

Coopers Gap Community Consultative Committee (CGCCC)

Coopers Gap Wind Farm Project
CGCCC Meeting 7



Facilitator: Kath Elliott

15 November 2012

Final



Meeting agenda

- > Welcome and apologies
- > Confirm October meeting notes
- > Presentation by Clean Energy Council
- > Discussion on the potential risk of wild fire and protection measures
- > New membership on CCC
- > Discuss next meeting objectives and logistics
- > Any other business and meeting close

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October meeting notes

- > Confirmation of October meeting notes

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Presentation by Clean Energy Council

- > Lisa Taylor, Community Engagement Manager
- > Presentation followed by question and answer session

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Discussion on the potential risk of wild fire and protection measures

- > Bushfire Risk Assessment
- > Bushfire Management Plan
- > Engagement with Emergency Services
- > CFS and CFA Briefing notes

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Bushfire Risk Assessment

- > A bushfire risk assessment has been undertaken for the Coopers Gap Wind Farm
- > Forms part of the Environmental Assessment (Initial Assessment Report)
- > Assessment undertaken by AECOM in accordance with the State Planning Policy
- > Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) maps indicate the proposed wind farm area has low and medium bushfire hazard risk
- > The Project is not inherently susceptible to fire, although there is a low risk as electrical and mechanical equipment on the project site
- > A Bushfire Management Plan will be produced prior to commencement of construction of the wind farm

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Bushfire Management Plan

- > A Bushfire Management Plan will detail the recommended measures required including;
 - » Minimum safety clearance between turbines and vegetation
 - » Adequate access to the site for emergency services (wind farm access roads)
 - » An adequate supply of water
 - » Emergency response plan in case of a bushfire in the area
 - » Develop a Construction Environmental Management Plan that considers appropriate use of cleared areas around construction areas and control of ignition sources
 - » Lightning protection devices installed in wind turbines
 - » Where practical keep electrical services buried underground, particularly cabling between turbines

Emergency Services

- > Prior to construction and operation of the wind farm, the developer will consult with QFRS
- > Provide suitable ingress and egress and access to the wind farm for emergency services vehicles
- > Provide suitable water supply in the form of water supply or access points

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 - > External

AGL Energy Wind Farms

CFS and CFA Briefing notes



Background

- > AGL operates over 500 MW of wind generation in Australia. We are one of the largest single operators of wind energy in Australia.
- > This equates to 254 turbines in our fleet, located in 6 wind farms.
- > We have been operating wind farms for approximately 7 years.
- > The information we are presenting is based on our experience, work we have completed with fire brigades in the past and also analysis of fire events in Australia and around the world.

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 - > External

Information

- > There is a chance that a turbine may catch on fire, it is very remote but there is a chance.
- > AGL have selected units that have a reduced fire risk:
 - » Our units do not have transformers in the nacelle -the primary cause of most fires in older type turbines;
 - » They are active pitch which mean they pitch the blades to stop rotation, they do not rely on large brake disks which are another source of fire;
 - » Removing the power to the turbine will stop the unit rotating and it automatically pitches to the stop position

Policy

- > AGL does not isolate or stop turbines on high fire risk days. We believe the risk of fire is low enough not to justify this. If turbines were stopped then by the same argument trains operating on the rail or vehicles on public roads should be stopped as they are at the same level of risk of causing a fire.
- > The roads and hard stands are kept bare and weed free to ensure a natural fire break.
- > If a turbine fire occurs, there is no way to fight it, the unit has to burn out. AGL accepts this and does not require the brigades to combat the fire on the turbine.
- > AGL recommends a 250 meter exclusion zone around a turbine fire once the turbine has stopped rotating. (The local emergency response may adjust these limits outwards as required.)

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 - > External

Policy Continued

- > In the instance of a turbine fire or for a bushfire approaching the wind farm, if a situation commander wants a single turbine or a group of turbines or the whole farm to be shut down, then the AGL Control room can complete this immediately.
- > **The AGL Control Room number is 03 5754 3142**
- > To assist fire fighting on site, each entrance is fitted with an emergency cylinder containing a site map and all numbers required for an emergency.

Other Information

- > Our experience is that the wind farm roads assist in fighting fires, giving good access to areas and acting as a fire break.
- > This photo show a fire which was started by a harvester near AGL's Bluff Wind Farm. The local brigades were able to access a very rocky area and use the road as a fire break, successfully containing the fire.



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New membership on CCC

- > Status update
- > Discussion about the process

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Discussion on next meeting

- > First meeting in 2013
 - » Date
 - » Location
 - » Time
 - » Potential topics

- > Commencement time of future meetings

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Any other business

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