

Coopers Gap Wind Farm

Community Consultative
Committee

May 2014

Meeting 14

Date:
15 May 2014

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Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Overview of Project Status
- 3 Cherry Tree Wind Farm VCAT Hearing
- 4 Community Fund Terms of Reference
- 5 Proposed Site Tour
- 6 Next Meeting and Close

Welcome

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1. Welcome

- > Confirmation of February 2014 meeting minutes

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- > Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee
 - > AGL Energy
 - > 15 May 2014

1. Welcome

> Close out actions from previous meeting

Action Item	CCC meeting	Status
AGL to discuss with media team on 1-2 page summary of meeting minutes to be circulated to media outlets	January 2013	Closed
KE to amend letter to QLD Government and send out	February 2014	Closed
KE to send out letter to Bruce Scott MP and Deb Frecklington MP	February 2014	Closed
HO to update Community Fund Guidelines and distribute to CCC	February 2014	Closed
EC to advise answer to the following question: <i>Which type of turbine will produce more noise, the 3.0 MW or the 3.3 M?</i>	February 2014	Closed
EC to advise the answer to the following question: <i>What is the timeframe that AGL needs to start construction once project approval has been received?</i>	February 2014	Open

> Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

> AGL Energy

> 15 May 2014

Overview of project status

- Evan Carless(AGL)
- Neil Cooke (AGL)

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2. Overview of Project Status

Draft Queensland Wind Farm Guidelines

- > Draft Wind Farm State Code and Draft Wind Farm State Code Planning Guideline were released for public consultation from 22 April 2014 to 13 May 2014
- > Queensland Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning
- > The final code is anticipated to commence in mid-2014
- > Link to the Qld Govt website was circulated to the CCC
- > AGL has prepared a submission
- > AGL supports having wind farm guidelines – certainty and clarity for community, turbine hosts and developers
- > AGL and our consultants share our knowledge and experience gained from extensive development and operation of wind farms with a view to;
 - » Maximise clarity and certainty for all parties
 - » Provide a balance between amenity and appropriate development

2. Overview of Project Status

> **Revised Assessment Report:**

- » 8 Draft chapters have been prepared and reviewed
- » Approximately 12 chapters remain to be drafted.
- » We are, at this point, on schedule for completion of the RAR in July 2014
- » Reviewing implications of the Draft Wind Farm Guidelines on the RAR, in particular timing and content

Cherry Tree Wind VCAT Hearing

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3. Cherry Tree Wind Farm VCAT Hearing

A member of the CCC at the last CCC meeting requested an overview of the VCAT hearing be presented at this CCC meeting

- > From late January to mid-March 2013, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) heard the planning appeal for the proposed Cherry Tree wind farm near Seymour in central Victoria.
- > In April, the Tribunal handed down an interim decision which found that the proposal was acceptable and conformed with planning scheme requirements, but deferred a final decision for 6 months.
- > The primary reason for the deferral was that the Tribunal wished to await the outcome of the South Australian EPA's investigation into infrasound and noise issues for the Waterloo wind farm.
- > On 26 November 2013, the VCAT handed down its decision to approve the Cherry Tree Wind Farm.
- > This was the first case where the new Victorian planning policies and controls for wind farms had been fully tested, and infrasound and health-related issues were examined in comprehensive detail.

3. Cherry Tree Wind Farm VCAT Hearing

- > The Tribunal made two important findings on health issues:
 1. The evidence suggested, though did not conclusively prove, that 'only a small proportion of the population surrounding a wind farm' appear to experience adverse health effects.
 2. That the current state of scientific opinion is that there is no causal link of a physiological nature between these effects and wind turbines.
- > In coming to this conclusion, it drew in part upon the April 2013 publication of the Victorian Department of Health entitled 'Wind Farms, Sound and Health' and the findings of the NSW Planning Assessment Commission in relation to the Bodangora Wind Farm.
- > Additional information on the decision by VCAT can be found on:
<https://www.vcat.vic.gov.au/disputes/planning-and-environment/news/decision-cherry-tree-wind-farm>
- > Questions?

Community Fund Terms of Reference

- Kath Elliott (Facilitator)
- Helena Orel (AGL)

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4. Community Fund Terms of Reference

- > Review and accept latest version of guidelines.

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- > Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee
 - > AGL Energy
 - > 15 May 2014

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Proposed Site Tour

- Evan Carless (AGL)
- Helena Orel (AGL)

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5. Proposed Site Tour

- > Visual impact assessment not completed
- > Propose that discussion of proposed site tour be deferred until when the visual impact assessment is complete

Next meeting and close

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6. Any other business

Questions from observers?

- > Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee
- > AGL Energy
- > 15 May 2014

6. Next meeting

Date: xx

Time: 1pm – 4pm

Venue: TBC

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- > Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee
 - > AGL Energy
 - > 15 May 2014