

Coopers Gap Community Consultative Committee (CGCCC)

Coopers Gap Wind Farm Project
CGCCC Meeting 2



Facilitator: Barbara Company

14 June 2012

Final

The logo for AGL (Australian Gas Light Company) features a stylized sunburst icon to the left of the letters 'AGL' in a bold, sans-serif font.

Welcome and meeting agenda

- › Welcome
 - » Confirmation of meeting notes
 - » Publication of CCC member names on the website
 - » Confirmation of membership
- › Overview of Futureeye Conclusions
- › Discussion of draft noise expert criteria
- › Presentation – noise legislation, policy and criteria
- › Next meeting objectives

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Welcome and meeting agenda

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Overview of the Futureye Conclusions

— Nigel Bean, Head of Generation Development

Key issues raised by stakeholders in the EA submissions and the telephone interviews included:

Issue	Conclusion
Health Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High levels of uncertainty about the links between turbines and health impacts
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impacts on lifestyle, livestock and fauna• Certainty and sophistication of noise modelling (including the impact of tonality)• Fairness of exceeding the Queensland Environment Protection (Noise) Policy 2008 and committing to noise policies of other states such as South Australia or Victoria
Property Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed wind farm will not encourage would be buyers to pay attention to the current valuation

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Overview of the Futureye Conclusions

– Nigel Bean, Head of Generation Development

Key issues raised by stakeholders in the EA submissions and the telephone interviews included (continued):

Issues	Conclusions
Trust and Responsiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about AGL's information and approach to modelling not being trustworthy or accurate Comments are not being taken into account or responded to
Visual impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shadow, light flicker and blade glint – including impact on health Inaccurate portrayals of the area in the IA and the likely visual impact AGL 'not acting in good faith' by presenting these images Impact on telecommunications
Fire and Aviation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire risk to people, property, business and biodiversity from wind turbine failure
Community Infrastructure Classification and Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and state government as well as community uncertainties about the project classification, assessment and approval

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Draft noise expert criteria

- › Discuss the role for the noise expert
- › Discuss the selection criteria for a noise expert
- › Discuss potential candidates

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Draft noise expert criteria - template

Name	Expertise	Employment	Regulatory/key work	Other comments	Relevant Background				
					Worked in Academia	Years of Experience	Worked for AGL before	Worked in industry	Worked for opponent of wind farm or other development

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Noise legislation, policy and criteria

- *Evan Carless, Manager Power Development*

- › Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Qld)
- › Environmental Protection Act 1994
- › Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008

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Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Qld)

- > To pursue a Community Infrastructure Designation (CID) approval:

Requirement	How AGL will comply / satisfy standards
AGL must carry out adequate environmental assessment and public consultation.	There are no mandated noise standards which must be applied in carrying out this process. However, AGL must generally assess impacts and propose appropriate requirements to address.
The Minister must consider certain documents before determining whether to approve the CID namely the relevant local planning instruments and State planning policies	Neither of these documents require assessment of noise against specific standards.
AGL has retained an appropriate expert to advise on the relevant standards which should be applied in carrying out the noise impact assessment as part of the environmental assessment.	This is a matter for the expert, but they could have regard to noise standards adopted elsewhere specifically for wind farms and/or the general Queensland noise policy documents, with appropriate consideration given to the specific nature of noise issues associated with wind farms.

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Environmental Protection Act 1994

Requirement	How AGL will comply / satisfy standards
<p>A Wind Farm is not classified as an Environmentally Relevant Activity under the Environmental Protection Act 1994, which means that a wind farm is not assessable under the EP Act. There are no specific noise criteria within the EP Act applicable to operating wind farms.</p>	
<p>In order to comply with its obligations under the EP Act, AGL must not cause any adverse effect on an environmental value and must not unreasonably interfere with an environmental value.</p>	<p>Environmental values for noise are set out in the Environmental Protection (noise) Policy 2008. These values are general in nature and do not set out specific noise limits. (refer next slide)</p>
	<p>AGL has retained an appropriate expert to advise on compliance with its obligations under the EP Act. This is a matter for the expert, but they could have regard to noise standards adopted elsewhere specifically for wind farms and/or the general Queensland noise policy documents, with appropriate consideration given to the specific nature of noise issues associated with wind farms.</p>

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Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 2008

Requirement	How AGL will comply / satisfy standards
<p>What the Noise EPP is designed to do:</p>	
<p>1. Identifies environmental values for noise which are relevant to the obligations under the EP act; the qualities of the acoustic environment that are conducive to protecting the health and biodiversity of ecosystems; and the qualities of the acoustic environment that are conducive to human health and wellbeing, including by ensuring a suitable acoustic environment for individuals to do any of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sleep; • study or learn; • be involved in recreation, including relaxation and conversation; and • the qualities of the acoustic environment that are conducive to protecting the amenity of the community. 	<p>AGL has retained an appropriate expert to advise on the relevant standards which should be applied in carrying out the noise impact assessment as part of the environmental assessment. This is a matter for the expert, but he/she could have regard to noise standards adopted elsewhere specifically for wind farms and/or the general Queensland noise policy documents, with appropriate consideration given to the specific nature of noise issues associated with wind farms</p>
<p>2. Provides objectives and intents which are one of many considerations which must be taken into account when making environmental management decisions. It is not one of the specific documents which the Minister must consider before deciding whether to approve a CID.</p>	

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Conclusion

Concluding statements

Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Qld): AGL must carry out adequate environmental assessment and public consultation. There are no mandated noise standards which must be applied in carrying out this process. However, AGL must generally assess impacts and propose appropriate requirements to address.

Environmental Protection Act 1994: In order to comply with its obligations under the EP Act, AGL must not cause any adverse effect on an environmental value and must not unreasonably interfere with an environmental value.

AGL has retained an appropriate expert to advise on the relevant standards which should be applied in carrying out the noise impact assessment as part of the environmental assessment. This is a matter for the expert, but they could have regard to noise standards adopted elsewhere specifically for wind farms and/or the general Queensland noise policy documents, with appropriate consideration given to the specific nature of noise issues associated with wind farms.

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Next meeting

- > Noise expert to:
 - » Present and discuss the findings of AGL's existing noise studies
 - » Explain the regulatory and legislative noise requirements
 - » Identify gaps and a way forward
- > Discuss and confirm next meeting date and time –
 - > Thursday 19 July, 2012 at 2pm
- > Ongoing meetings:
 - » Thursday 16 August 2012 at 2 pm – Health
 - » Thursday 20 September 2012 at 2 pm – Property values and fire risks
 - » Thursday 18 October 2012 at 2 pm – Transport and construction impacts

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