



<b>Project:</b>	<b>Coopers Gap Wind Farm</b>
<b>Meeting No:</b>	12
<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 19 September 2013
<b>Venue and Time:</b>	Kumbia Memorial Hall
<b>Document:</b>	Meeting notes and actions
<b>Chair/Facilitator:</b>	Kath Elliott, (KE)
<b>Minutes:</b>	Rosa Han (RH), AGL
<b>AGL representatives:</b>	Evan Carless (EC) Head of Generation Development Helena Orel (HO) Community Engagement Manager
<b>Committee Members:</b>	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
	Tom Hoare, Coopers Gap Wind Farm Supporters
	Ashley Perkins, Western Downs Regional Council
	Chris Du Plessis, South Burnett Regional Council
<b>Apologies:</b>	Mal Collinge, Local Aboriginal Elder
	Andrew O’Conner, Neighbour
	Neil French, Neighbour
<b>Community observers in attendance:</b>	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><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <p>Kath Elliott (KE) welcomed the CCC members and observers in attendance and discussed general housekeeping rules at the Kumbia Hall.</p> <p>KE introduced Helena Orel (HO), the Community Engagement Manager at AGL who has replaced Amanda Shaw permanently.</p> <p>Apologies from the following CCC members for this meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mal Collinge</li> <li>• Neil French</li> <li>• Andrew O'Connor</li> </ul> <p>Tony Brame was noted as running late to the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting agenda was discussed.</p> <p>A correspondence letter to the CGCCC had been received. KE read out the letter from a resident in Blackbutt.</p> <p>CCC agreed to send a response back to the resident to acknowledge the letter.</p> <p>Mick Cosgrove (MC) also tabled a letter to the CCC that he had received from Mr Bruce Scott MP.</p> <p>Issues raised in the letter included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infrasound from wind turbines and more research required</li> <li>- Wind not a sustainable resource</li> <li>- Good agricultural land taken away and used for turbines</li> </ul> <p>The letter was passed around to the CCC members.</p> <p>The CCC agreed that a letter will be sent to Bruce Scott from the CCC to advise him that the letter he had sent to MC had been tabled. It was also suggested that copies of the CCC meeting minutes should also be sent with the letter along with the AECOM noise presentation.</p> <p>It was noted by the CCC that some of the members had met with Bruce Scott and they had explained some of the facts and benefits of wind farms.</p>	<p>KE to draft letter acknowledging receipt of letter to Blackbutt resident on behalf of CCC members.</p> <p>KE to draft letter to Bruce Scott MP on behalf of CCC members. This item to be on next meeting's agenda</p>

<p><b>2. Wind direction, Evan Carless (EC)</b></p> <p>Evan Carless (EC) presented information on wind direction at the Coopers Gap area as per MC's question at a previous CCC meeting.</p> <p><i>Please see slide 5 of presentation.</i></p> <p>The wind data that was presented had been collected over a six year period from March 2006 until April 2012.</p> <p>MC noted that the reason why he asked about wind direction was so that those who will likely be most affected could be identified.</p>	
<p><b>3. Overview of Project Status, Evan Carless (EC)</b></p> <p>EC presented three wind farm layouts to the CGCCC that had recently been completed for the Environment Assessment (EA). He noted that the following factors had been taken into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Looked at topography which had a slight impact on the placement of turbines</li> <li>- Native vegetation</li> </ul> <p><b>V112 layout</b></p> <p>EC noted that the initial report had 115 turbines and this layout has 125. This was achieved by generally placing turbines in the interior of the layout without having any additional turbines closer to residents.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Q1. What's the distance of the closest turbine to the nearest resident?</p> <p>A1. About 1.3km</p> <p>Q2. Have you modelled these layouts using the 3MW turbines?</p> <p>A2. This layout uses the Vestas 3 MW turbines. Recently, Vestas has upgraded these turbines to 3.3 MW however, we have not selected the final turbines. The purpose of this layout was to see what the impacts are, such as visual impact and noise impact would be like and do all the necessary assessments so that we can show a good representation of what the impacts may be.</p> <p>Q3. Which type of turbine will produce more noise, the 3.1 MW or the 3.3 MW?</p> <p>A3. EC to take this question on notice and provide answer at next meeting.</p>	

Q4. At what point in the process do you determine which turbines to use?

A4. During the tender process.

Q5. Are there differences in noise impact from the different turbines?

A5. Every different turbine has different noise characteristics and the layout will help with the noise assessment which will determine what the noise impacts will be. The Planning Approval will specify a noise criteria for the wind farm, the turbine type and layout must be built so that the noise criteria can be complied with

Q6. Would you consider using two different types of turbines?

A6. Yes, we will consider this. As a general statement, we have not built different turbines for one site. There is an exception at one of the Hallett Wind Farms where there is one different turbine on the site.

BS noted that there is a large wind farm in California which has different turbines. He was unsure if they had been built at the same time.

#### **V100 layout**

This layout used smaller turbines to show the maximum number of turbines that could be built on the site with the smaller turbines. There are a total of 137 turbines on this layout using the Vestas V100 2 MW turbines.

The extra turbines are generally placed in the interior of the site, similar to the V112 layout.

#### **Combined Infrastructure Corridor layout**

This layout has two turbine layouts superimposed. It shows the corridors and ensures that it accommodates for different types of turbine layouts. The road grade is usually less than 10% to improve constructability and can go up to 16% in some locations.

EC noted that the purpose for the corridor layouts is to ensure that it allows for flexibility for aspects such as number of met masts and road and cable corridors.

Questions:

Q1. If you were to go for the smaller turbines, would they require aviation lights?

A1. The height limit for aviation lights is 500 ft and the V112 will probably not require them due to the height being lower than 500 ft. We will receive guidance from CASA and do a risk assessment prior to construction.

Q2. Will erosion be a major problem on the roads that have a grade of 10% or more?

A2. Erosion is an issue that will be managed appropriately during construction. This is also covered off in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

**Correspondence with QLD Government**

EC noted that he had met with the Office for the Minister for Environment and the Office for the Minister for Energy which was reported in detail at the June CCC meeting. AGL wrote to the Minister of Energy asking for clarification on the noise criteria in July and are currently awaiting a response. The project is now at a stage where the EA cannot be progressed any further without the required information on noise. He noted that the noise criteria are pivotal and essential to the wind farm layout and once clarity is received, the layout can be set. He also noted that the current layouts had been based on the SA noise guidelines as these are the most complete guidelines in Australia.

Questions:

Q1. Is there a distance setback?

A1. No there isn't. In QLD there are no wind farm planning guidelines and no specific guidelines for assessment of noise of wind farm.

The EA has 20 chapters and approximately 80% of the EA is complete. If AGL does not receive clarification on the noise criteria, they will put forward what their view of the noise regulation is. The Minister is able to make a decision without wind farm guidelines.

**Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) update**

The 2012 RET legislated review by the Climate Change Authority recommended to go from a 2 year review to a 4 year review however, there wasn't sufficient time to legislate prior to the 2013 Federal election. The next legislative review is scheduled to occur during 2014 and at this stage it is uncertain what the outcome of this review will be.

Based on this uncertainty around the RET, AGL made the decision in July to defer the appointment of an EPC contractor for the Silverton Wind Farm.

The Silverton Wind Farm is the next wind farm project in the pipeline and AGL will review their position in 2014. This currently does not change anything for the Coopers Gap Wind Farm and the permitting process will still continue. This may have an impact on the construction timeframe. AGL will assess the market conditions and regulatory risks at the time prior to moving to construction for any project.

Questions:

Q1. With the current change in government and the Carbon Tax, what is AGL's position on renewable energy projects?

A1. The Carbon Tax won't have a major impact on the RET when building a wind farm. The viability of building a wind farm is based on the RET. AGL is currently talking to the Government to make sure they can get the best outcomes for the Government, community and the wind industry.

**4. Community Fund Terms of Reference, Kath Elliott (KE) and Helena Orel (HO)**

KE went through the draft Community Fund with the CCC and asked the members for sign off of the document once satisfied.

MC commented that he believed the fund should have priority to landowners who are the most affected from the wind farm. KE noted that this was referring to compensation and this should be a separate discussion to the Community Fund.

KE also noted that the Community Fund was to provide benefits to the community and to help the project and the company to contribute to the community in a meaningful way. She noted that compensation was not raised at the workshop session and that there is capacity in the fund to help individuals in disaster.

EC noted that other companies in other industries generally only provide compensation in a situation where the project cannot be developed without having an unreasonable impact on neighbours. With the environmental assessment and planning approval process being the method of determining where there is an unreasonable impact.

AGL's approach to developing wind farms is to ensure that they are developed in a way that results in reasonable amenity to neighbours. He noted that AGL has not paid compensation to neighbours as the wind farm projects comply with planning guidelines.

Comments to the Community Fund:

- Academia should be included
- The Community Fund Panel who will review applications will consist of 2 AGL representatives and 1 Council representative
- The Community Fund Committee to seek and consider advice from the CCC on applications
- More clarity in document around part funding applications on a case by case basis
- Flexibility to provide funding for applications that may not fit the guidelines

Questions:

Q1. If the Planning Permit stated that compensation was required for landowners living within a set distance from the wind farm, would this be done?

A1. Yes, it is also up to the developer to secure a non-financial landowner's consent where this is required by a planning approval.

Changes as per CCC's requests to be made to the Community Fund document and distributed for review.

<p><b>5. Overview of recent Infrasound report released by AGL, Evan Carless (EC)</b></p> <p><i>See presentation slides 7 to 10.</i></p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Q1. The increase in low frequency noise is still within the recommended guidelines and it may not be from the wind farm. What could be the source of this increase?</p> <p>A1. EC clarified that the increase could have been from the wind farm however there was not enough evidence to confirm this, it may be from something other than the wind farm.</p> <p>Q2. Where the houses that the monitoring took place in the location of the predominant wind?</p> <p>A2. The predominant wind in the area is SW and there was one house located on the west and another house located on the east of the wind farm.</p>	
<p><b>6. Other business and close</b></p> <p>The CCC suggested that a meeting should be held in November if there was more information on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) available. If the EIS is not ready to be discussed by then, it was agreed that an extraordinary meeting will be held in December which would coincide but not conflict with the Christmas Party that was being arranged by the Cooranga North Memorial Hall to thank AGL for the sponsorship to the Hall.</p> <p>The first meeting for 2014 was discussed for either February or March. The possibility of a site tour at this meeting was also discussed.</p> <p>The CCC also discussed sending a letter to the QLD Government on their position on noise regulations.</p> <p><b>Actions from previous meetings</b></p> <p><i>Please see actions table on last page.</i></p> <p>Suggestions for communicating with the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jandowae magazine</li> <li>- Letter box drop</li> <li>- Project newsletters</li> </ul> <p>Closed meeting at 3.30pm</p>	<p>KE to draft the letter on behalf of CCC and circulate for comments.</p>

Action Item	CCC meeting	Status
Discuss with media team on 1-2 page summary of meeting minutes to be circulated to media outlets	January 2013	Do this for next meeting and reassess effectiveness- Open
Provide additional info re. Maximum weight per axle	March 2013	To be revisited when project is in construction stage - Closed
Lisa Taylor (CEC) to see if the CEC survey questions can be made available	November 2012	Provided to CCC - Closed
KE to draft letter acknowledging receipt of letter to Blackbutt resident on behalf of CCC members	September 2013	Open
KE to draft letter to Bruce Scott MP on behalf of CCC members. This item to be on next meeting's agenda	September 2013	Open
Changes as per CCC's requests to be made to the Community Fund document and distributed for review.	September 2013	Open
KE to draft the letter on behalf of CCC and circulate for comments.	September 2013	Open