

Coopers Gap Community Consultative Committee

Experts on potential impacts of wind farms

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

For nomination of experts to address the Coopers Gap Community Consultative Committee with regard to potential impacts of the proposed Coopers Gap Wind Farm

AGL Energy Limited (AGL) is proposing to build a wind farm near Cooranga North in Queensland. The proposed Wind Farm is known as Coopers Gap Wind Farm.

To help develop community understanding for the way in which noise impacts are measured, AGL is proposing to retain the services of an expert for noise impacts of wind farms, on behalf of the newly formed Coopers Gap Community Consultative Committee so that independent technical comment from a recognised expert can be provided to the CGCCC and broader community.

AGL will pay for all costs and expenses associated with the appointment of the agreed noise expert in their roles as key advisors to the CGCCC.

The expert role for noise

The proposed role of the expert is to provide independent advice to the CGCCC on scientific and technical matters relating to noise impacts of the Coopers Gap Wind Farm. The advisory role requires:

1. The appointed noise expert to review AGL's existing noise studies undertaken for the Coopers Gap Wind Farm and identify potential gaps and anomalies. If any gaps are identified through this process, they will be noted.
2. To explain the various regulatory and legislative requirements in Queensland, and in other states of Australia, how they compare, what is common and what is different
3. To answer questions posed by the CGCCC.
4. Ask questions and request clarifications from AGL and AGL's noise consultant.

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DRAFT Selection Criteria for the Appointment of a Peer Reviewer for the Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

It is vital that the person that is chosen in this important technical review role is able to meet the following criteria, to contribute to local community confidence in the technical rigour that is applied to assessing noise studies that have been conducted to date, critique the conclusions that have been reached. It is important that the expert identifies any technical gaps and recommends any additional work programs that should be considered by AGL.

The proposed technical peer reviewer must:

- As a minimum, have a Bachelor Degree in Engineering or Physics with at least 10 years' experience in assessing noise impacts and developing noise monitoring programs
- Not have been directly employed by AGL in relation to any of its wind farm projects
- Not have been engaged by any opponent related to wind farm activities or other development
- Not be an opponent of a wind farm development
- Not be a proponent of a wind farm development
- Be available and accessible during the development of responses to the submissions report.
- Be able to demonstrate objectivity in assessing and reviewing technical noise studies.

It is also highly desirable but not essential that the proposed noise expert:

- Have an understanding of wind farms and their noise impacts
- Be a recognised expert in noise acceptable to Queensland regulatory agencies.
- Have previous involvement in similar noise assessment studies

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The following matrix has been prepared to help facilitate the assessment by CGCCC of the candidates put forward. At this time, there has been no contact or to determine their availability to undertake this work. Other rows have been provided for input by other members to offer candidates.

Full CVs to be made available at the CGCCC meeting.

Name	Expertise	Employment	Regulatory/key work	Other comments	Relevant Background				
					<i>Worked in Academia</i>	<i>Years of Experience</i>	<i>Worked for AGL before</i>	<i>Worked in industry</i>	<i>Worked for opponent of wind farm or other development</i>
Dr Stephen Chiles	Wind farm noise assessment	URS New Zealand – Principal	On NZ standards committee that developed NZS 6808:2010. Currently assisting Vic EPA develop a guidance document regarding wind farm noise assessment.	Based in NZ, unsure of knowledge of Australian environmental noise regulations.	PhD	~20 (10 years with wind farms)	Reviewer for URS Australia noise assessment of AGL – gas-fired power station	No	No
Dr Peter Teague	Environmental noise assessment including wind farms	Vipac Engineers & Scientists	On Standards committee that developed AS 4959 for wind farm noise. Assisted with development of SA Wind Farm Noise Guidelines (review).	Based in SA but moving to QLD soon, good knowledge of environmental noise regulations and experience with wind farms. Vipac work has been criticised by Steven Cooper as part of Flyers Creek review.	PhD Guest lecturer on environmental noise at University of Adelaide	~30 (10 years with wind farms)	Unsure but not recently. Vipac undertook monitoring at HHWF they were engaged through Suzlon.	No	No
Malcolm Hayes	Wind farm noise assessment	Hayes McKenzie (UK)	Heavily involved in wind farm noise assessments in the UK. Has also	Based in UK – availability and cost. Excellent technical understanding of	No	~30 (15 years with wind farms)	No	No	No

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			<p>been involved in DTI Working Group on wind turbine noise there.</p> <p>Has worked for developers in the UK, Australia and NZ. Provided expert evidence in all three locations.</p> <p>On organising committee for international Wind Turbine Noise conferences.</p>	<p>wind farm noise. However, understanding of local regulations and legislation relating to environmental noise would be limited.</p>					

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