), Dave Johnson (AGL), Clare Wilkes (AGL), Renee Mulholland

**Apologies**                Neville Tarry  
Karen Tarry

**Item**

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**01**

**Welcome**

Rob Hart opened the meeting at 1.00pm.  
The minutes of the previous meeting on 12 June 2019 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 called for any new conflicts of interest. None declared.

**Committee terms of reference**

Rob wished to address terms of reference of the committee given they are due for renewal. These terms specify such points frequency of meetings, committee members etc. Particularly with the resignation of Jim Scutt and the issue of his replacement, it has been discussed by committee members and proposed the current arrangement remain in place to be reviewed in 6 months once the project reaches operations phase. Once in operations there will be reduced community impact and the terms can be reviewed to better suit the changed conditions.



The committee agreed to this decision.

Rob requested update on last meetings action items

**Item 1 - SBRC to advise on road updates**

Kevin Searle, Works Manager from South Burnett Regional Council was present to discuss roads and planned upgrades.

SBRC's infrastructure agreement with Catcon to upgrade the Niagra Rd is up to a gravel base and while it wasn't part of the initial agreement SBRC have independently committed funding to seal and bitumen seal the last section closest to Jarail road, approximately 3.5klm. The end result will be a sealed road all the way from the Bunya Highway to Jarail Rd.

Focus has been primarily on the Western end with majority of gravel to be completed by end of month and aim to bitumen seal by Christmas.

After Christmas the focus will be on the first section nearest to Bunya highway approximately 8 klms which will include widening on one side and a gravel overlay which will be bitumen sealed. That project is expected to last until August next year.

**Item 2 - Council update on viewing platforms**

Cr Ros Heit from South Burnett Regional Council conveyed that at this stage places have been suggested, ie Bilboa Rd. Ros stressed that it is difficult until the turbines are up and running.

Sharyn Garrett affirmed that WDRC had suggested Bilboa Rd also with a proposition of naming the area with something along the lines of 'The Wind Farm Way'.

Both Ros and Sharyn stressed the need for more community consultation.

Rob suggested a scope be prepared by the two councils jointly to formalise this process with proposed pull-off areas, signages, safety and tourism requirements for presentation to the committee for feedback. Action item to be assigned to Ros Heit.

**Item 3 - Report at next meeting regarding local content as a percentage of spend, employee numbers, contractors and broken down for each company**

Social Impact Management Report has been released. This report is available online on the AGL website but as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 figures show 44% local employment.

Local spend as a percentage of total spend much more difficult to quantify, but now interest has been shown in this information accounting processes can be altered making it obtainable going forward.

Total spend from CPP and their contractors of \$6.2 million and Catcon reported \$8.2 million.



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**Item 4 - Details of how to put forward interest in upcoming operations roles**

Carl Allcorn provided details. Opportunities available on AGL website (Sharyn to put web link on notice board). Currently seeking 1 x Area manager and 4 x operational roles (GE).

**Item 5 - Progress of rural fire brigade shed**

Sharyn updated the committee that while there is no definitive outcome, the project is being treated as a priority. Sharyn has been liaising with the Rural Inspector from QFES to ascertain exact requirements, as well as discussions internally within AGL as to how they can provide support. These discussions are continuing.

The question was raised if the state will match funding \$1 for \$1. Sharyn confirmed this has been tabled for discussion with the Rural Inspector.

**Item 6 - Letter addressed to AGL CEO & Managing Director Brett Redman re: increasing AGL commitment to the Community Fund**

Per last meeting's action item, Mick issued a letter to AGL CEO Brett Redman requesting an increase of AGL contribution towards the Community Fund.

Mick received Mr Redman's reply which he read aloud for the benefit of all present. The outcome of which was the Community Fund will be increased to \$80,000 p.a. for this committee to administer plus an additional \$20,000 p.a. for the wider community. For total funding for the community of \$100,000 p.a.

Brian McEvoy reiterated the arrangement only applies for the duration of AGL's tenure on the project.

Mick thanked all those who had contributed including Dave Johnson but a special accolade to Clare Wilkes, AGL Senior Manager, Government and Community Relations. Clare had assisted from the start by making the necessary introductions and always been a strong supporter of the community.

Ros Heit also took the opportunity to acknowledge Mick's perseverance and his contribution for this success.

Mick moved a motion to congratulate Clare and AGL. Unanimously carried.

**Item 7 - Review sound map of Jim Scutt's property**

Michael Yeo from AECOM relayed Jim's concerns to the provider who conducted the sound map and discussed the particulars with Jim. It is Mick's understanding that Jim's lingering concerns are that many more people would also be interested in further details.

In response, AGL are taking details of any people who would be interested in further information.

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While not on the action items Finlay Sharp raised the question of mobile phone reception. Clare advised this is still continuing. Both State and Federal have supported the efforts with round 5 funding of the Blackspot program, but Telstra are reluctant given the population restraints and the energy a mobile tower consumes. Clare has continued with this project, having met with The Hon David Littleproud MP and approached two other possible service providers.

AGL are also considering the purchase of telecommunications provider Southern Phone Company. Should this eventuate AGL would have the means to put through their own bid for the Blackspot program in their own capacity.

Wal suggested that given the eventual phase out of landlines with the NBN perhaps this could be used as a justification with discussions with government organisations.

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## 02

### **Project Update**

Brian McEvoy – AGL Project Director started by apologising for pushing back the quarterly meeting. After an incident onsite and out of respect for those parties they thought it best to post-pone.

Brian took the opportunity to welcome and introduce Katie Barnett CEO of Powering Australian Renewables Fund (PARF) and General Manager Development and Construction Dave Johnson of AGL.

By mid-December it is anticipated there will be no more deliveries with all components onsite. Project finalisation is still on track for end of June 2020.

The project recently celebrated 1 million hours LTI (lost time incidents) free which is a huge achievement.

Finlay asked how many towers were now up. Brian advised that 74 towers are up generating 105 megawatts and looking at reaching 150 megawatts in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Rob asked with the current conjecture over solar prices, what proportion of power is being generated during non-solar generating hours i.e., at night. Dave Johnson affirmed that wind resource in this region optimal early to mid/late evening rather than during the middle of the day, so this resource is counter correlated to solar. Rob suggested this is good information to include at the viewing platform, to say that this resource is producing energy at times when Australia is short. Particularly important for tourists viewing the turbines when they are not turning.

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## 03

### **Construction Update**

Carl Allcorn – Consortium Manager for GE-Catcon opened by reiterating the success of 1 million hours LTI free which is significant for a construction project. To achieve that with the number staff and contractors onsite is an outstanding result.

Further to Brian's deliveries update, Carl also added that all blades will be fully delivered and off the roads 3 weeks time. 74 turbines already installed by operating 3 main cranes and are looking to have installation completed by early February by which time all cranes will be demobilised, then moving into commissioning and reliability testing. Once construction phase is over the number of people onsite will progressively ramp down.

Carl noted that the project continues to procure what they can locally and do what they can for the community in that regard.



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## 04

### **Community Update**

Sharyn Garrett – AGL Government and Community Relations first mentioned the new projector screen, which is being gifted to the Cooranga North Hall Association as a shared resource for all users of the hall.

AGL were proud to again support Opera at Jimbour this year. It is a very special event for the region as it brings in thousands of visitors and provides a unique cultural experience for locals.

AGL also hosted a media event on site recently with the Queensland Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Dr Anthony Lynham, as a formal opportunity to recognise the milestone of first generation.

Sharyn had been asked to join the TSBE Health Working Group, to explore opportunities to support the workforce at Coopers Gap, with both physical and mental health, and also hoping to expand the opportunities and programs to small local businesses who may not be able to access or afford on their own.

It is great to see the Bell RSL Hall mural which we supported through the community fund. Sharyn attended the unveiling in conjunction with the sub-branch 100-year celebration.

Michael Yeo presented at the Dalby Men's Shed as part of a Regional Men's Shed showcase. The questions and discussion demonstrate the interest in the wind farm.

The number of tours AGL have arranged in the last few weeks is further testimony to the wider community interest currently being generated. Tour groups have included Dalby State High School, Kingaroy Senior Citizens, Stonestreet's Coaches, Oxford Crest retirement village, and Jandowae Domiciliary Care.

Sharyn had many opportunities to showcase this community and how we work together to maintain and build good relationships. Sharyn is grateful to come in following the amazing work of Clare. Community support is a two-way street and she thank you all for the support you've shown her.

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## 05

### **General Business and Q&A**

Rob threw this open to both the committee and public with no further formal questions.

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## 06

### **Next Meeting and Close**

Meeting closed 2.07pm.

Next meeting:  
Wednesday, 12 December 2019  
Cooranga North Hall  
4.00pm to 5.30pm



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<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Who</b>
1	SBRC and WDRC to work jointly towards a scope on the viewing platform for presentation to the committee	12 December 2019	Cr Ros Heit SBRC
2	Possibility of state \$1 for \$1 funding of rural fire brigade shed	12 December 2019	Sharyn Garrett AGL