



Project:	Coopers Gap Wind Farm
Meeting No:	11
Date:	Thursday 20 June 2013
Venue and Time:	Cooranga North Memorial Hall
Document:	Meeting notes and actions
Chair/Facilitator:	Kath Elliott, (KE)
Minutes:	Rosa Han (RH), AGL
AGL representatives:	Evan Carless (EC) Project Manager Nigel Bean (NB) Head of Generation Development
Committee Members:	Ian Schafferius, Participating landowner
	Sue Sinnamon, Participating landowner
	Cyril Stewart, Coopers Gap Wind Farm Supporters
	Mick Cosgrove, Neighbour
	Tony Brame, Economic Development and Tourism for WDRC
	Greg Taffe, Kingaroy Chamber of Commerce
	Andrew O'Conner, Neighbour
	Neil French, Neighbour
	Tom Hoare, Coopers Gap Wind Farm Supporters
	Chris Du Plessis, South Burnett Regional Council
Apologies:	Mal Collinge, Local Aboriginal Elder
	Ashley Perkins, Western Downs Regional Council
Community observers in attendance:	Approximately 10

- > 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>1. Welcome</p> <p>Kath Elliott (KE) welcomed the CCC members and observers in attendance.</p> <p>KE introduced the presenter for the property value and wind farm presentation, Bob Dupont from Preston Rowe Paterson.</p> <p>Apologies from the following CCC members for this meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mal Collinge • Ashley Perkins <p>EC advised the CCC that Amanda Shaw is no longer working for AGL and the position is currently being filled by Frances Duffy in the interim. NB noted that the recruitment process for the position is nearly finalised and a new manager will be on board shortly.</p> <p>There was a question about the March minutes on the sourcing of water (page 3). EC confirmed that the sourcing of water on site would be subject to the relevant approvals and agreement with owners of the water rights and at this stage of the project, this has not been confirmed.</p> <p>The March 2013 meeting minutes were accepted with no changes.</p>	
<p>2. Hallett Trip</p> <p>The following CCC members who attended the Hallett trip were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Sinnamon • Cyril Stewart • Greg Taffe • Ian Schafferius <p>Comments from the members on the trip:</p> <p>Sue Sinnamon (SS) provided an overview of the trip to the committee. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group had a full day of touring the wind farms and speaking to community members and local business owners. • The group was able to experience the noise from different positions around the wind farm and the only time the group experienced uncertainty with the noise was when a gas turbine fired up in the distance. This was not related to the windfarm. 	

- The group went to the Burra Information Centre and spoke with a turbine host whose house was approximately 600m from the nearest turbine. The landowner stated that he had no problems with the noise and said working with AGL was a pleasure and there were no impacts to his lifestyle. He also noted that he had no issues during the construction stage.
- The group also met with the head mistress from a local school and a local tourism representative who spoke of the economic benefits the wind farms had brought to the area
- There was also the opportunity for the attendees to look around the area during 'free time' (not accompanied by AGL) and SS noted the people they spoke to were all positive of the wind farms
- SS expressed that at the end of the trip she felt relieved and confident that if the project went ahead it would not negatively affect their lifestyle
- Commented that the terrain in the Hallett region was different to Coopers Gap as there were hardly any trees at Hallett. She commented that she believes the noise would be muffled in the Coopers Gap region from the trees.

SS also commented that they were aware that some problems existed with the turbines at Hallett and in response to this, AGL had turned turbines off until a fix was implemented. AGL also worked closely with the landowners during this period.

Greg Taffe (GT) added to Sue's comment that at this particular neighbour's house, the placement of the turbines created an amphitheatre affect and this neighbour lived at the bottom of a gully and the tonality from the gearbox could be heard from his property. GT also commented that AGL had done the right thing by working to solve the noise problem, not just ignoring the issue.

Mick Cosgrove (MC) stated that when he went to visit the Hallett Wind Farms (separately from this trip) he could hear the noise from the turbines and when he went back at night, he could hear a different noise.

MC also commented that he had heard of a person who lived approximately 700m from the nearest turbine and this neighbour had no issues.

Ian Schafferius (IS) commented that when he asked the turbine host about working dogs and turbines, the landowner said the dogs were not affected.

Judy Schafferius added that she had asked the Operations Manager, Scott Lauder about the two turbine hosts who have complained. Scott had replied that he has not directly received any complaints from these landowners recently.

GT added that he had heard an adjoining landowner had complained and AGL had taken this complaint seriously and investigated into it. The issue was then addressed and a solution was put in place.

KE asked the attendees if they had any concerns from the trip.

SS answered the only concern she had was the reversing beep noise from the trucks during construction stage.

NB asked the attendees if they had the chance to stand below a turbine and what was it like.

IS answered that the group did get to stand underneath a turbine and it was a very windy day so you could only hear the wind.

SS also added that she had visited another wind farm when the wind was blowing at about 60 knots and she was not able to hear any turbine noise.

EC noted that AGL does not claim that wind turbines don't make noise because they do and it will be able to be heard at some times at many locations. However, it is AGL's responsibility to ensure that the wind farm complies with the strict noise limits that are put in place in order to ensure that the amenity of the local community is not unreasonably impacted.

Cyril Stewart (CS) added that during the 'free time' he was able to talk to local business owners. He noted that all the people he had spoken to were positive of the project and the community attitude in the area was very different to what he expected. He noted that he hoped the same affect would be seen for this region if the Coopers Gap project went ahead.

Questions:

Q1. Were the Concerned Citizens Group (CCG) invited?

A1. EC answered that the invitations for the trip were sent out to all CCC members, turbine hosts, 2 council representatives (in addition to the CCC) and on advice from the CCC, five invitations were sent to the executives of the CCG offering two places.

Q2. Why did AGL decide to take the group to see the Hallett Wind Farms which use Suzlon turbines rather than the Macarthur Wind Farm which use Vestas turbines and are one of the proposed turbine makes for the Coopers Gap Wind Farm?

A2. EC answered that the reason for deciding on Hallett Wind Farms was because there were four wind farms in the area and the first wind farm was completed in 2008. He believed this would provide a better understanding to the attendees and they would be able to gain a greater understanding of the economic benefits in a region where four wind farms had been operating for a longer period of time. NB advised that a final turbine has not been selected for Coopers Gap.

3. Presentation about Property Values and Wind Farms, Bob Dupont

Video presentation to be uploaded on the project website along with the PowerPoint presentation.

RH noted at the beginning of the presentation that she had called a number of local community members to advise them of the presentation.

One question was raised at the end of the presentation about the effect wind farm projects may have on council rates. BD answered that the more money that was invested in an area, the more it would have positive benefits to the community.

4. Overview of Project Status, Evan Carless (EC)

EC provided an update on the project:

- EC had met with the Office of the Minister for Environment and the Office of the Minister for Energy and Water following the commitment AGL had made with the Coopers Gap community in regard to facade attenuation testing. EC clarified that these meetings were not with the Ministers themselves but with their office.
- AGL's understanding is that the Minister for Energy and Water will be making the decision on the Coopers Gap Wind farm application, including the assessment of noise.
- AGL understands that the Minister for Environment and his department will only get involved if requested by the Minister for Energy.
- AGL will write a letter to the Minister for Energy asking to clarify on how noise will be regulated.
- The Environmental Assessment (EA) report is currently being finalised and most of the chapters are in the final draft stage.
- The turbine host landowners requested AGL undertake a final review of the layout of the wind farm.
- The revised EA is expected to be finalised in July 2013 and a decision will be made whether to submit the report straight away or wait until clarification on the noise regulation is received.
- EC noted that the Office of the Minister for Environment had stated that project would be assessed based on science.

Questions:

Q1. In the situation that AGL satisfies the requirements set out by the Minister of Energy, could the report still get rejected?

A1. EC answered that the Minister for Energy will follow the process to assess and determine the project and the Minister also has broad discretion to approve or not approve the project.

NB added that no major concerns had been raised by the people in the Office of Energy that he had spoken to.

Chris Du Plessis (CD) added that there would have to be a good reason for rejecting the project if it meets all the requirements.

Q2. If the project is rejected, where will the 2020 objective/ Renewable Energy Target (RET) come from?

A2. If the Coopers Gap project is not approved, the viability of constructing a wind farm in QLD will be reduced and wind farms will be built in another state. It is likely that other wind farm projects will be approved in other states in order to meet the RET.

Q3. Is there likely to be a Stage 2 to the project in 4-5 years time?

A3. EC answered that AGL had no plans for a Stage 2, however this does not mean that this option won't be explored. He added that if a Stage 2 was to be developed, AGL would need to go through a separate approvals process.

Q4. With the oversupply of power, what chance do you have to sell electricity from the wind farm?

A4. EC answered that there was currently a surplus of power in Qld and it is a widely held view that the demand will increase. He noted that there is a lot more load expected to come online in QLD in particular associated with LNG projects in Gladstone.

Q5. IS noted that he had met with a Councillor from the South Burnett Regional Council and the Councillor had said that renewable energy was pushing electricity prices up. Is this true?

A5. NB answered that this is not entirely accurate and that renewable energy comprise about 2% of electricity bills. He noted that the price of electricity at the wholesaler has been going down and retail has been going up which is due to maintaining the poles and wires.

Q6. There is a transmission line that's being installed in the area. Is this for the wind farm?

A6. No, this isn't. That line was scheduled to be installed for network reasons. This was part of the reason this site was selected for the Coopers Gap project.

<p>Q7. Is coal cheaper than gas?</p> <p>A7. Gas is more expensive than wind, and coal prices are variable. Whilst renewable energy has been brought in through legislation, it not far away from becoming a common source of energy.</p> <p>Q8. Do you have a schedule of project milestones?</p> <p>A8. EC answered that he expects to submit the final application at the end of this year and there is no timeframe for the Minister to make a decision. EC noted that the part of the process AGL has more control over is when the application is submitted. He noted that it has been 2 years since the initial report was submitted and the reason why it's taken a while is because AGL recognised there were concerns in the community which needed to be addressed.</p> <p>Q9. Once the project approval is received, when will construction begin?</p> <p>A9. EC noted that once the application has been submitted at the end of the year and assuming that a decision will be made by next year, the start of construction would depend on 2 factors:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market conditions 2. Regulatory certainty <p>If the project does go ahead, the earliest AGL would expect to start construction will be beginning of 2015, with a 2 year construction period.</p>	
<p>5. Community Fund Terms of Reference, Kath Elliott (KE)</p> <p>A draft Community Fund document was prepared following the previous workshop session at the March 2013 CCC meeting. This document was distributed to members and discussed.</p> <p>KE noted the figure for the fund was yet to be determined and once the document was endorsed by the CCC, it will be forward to AGL for approval.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Q1. When do you anticipate this fund will commence?</p> <p>A1. This fund will commence once construction starts.</p> <p>Q2. Can we receive an electronic copy of the document?</p> <p>A2. Yes</p> <p>Comments from the CCC:</p> <p>MC commented that Dalby and Kingaroy would receive a lot of benefits from the construction stage and therefore, the community fund should benefit the local area.</p>	<p>RH to distribute draft document to members together with the meeting minutes.</p>

<p>KE confirmed that the draft document sets out geographical criteria for how the fund will be distributed in the area.</p> <p>IS commented that the fund should be discussed in detail once approval for the project has been received.</p> <p>CD suggested that the basis of the fund can be finalised now and once the project is approved, it can be discussed in more detail.</p>	
<p>6. Other business and close</p> <p>It was suggested that the CCC meetings be held bi-monthly or quarterly once the revised EA report is released.</p> <p>EC noted that the revised EA report may be on exhibition around the time of the 15 August 2013 and suggested that the frequency of meetings should be discussed then.</p> <p>EC and NB confirmed that once the letter is received from the Minister for Energy in regards to noise regulations, this will be in the public domain.</p> <p>It was agreed that the next CCC meeting to be held at the Kumbia Hall on Thursday, 15 August 2013 from 1pm to 4pm, subject to the EA report being ready for release. If EA report not ready, may consider postponing the meeting.</p> <p>At the next meeting there will be a follow up discussion on the community fund.</p> <p>EC asked the CCC their suggestions on how to inform the community once the revised EA report was on exhibition.</p> <p>Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local papers • Local magazines produced for Dalby, Bell and Jandowae • Community service announcements on ABC radio at 6am • Media release • Advertisements by the SBRC and WDRC • An AECOM representative to be present at drop-in sessions • More information available at sponsorship events • Drop-in sessions held at the main shopping centre in Kingaroy and Dalby 	