



Project:	Coopers Gap Wind Farm
Meeting No:	14
Date:	Thursday, 15 May 2014
Venue and Time:	Western Downs Regional Council
Document:	Meeting notes and actions
Chair/Facilitator:	Kath Elliott, (KE)
Minutes:	Rosa Han (RH), AGL
AGL representatives:	Evan Carless (EC) Head of Generation Development Neil Cooke (NC) Manager Power Development Helena Orel (HO) Community Engagement Manager
Committee Members:	Judy Schafferius, Participating landowner (alternate to Ian Schafferius) Cyril Stewart, Coopers Gap Wind Farm Supporters Mick Cosgrove, Neighbour Tony Brame, Economic Development and Tourism for WDRC Ashley Perkins, Western Downs Regional Council Andrew O’Conner, Neighbour Chris Du Plessis, South Burnett Regional Council
Apologies:	Mal Collinge, Local Aboriginal Elder Greg Taffe, Kingaroy Chamber of Commerce Tom Hoare, Coopers Gap Wind Farm Supporters Neil French, Neighbour
Community observers in attendance:	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>1. Welcome</p> <p>Kath Elliott (KE) welcomed the CCC members and observers in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from the following CCC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Schafferius – Judy Schafferius standing in as alternate • Mal Collinge • Greg Taffe <p>KE noted that Sue Sinnamon had tendered her resignation from the CCC as she will be selling her property and will no longer be a participating landowner to the project. The CCC agreed for KE to draft a letter on behalf of the committee thanking Sue for her contribution for the past two years.</p> <p>It was agreed that a participating landowner would replace Sue on the committee. AGL will contact all landowners to seek expressions of interests and any nomination forms that have been received will be circulated to the committee before the next meeting.</p> <p>KE provided an overview of the meeting agenda.</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.</p> <p>The actions from the previous meeting were discussed.</p> <p>Evan Carless (EC) answered the question from the previous meeting:</p> <p><i>Q1. Is there a timeframe that AGL needs to start construction once project approval has been received?</i></p> <p>A1. Based on the CID approval, AGL will have six years to commence construction of the project once approval has been granted.</p> <p>Helena Orel (HO) noted that the action to provide a summary of minutes to media outlets has been closed out and that an advertorial had been placed in the May edition of the Jandowae Magazine.</p> <p>KE noted that she had sent the letters to the QLD Government and to Bruce Scott MP and Deb Frecklington MP. No responses have been received.</p> <p>It was noted that all other outstanding actions have been closed out.</p>	<p>KE to draft letter to Sue Sinnamon on behalf of CCC.</p> <p>AGL to contact landowners and seek expressions of interests to be on CCC.</p> <p>AGL to circulate nomination forms to CCC members before next meeting.</p>

2. Overview of project status, Evan Carless (EC) and Neil Cooke (NC)

Please see presentation slides 7-8.

EC discussed the Draft Queensland Wind Farm Guidelines that was recently released for public consultation. He noted that as a leading developer of wind farms in Australia, AGL has made a submission to the QLD Government to ensure that the final guidelines provide a balance between reasonable amenity to the community whilst enabling for appropriate development to occur.

He also noted that AGL is in support of having wind farm guidelines in Queensland as this provides certainty and clarity to turbine hosts, the community and wind farm developers.

Q1. Are these guidelines similar to the New Zealand standard or the South Australian guidelines for wind farm noise?

A2. The Draft QLD Guidelines are broad and address a wide range of wind farm matters in addition to noise. The guidelines does not specifically state the NZ Noise Standard or the SA Noise Guidelines, however appear to be based on the 2009 SA Noise Guidelines.

There are two fundamental differences in relation to noise that are proposed in the QLD Guidelines:

1. The recommended level of sound in the QLD Guidelines is 35 db(A) whereas the SA Guidelines recommends 40 db(A) in a farming zone and 35 db(A) in a high amenity area.
2. The QLD Guidelines include testing of low frequency noise, however the tests and assessments for low frequency noise are not well defined. The SA Guidelines do not require specific assessment of low frequency noise. This concern was raised in the submission made by AGL, based on technical advice from expert noise consultants.

An observer made a comment that QLD should not be compared to SA or NZ as each area is very different to QLD and noted that all aspects of the wind farm, including noise should be contained within the boundary of the property the turbine are on.

A CCC member commented that it is not possible to contain the impact within the property which is why there are noise guidelines that developers must adhere to.

EC commented that the proposal to build the turbines is only on the properties where AGL has an agreement to build turbines. He also noted that the overall objective of planning is to ensure that an appropriate and suitable level of amenity is maintained on that property and the surrounding properties.

<p>KE noted that although the submission period has closed, late submissions may be accepted. She encouraged members and observers to present their views.</p> <p>Neil Cooke (NC) provided an update on the Revised Assessment Report (RAR).</p> <p>EC noted that with the release of the draft guidelines, this could impact the RAR in several ways. He noted that it is possible that AGL may delay submitting the report until the final guidelines are released. He noted that the RAR has been progressed to date based on the guidance received from the Minister for Energy and Water in relation to noise. However, the outcomes of the guidelines may be different to the guidance received, therefore it would be beneficial to align the RAR with the QLD guidelines before submitting.</p> <p>Q1. Can you give us an indication as to when the commencement date of the project may be?</p> <p>A1. The key issue is the uncertainty around the Renewable Energy Target (RET). The panel is currently reviewing the RET and the report is expected to be completed mid-2014. The report will then go to the Federal Government for review. A potential outcome from this is a change in legislation which will influence the construction commencement date. At this stage, AGL cannot commit to constructing the wind farm until there is certainty.</p> <p><i>Post Meeting Note: In addition to the RET, market conditions need to be favourable prior to committing to construction of the wind farm.</i></p> <p>Q2. Was there anything in the budget about the RET?</p> <p>A2. The federal budget does not mention the RET. The main impact on renewable energy is the change to the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA). ARENA will no longer exist, however this does not impact on this project as it is not reliant on ARENA funding.</p> <p>Q3. If the RET is abolished and AGL makes the decision not to proceed with this project, will AGL cancel agreements with landowners?</p> <p>A3. EC to take this question on notice.</p>	
<p>3. Cherry Tree Wind Farm VCAT Hearing, Evan Carless (EC)</p> <p><i>Please see presentation slides 10 to 11.</i></p> <p>EC noted that AGL is not involved in this project and the proponent for this wind farm is Infigen.</p> <p>Q1. There was a statement released recently about wind farms and health. Can you please provide this?</p> <p>A1. Yes, a number of studies and reports have recently been released, which AGL will provide.</p>	<p>AGL to provide studies and reports recently released about wind farms and health.</p>

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

Helena Orel (HO) presented the updated Community Fund guidelines.

Questions:

Q1. Will AGL appoint someone to chair the Community Fund panel meetings?

A1. The panel can decide if they would like a chair for the meetings. AGL is not involved at the panel meetings.

Q2. Will AGL organise an event for the successful applicants?

A2. Yes, this can be organised if the committee agrees. We have done cheque handover events at our other wind farms.

Q3. What do you mean by the 'community's amenity'?

A3. This refers to community focused areas such as recreational grounds, parks etc.

Q4. How do you determine the amount of the fund?

A4. A funding amount is determined once the project has been committed to construction.

KE asked the CCC on their thoughts about providing funding to the CWA for the first year only.

The CCC agreed that this can be reviewed after the first year and the funding could be made permanent if the panel believe there is a requirement.

HO noted that there were three additional 'areas we support' that is not in the AGL sponsorship policy. She noted that the examples section for these areas was left blank so CCC members could make suggestions.

The following suggestions were provided by the CCC:

- Infrastructure – repairs to community halls etc.
- Voluntary emergency services – funding for SES, local ambulance and provision of services and/or equipment to emergency services organisations.
- Academia – sponsoring the dux of a school, scholarship for high achieving students / gifted students in arts and music.

Next steps:

HO to update the guidelines with the comments received today and distribute for review.

HO to update the Community Fund guidelines and distribute to CCC.

<p>5. Proposed site tour, Evan Carless (EC)</p> <p>EC noted that the final photo montages have not been completed and suggested for this item to be revisited once montages have been finalised.</p>	
<p>6. Other business and close</p> <p>It was agreed that the next CCC meeting should be held once there is an update on the draft Queensland Government Guidelines and/or the RET review.</p> <p>The next CCC meeting has been tentatively set for Thursday, 18 September at the Cooranga North Memorial Hall. AGL will confirm this meeting with members closer to the date.</p> <p>Questions from CCC and observers:</p> <p>Q1. What is the current RET?</p> <p>A1. It is 41,000 gigawatt-hours of renewable electricity generation by 2020.</p> <p>Q2. Do you know what percentage that is compared to power of consumption?</p> <p>A2. When the target was set the plan was 20% by 2020. 41,000 GWh was set as 18% of forecast consumption by 2020, with the remaining 4,000 GWh (the balance of the 20% expected to be delivered by small scale renewable). The current forecast electricity consumption by 2020 is considerably lower than when the RET target was set. The 41,000 GWh is now expected to be closed to 27% of total consumption.</p> <p>Q3. What percentage of renewable energy is produced by wind farms?</p> <p>A3. EC to provide answer at next meeting</p> <p>Q4. What other projects have been committed to under the RET?</p> <p>A4. AGL is currently constructing two large scale solar plants in NSW which is partly funded by the Federal and NSW Government. The Coopers Gap project would be fully funded by AGL if it was to proceed.</p> <p>Q5. How many turbines have been proposed for the Coopers Gap Wind Farm project?</p> <p>A5. The latest proposal is for 115 turbines which will amount to 350 MW.</p> <p>Q6. Why is the cost of electricity increasing?</p> <p>A6. This is mainly due to the mass expenditure involved in the maintenance of poles and wires.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 2.30pm</p>	<p>AGL to confirm next meeting date.</p> <p>EC to provide answer at next meeting</p>

Action Item	CCC meeting	Status
KE to draft letter to Sue Sinnamon on behalf of CCC.	May 2014	Open
AGL to contact participating landowners and seek expressions of interests to be on CCC.	May 2014	Open
AGL to circulate nomination forms to CCC members before next meeting.	May 2014	Open
AGL to provide studies and reports recently released about wind farms and health.	May 2014	Open
HO to update the Community Fund Guidelines and distribute to CCC.	May 2014	Open
AGL to confirm next CCC meeting date.	May 2014	Open
EC to provide answer to the following question: <i>What percentage of renewable energy is produced by wind farms?</i>	May 2014	Open