

# **Minutes of AGL Barn Hill Wind Farm and Battery Project Community Consultative Committee (CCC)**

February 25, 2025 (13:30-15:00 pm) Gulnare-Redhill Football/Netball Club, Redhill SA

## **1. Welcome**

Chair welcomed attendees and opened the meeting at 13.32 pm.  
Acknowledgement of Country for the Narungga, Kurna and Nukunu Nations.  
Everyone was invited to introduce themselves.

## **2. Attendance and apologies**

### **2.1. Present:**

Chair: Lyndsey Jackson

CCC: Frank Hayes, Tony Fox - Landscapes Board, Richard Rackham, Frank Hayes, Craig Stringer, Simon Milden, Maz Khosravi - Port Pirie Regional Council, Chris Davey - Port Pirie Regional Council

AGL: Natalie Leighton, Joanne Madin, Michelle Moodley Nadas, Dianah Walter, Hugh Johnson

**Apologies:** Kirsty Morgan – Wakefield Regional Council, Bronwyn Mumford, Fraser Ellis (joined for lunch and had briefing overview), Rowan Ramsey

## **3. Reports**

**AGL Project Update** – AGL personnel spoke to a presentation. A copy of the presentation slides forms part of the minutes.

- Project Overview

### **Development Approval Update**

- Development Approval was received in January. The map from the Development Application hasn't changed, however this might as AGL work through detailed design.
- Wind farm, battery and associated infrastructure has been approved. The wind farm and battery are on two different timeframes for project delivery. The details about the project overview are contained in the slides.

### **Matters for noting:**

- Configuration changes to address shadow flicker concerns are still ongoing.
- The best layout that supports the greatest wind yield is still being determined. Still need to determine the most suitable wind turbine locations.
- Geotechnical studies will be taking place on site over the next few weeks.
- Point of connection studies and assessing what can get into the grid is still underway.
- Early Works Agreement with a preferred supplier has been executed.
- Transport surveys identified in the Development Approval.

## **4. Recent and upcoming activities**

### **Geotechnical studies**

- Assess the temperature of the soil with the cables through thermal resistivity testing.
- Creating 20 boreholes and 60 test pits. This informs the final design.
- Geotech will be completed towards the end of March 2025.

### **Significant Environmental Benefit (SEB)**

- There will be some native vegetation that gets cleared as part of the construction. The SEB is about investigating how this clearance can be offset. Fieldwork is scheduled for March 2025.

### **Bird and Bat Utilisation Surveys (BBUS)**

- Bird and bat surveys occur over two years. The surveys look at how birds and bats use the area for foraging and feeding. There will be a second round of surveys taking place in March 2025 and this will inform a bird and bat management plan, if required.

### **Cultural heritage**

There are three Traditional Owner groups; Narungga, Kaurna and Nukunu Nations. A cultural heritage assessment report and cultural heritage management plan is currently being considered by the groups.

## **5. Job and Skills Update**

Note a final approval to proceed (FID) from AGL hasn't been made. AGL will work with its preferred supplier to define the major and minor works packages. AGL will work with local organisation to map skills and capability in the region and then look at what opportunities there are to connect business and people to works packages. People can now email AGL ([AGLCommunity@agl.com.au](mailto:AGLCommunity@agl.com.au)) to register interest if they have skills or services.

## **6. Community Fund**

AGL is currently developing a new benefit sharing guideline based off best practice.

Community benefits and funds aren't new, and for existing SA assets – Torrens Island Power Station, Wattle Point Wind Farm and Hallett Wind Farms, community funds have been in place for some time. There is now new guidance for how to invest in communities hosting renewable projects. AGL is looking to engage more deeply with key stakeholders and the community in the coming months to better understand what the community would like supported in their community.

Understanding how does the community want to be involved will assist with this discussion.

There will be contributions for the life of the project, commencing at construction. AGL wants to ensure that any investment is made in a locally informed and impactful manner.

The benefits to be delivered are for the community that is most directly impacted, and the Port Pirie Regional Council, Wakefield Regional Council and other local organisations are in a good position to participate in this conversation.

AGL has four investment pillars - Thriving Communities, Climate and Environment, Cost of Living, First Nations Empowerment. These help guide how community investment is distributed.

AGL has identified the following groups to engage with regarding benefit sharing Barn Hill Community Consultative Committee; local community via Community Information Sessions, Port Pirie Regional Council, Wakefield Regional Council, Aboriginal Boards - and others.

## **Questions and Discussions**

Who else should AGL consult with in the development of community benefits?

- What local priorities or initiatives should be supported through the Barn Hill project?
- Concerns were raised about the impact of the pub in Redhill shutting down, particularly on young people and where they can go - this makes the Football Club a critical asset.
- Mundoorra is split between Barunga West Council on one side and Port Pirie Council on the other.
- One of the biggest community expenses is watering the Redhill football oval. While a bore exists, there is no infrastructure to transport the water to the oval. This was identified as a priority community project for further investigation.
- Discussions were held regarding the potential installation of RV tanks and public toilets.
- Concerns were raised about the loss of various local services.
- The Community Development Association has developed a Community Development Plan, Council has supported the development of this plan.
- Mundoorra hosts an annual tractor pull event.
- The local Institute building holds significant historical value, including local and train history. It was noted that this resource could have potential for future projects.

- Several community resources in Mundoorra could benefit from updates and improvements.
- An idea was raised for an information board at Halls Gap Road to provide information about community projects.
- There was interest in making a visitor feature of the turbine.
- A question was raised about the rail reserve and its potential uses.
- The potential presence of pygmy bluetongue lizards was discussed. While none were found in the environmental assessments, suitable habitat was identified. These lizards are extremely rare but have been recorded 30 km south.
- Landscapes Board staff are interested in supporting habitat creation and extending their existing project in the area.
- Prickly pear has been identified as an issue in the river.
- TLAP in Port Pirie have a propagation program - Dianah to follow up.
- At some point this year, a calculation for the fund will be determined which may be based on megawatt usage per annum or another methodology to be determined. Details on the amount and how it will be allocated will be provided closer to the end of the year / Final Investment Decision.

## **7. Further Discussion Proposed Wind Farm Timeframe**

- Q4 2025 for the financial investment decision
- Construction commences Q2 2026
- Windfarm complete Late 2028
- Battery completion 2029

### **Questions and discussion:**

Where are wind turbine components made? The preferred supplier is in Europe with Chinese components - they are looking at SA components.

Turbines are getting bigger, and are requiring a bigger footprint, is there a need to reconsider the scaling? The development application had a big height of 250m, however during the analysis, the optimal hub height is actually 120m in this area, so this will be considered in the final design.

Discussion about battery fires and how they are managed. From AGL there is rigorous testing of the cells individually, the modules, and the containerised unit. This is to test that there will not be a thermal runaway event if there is a fire in one cell it doesn't pass to other cells. There will be considerations with how to respond to the fire. The CFS are involved with this management.

Jo made the offer to host the CCC at the Torrens Island Battery.

## **8. Action Items from Previous Minutes**

None to note.

## 9. Moving Previous Minutes

**Recommendation 1:** That the CCC accept the minutes from the 23 July 2024 meeting.

Moved: Frank      Seconded: Craig Stringer Carried

## 10. Open Discussion

Question on if the Development Approval is now in the public realm. It is public from 31 January. It hasn't been picked up by the media. All of the conditions are standard - there are noise provisions. AGL will be informing relevant stakeholders on the details of these in coming months. The Barn Hill DA documentation is on the PlanSA website.

Question on the geotech re activity on farm. Discussion about the findings of the limestone percentage in core samples found on farm.

## 11. Next meeting

Tuesday the 15th of July, 2025

**Meeting closed: 15:15 pm**

## Action Items

Item	Action Items	Assignee	Due/Notes
1.0	TLAP in Port Pirie have a propagation program	Dianah	Dianah to follow up
1.1	Send Progress Association priority planning document	Frank	Received and sent with minutes
Completed	Provide information about the end of life process for wind turbine generators.	Natalie	Completed - updated in presentation. Will continue to provide information as the project develops.

Completed	Webpage on AGL site for CCC	Jo	Completed
Completed	AGL to confirm process around provision of commissioned reports to CCC members	Michelle / Chair	Completed
Completed	Document sharing with Council. Confirm policy – eg redaction of minutes.	Jo	Completed – minutes to be made public