



<b>Project:</b>	<b>Coopers Gap Wind Farm</b>
<b>Meeting No:</b>	7
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 15 November 2012
<b>Venue and Time:</b>	Cooranga North Memorial Hall
<b>Document:</b>	Meeting notes and actions
<b>Chair/Facilitator:</b>	Kath Elliott, (KE), GHD
<b>Minutes:</b>	Rosa Han (RH), AGL
<b>AGL representatives:</b>	Evan Carless (EC) Project Manager Amanda Shaw (AS) Community Engagement Manager
<b>Committee Members:</b>	Judy Schafferius, Participating landowner (attending in place of Ian Schafferius) Sue Sinnamon, Participating landowner Bill Sparkes (representing absent participating landowner) Russell Glode (representing absent Coopers Gap Wind Power Supporter) Cyril Stewart, Coopers Gap Wind Power Supporters Jane Holdsworth, Western Downs Regional Council Chris Du Plessis, South Burnett Regional Council
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mal Collinge, Local Aboriginal Elder Ian Schafferius, Participating landowner Tom Hoare, Coopers Gap Wind Farm Supporters
<b>Community observers in attendance:</b>	Approximately 4

- > Being Australia's largest private owner and operator of renewable energy assets
- > Gaining accreditation under the National GreenPower Accreditation Program for AGL Green Energy®, AGL Green Living® and AGL Green Spirit
- > Being selected as a constituent of the FTSE4Good Index Series

## Meeting Minutes

Item	Action
<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <p>Kath Elliott (KE) welcomed the CCC members and observers in attendance and provided an overview of the agenda.</p> <p>KE introduced Lisa Taylor (LT) from the Clean Energy Council as a guest presenter.</p> <p>A late apology was noted from the Queensland Fire and Rescue representative. It was noted that Evan Carless (EC) will present AGL's presentation on fire risk management. It was noted the Queensland Fire and Rescue representative will be invited to attend a future meeting if the committee thought it would be useful.</p> <p>The minutes from the October meeting were discussed and adopted with no changes required.</p> <p>A question was asked in regards to when Simon Chapman's video presentation would be uploaded on the project microsite. Amanda Shaw (AS) noted the presentation would be uploaded shortly once a few technical issues were resolved.</p>	<p>AS to upload Simon Chapman's Health presentation</p>
<p><b>2. Presentation by Clean Energy Council, Lisa Taylor (LT)</b></p> <p>Lisa Taylor (LT) presented information on the potential benefits of a wind farm. The results from a survey and focus group sessions that were recently conducted in relation to community attitudes towards wind farms were also discussed. It was noted that the Clean Energy Council had also recently developed 'Community Engagement Guidelines for the Australian Wind Industry.'</p> <p>A copy of the presentation will be made available via the project microsite on the 'Community Matters' page.</p> <p>The following questions were asked during the presentation:</p> <p>Q1. How many people were surveyed and at what stage of the wind farm development?</p> <p>A1. LT advised approximately 2000 people were surveyed across all stages of the wind farm development; from pre-feasibility, development and construction, as well as wind farms that had been operating for over 10 years.</p>	

Q2. Did anyone express concerns about health during this survey?

A2. LT advised no survey respondents advised they had experienced any health issues. LT noted she had been to public meetings in the past where there have been groups of individuals claiming health impacts.

Q3. Did this survey include specific questions about health?

A3. Yes.

Q4. Why are there different guidelines in each state?

A4. Currently each state has different planning rules set by different approving authorities. This is often also influenced by the wind resource in that particular state.

Q5. Has the results from the survey been supported by scientific research or is this only people's perceptions and opinions?

A5. No, this is a summary of respondents' attitudes and opinions. It is important to note an independent report was also undertaken by consultants SKM to assess the economic benefits in communities with wind farms.

LT stated that a lot of research has been conducted from a city perspective. The idea of this survey was that it was conducted in rural communities and focused specifically on wind farms areas.

KE asked LT if a copy of the survey can be provided to the CCC. LT said this survey was conducted over the phone and through focus groups however she would see if a copy of the questions asked could be provided.

LT noted the survey that the NSW government conducted in 2010. The results from this survey showed that 70-80% of people were in support of wind energy. This is available on the NSW Environment, Climate Change & Water website.

Q6. In the survey, did you find there was greater acceptance from communities near projects in the development phase rather than the operational phase?

A6. LT advised generally once the wind farm had been operational for a period of time, she experienced that it was often 'business as usual' for those communities. She also noted some communities also turned the wind farm into a tourist attraction and there are also community owned turbine projects such as the Hepburn Wind Farm in South West Victoria.

LT to see if the survey questions for CGCCC can be made available

Q7. How long does it typically take for there to be a level of acceptance amongst the community?

A7. LT advised she couldn't give an exact answer. She noted there are wind farms that have been operating for 10 years which have tended to become part of the community. However she advised this is really a personal preference; there are people who will never accept wind farms, there are those who are in support from the start and there are those who will take longer to accept than others.

Q8. Did the survey directly ask participants if they were sick from wind farms?

A8. LT noted she would need to clarify the exact wording however the opportunity was certainly provided to respondents to register their health concerns, which no one did.

Q9. What is the reliability of wind compared to a gas powered station?

A9. Wind is a predictable resource as wind data is collected over a number of years (3-5 years in the case of AGL).

EC noted the amount of energy used to build a wind farm is generated within 6 months of the wind farm operating. Wind farms also don't generate all the time. Typically they generate at a capacity factor of 35-40% that is, they generate 35-40% of their installed capacity averaged over a year.

A comment was made in regards to the financial distribution between land owners and neighbours. LT explained this is a topic that has been discussed in the past and the financial model needs to be looked at in more detail across the industry to see if a shared payment system can be established when appropriate. She stated that one of the potential issues that arise out of this is that a commercial arrangement is in place with land owners (i.e. lease of land to access the turbines) however, payment to neighbours may be considered financial compensation. The question that arises from this is then 'how far do you go?' She noted it is important to remember the CCC can play a role in how the community funding is spent to ensure the broader community can share in the benefits from the wind farm.

KE asked LT to provide a snapshot of how wind projects fits into the Renewable Energy Target (RET) and how this community fits into the national context.

LT explained that Queensland collectively isn't seen as the best wind source. However, there has been a good wind source identified in parts of Queensland. Due to the introduction of the RET, Australia has committed to generating 20% of energy from renewable energy by 2020. Therefore, large scale projects such as wind, solar, bio fuel and geo thermal are needed to reach this target. At the moment, wind is the cheapest form of renewable energy. Recently, large scale solar projects are starting to come down in price and collectively, wind and solar projects will help achieve the target. Typically approximately 26% of all energy from South Australia comes from wind farms.

Q10. How much more development in wind do you see in the future?

A10. LT noted most of the states have been marked for a range of potential wind projects and there are various agreements already in place between landowners and developers for potential future projects. EC noted that many of these sites are much earlier in the planning stage and the level of development activity is varied. EC noted a lot of work is currently being done for the development of the proposed Coopers Gap wind farm and it very much can be considered an 'active' development project.

LT stated that there is a website that is available to identify which areas have been marked as potential wind farm sites.

### **3. Discussion on the potential risk of wild fire and protection measures, Evan Carless (EC)**

EC explained the fire and rescue representative sent his apologies for this meeting. He noted AGL were keen to arrange a separate meeting with the local fire wardens to discuss this topic in more detail. It was noted that a number of the fire wardens were already present at this meeting.

Questions asked during the presentation:

Q1. If there is a fire in the tower and the towers are hooked up together, will this affect the output of other turbines?

A1. The turbines are hooked up together and the cable junction runs from one turbine to the next. The fire may or may not cause damage to the cable and if damage occurs, it will be repaired.

<p>Q2. What parts of the turbine are flammable?</p> <p>A2. Mainly the electrical components of the turbine are flammable. The gearbox is made of steel however, it contains oil which is combustible. The blades are also combustible.</p> <p>Q3. Will you get in contact with local fire brigades?</p> <p>A3. Extensive consultation will be carried out with the local fire brigades. A fire management plan will also be developed for the construction and operation stages.</p> <p>A CCC member stated that the bush fire plan should show that fire trucks are able to access the site and that fire breaks are necessary.</p>	
<p><b>4. New membership on CCC</b></p> <p>An update was provided by AGL on the call for new CCC members.</p> <p>A nomination form is available on the project site and an advertisement was placed in the local newspapers calling for nominations. Nominations are planned to close 3 December 2012. To date, no nominations have been received.</p> <p>The week after nominations close, AGL will get in contact with the CCC members and provide a summary of those who have nominated. Feedback will be sought from the CCC members in relation to the nominations received. AGL plan to appoint the new members before Christmas. CCC members will also then be advised who the new members are.</p> <p>It was noted that it may be worthwhile if AGL approach neighbours to see if any neighbouring land owners might be interested. The committee were asked to advise AGL if there were aware of any neighbours who may be interested.</p> <p>One committee member asked if there are only four nominations, will those four people automatically be appointed to the committee? KE advised not necessarily. She noted this will depend on the feedback from the committee and also whether the nominee satisfies the requirements detailed in the terms of reference. The decision will then be made by AGL.</p>	

## 5. Discussion of next meeting objectives

It was discussed that the next CCC meeting will be held in January 2013. (There will be no meeting in December).

EC provided an overview of the project's estimated timeline:

- Environmental Assessment – present
- Revised assessment report – March 2013
- Public exhibition period – April 2013
- At the completion of the exhibition period, AGL must respond to submissions. Depending on what the submissions are, this may take approximately 2 months
- Final assessment report- End of June 2013
- Final assessment report and submission of application to Minister

The CCC members discussed what topics they would like to discuss at future meetings.

It was noted that the Council representatives would like to revisit their original submissions to ensure all the key topics raised had been addressed. This may help identify future potential meeting topics.

A member stated that she would prefer to discuss issues with the committee rather than only hearing presentations. She noted she is very interested in the committee's opinions on the issues raised in Council's submission.

A member suggested it may also be beneficial to discuss the revised Environmental Assessment (EA) that AGL intend to submit. EC noted the full report won't be ready for the January meeting but the key topics and work carried out to address the submissions previously made could possibly be discussed. EC noted this would need to be thought through in more detail and he would get back to the committee.

EC noted that there are still three topics previously raised that hadn't been covered off. They include:

- Ecology
- Traffic and construction impacts
- Property value

It was noted that the agenda for the next meeting would require further thought and a draft agenda would be circulated to the committee for input.

It was agreed by the CCC that the next meeting will be held at the South Burnett Council in Kingaroy (subject to availability) from 1pm – 4pm.

EC to explore how the key components of the revised EA could be discussed with the committee.

AS to arrange for draft agenda to be developed and circulated for comment.



**6. Any other business**

It was noted by a committee member that MC had been absent at the last few meetings. It was suggested that KE contact MC to see if he would like to nominate an alternative person to attend on his behalf going forward when he is not available.

AS noted that AGL will shortly be commissioning a consultant to conduct a community poll in the area. This will help AGL to gauge community opinion of the proposed wind farm and how AGL can better communicate with the broader community going forward.