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Meeting Coopers Gap Wind Farm at Cooranga North – Community Consultative Committee
Meeting no 23
Venue Cooranga North Memorial Hall, Cooranga North
Time 1:00pm
Date 11 May 2017
Chair Rob Hart
Attendees AGL: Tim Knill (Construction Project Manager), Ray King (Site Representative), Anita Langborne (AGL), Clare Wilkes-Mildren (Government and Community), Stuart Galway (Land & Approvals Manager)

Committee Members: Tom Hoare, Mick Cosgrove, William Sparkes, Russel Glode, Cyril Stewart, Celeste Nelson (JBCG), Glenn Standquist (JBCG), Sharyn Garrett (WDRC), Chris Du Plessis (SBRC), Liz Todd (Consultant – minutes), 15 community members

Apologies Evan Carless (AGL), Greg & Kelly Taffe

Meeting Minutes

1 Welcome

Rob Hart, Independent Chair

- Rob opened the meeting at 1:05pm and welcomed Committee members, guests and community to the meeting.
- Apologies were noted.
- No conflicts of interest were raised.

2 Minutes previous meeting

Mick Cosgrove moved: That the minutes from the meeting 9 February 2017 were a true and accurate record.

Action Items

- Contact list has been updated.
- Tim Knill to present updated information.
- A meeting with the approved contractor will be arranged after financial close.
- CWA invoice payment made.

3 Project Status Update

Tim Knill, Construction Project Manager



- Tim has been appointed the Construction Project Manager and will be overseeing the project for AGL for the duration of the delivery phase. Ray King is also a core member and will build the team over the coming months.
- The EIS approval was announced by the QLD Government on 2 March 2017.
- The Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP) is now assessing the material change of use for approval. Requests for more information have been responded to. The final approval is expected in May with conditions.
- AGL is entering into an electrical connection and access agreement with Powerlink for non-contestable works (scope which can't be procured in the market), waiting on financial close.
- Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC) Tender Process is near finalization and awaiting financial close prior to execution. The process of negotiating the contract has been going for several months. AGL has shortlisted two contractors. The preferred contractor at this point in time is GE/CATCON, but not locked into contract yet. They are building the Silverton wind farm. The EPC Contractor will have a civil sub-contractor and an electrical sub-contractor.
- AGL will have principal control of site until EPC contractor mobilises.
- Wind Farm Construction is expected to start several months after financial close later in 2017.
- Procurement of overseas components need to be planned to ensure they can deliver on time. Once confirmed, the contractor will lock in orders, mobilise to site and establish site facilities. Most of the civil works will be constructed up front (eg tracks, foundations, laydown areas) while waiting for components from overseas to arrive.
- On behalf of the PARF (Powering Australia Renewables Fund – partners AGL, QIC, Australian Future Fund), AGL's Silverton and Coopers Gap wind farms will contribute almost 700MW of their 1,000 MW target of large-scale renewable energy projects. This represents a significant portion of the 5,000 MW of new renewable generation capacity required by 2020 to meet the Federal Government's Renewable Energy Target (RET).
- Financiers and banks are now going through a due diligence process to assess project risk.
- AGL is still committed to offering free solar to neighbours 2km from the perimeter of wind farm. There is a \$5,000 budget per house.
- Civil Aviation Hazard Study. A specialist consultant was engaged to review the risk, considering the approval of tip height up to 180m. The project is not in an aerodrome zone, but the aviation hazard study has recommended that approximately half of the turbines incorporate red flashing lights. The flashing will be synchronized across the wind farm. Although the majority of the visible light will be directed upward, they will be visible from ground level. The report is currently being finalised.

Q How will the towers affect the aerial ambulance helicopter?

The consultant should have identified all the flight use, hence the recommendation of lights. Action: Raise with the contractor the flight path of the helicopter ambulance, noting fog as a concern.

Q Gliders also use the area and need to be notified.

The Gliding Club would also be considered as part of the risk assessment and all clubs have already been notified. Action: All aero clubs are to be notified once construction starts regarding the location of the turbines.



- Air Services Australia look after the maps, and the turbines sites will be provided to include on their aviation maps.
- New owners on “Wavily” will add an additional 8 turbines. This will make Coopers Gap one of the biggest and best wind farms in Australia with a maximum of 123 turbines.
- AGL is now finalizing a planning submission for additional land to the project. The application will be assessed against the Queensland Wind Farm Code. The code exists to establish a planning framework to protect stakeholders, including land owners and neighbours. The approval process for the expansion will be faster than the original approval. A full EIS is not required but the submission will include an impact assessment of the additional turbines, and taken as a cumulative impact with other turbines. Will be submitted in May with a turnaround within weeks. The outcomes will not impact on the existing approval for the rest of the project.
- C Bryan Lyons resisted the project for many years. Concerns were raised regarding the process of acquiring the property and setting a precedence.
The property changed hands and AGL has agreement to lease from the new owners. Understand that people would be aggrieved by the process and apologise if it was felt that AGL was not as transparent as it should have been. AGL must go into agreements with every landowner and AGL don't broadcast these negotiations/agreements. The agreements bind both parties to observe confidentiality.
- C Each person is entitled to their opinion. There is a need to be open and not be criticised by others for their beliefs.
- C A neighbour to wind farm expressed concern they had never been approached by AGL.

4 Presentation on how a wind turbine works

Tim Knill, Construction Project Manager

- Q What is the likelihood of batteries being developed for the wind farm?
There is a push for requirements to incorporate storage capacity for renewable energy projects in some jurisdictions. A trial is being conducted in Adelaide, with batteries connected across the suburbs via the internet. The result is that all 1,000 batteries can be managed as if they were a single large battery.

- Next meeting Tim will talk about transition of the electricity grid.

5 General Business

- C What is AGL's generic policy for accommodation? The LNG Gas companies set a policy for accommodation of three star or better. The only place that could meet this is the caravan park at Jandowae. Fits with buy local and fatigue management.
- Action: Follow up with the EPC contractor who will have the vast majority of the work force. Tim hasn't been close enough to this process to understand the details but will take as an action. The CCC expressed interest in how accommodation arrangements are administered and reported.



- If requirements can't be met locally, they will go to Kingaroy and Dalby, which is desirable to still remain local.

Q What is the accommodation circumstance at Silverton?

Action: AGL will report back on these arrangements.

- The Coopers Gap EIS states that project specific labour camps will not be established. Workers will be living in the towns. AGL will follow up to ensure the EPC contractor abides by that and how it is reported. The community need confirmation of where people are staying. AGL will also be looking at accommodation as part of an economic study to understand what is being contributed to local communities. The EPC contractor will be asked to come along to the next meet to answer any questions and work directly with the community.

Q A commitment has been made to have no camps, but providers have standards for workers, so what is the mitigation plan if the standard can't be met (three star)? Fly in fly out staff will object to having to look after themselves, they like the camps and to have meals provided.

C Western Downs Regional Council is pushing live and buy local, looking with real estate agents and providers regarding what is available. AGL and Councils need to work together on this.

- The number of workers at full construction in the EIS was 300 during construction and 20 operational. This will be refined with the EPC contractor.

Q How do you control the induction of people driving through properties?

There will be no need for inductions for people visiting the farms. Inductions apply to those working on the project. There will be exclusion areas during construction, but shouldn't impact day to day farming operations.

Q Will there be a local office and a local procurement manager appointed, and where?

There will be a local procurement plan and local AGL presence based on site.

- As the project progresses more rapidly, Clare will send out regular communication. Looking to involve the community when the first tower is installed as a celebration. Information will also be sent out through Council and TSBE and once announced a series of events held in the community.
- For consideration at the next CCC meeting will be the budget for a community fund to support local community projects and initiatives.
- Clare will send everyone a link of a video.

6 Next meeting

- Tentatively considering Thursday 24 August 1:00 - 2:30pm.
- Will have financial close and more information available at this meeting and encourage more senior management to start attending meetings.



Item:	Discussion:	
1	Flight Path Action: Raise with the civil aviation consultant and the EPC contractor the flight path of the helicopter ambulance, and the need to consider fog and visibility. Action: Notify the local aero clubs, such as the glider club, of the turbine locations and distribute maps when finalised.	Tim/Clare August meeting When available
2	Accommodation Action: Confirm AGL's policy on accommodation for the Cooper's Gap project. Report back on the arrangements for the Silverton project. Action: Follow up with the EPC contractor regarding their policy for accommodation. Further enquire as to the process for delivering, enforcing and reporting on this policy for sub-contractors.	Tim/Clare August meeting
3	Communication Action: Circulate regular communication as the project progresses. Action: Community events and celebration at the completion of the first tower milestone. Action: Clare will send a video link.	Clare August, ongoing
4	Community Fund Action: Review TOR regarding community benefit fund, and consider options for whole of community benefit and contribution.	Clare August

Close at 2:30pm