



COOPERS GAP WIND FARM Community Consultative Committee

Project	Coopers Gap Wind Farm
Meeting No	21
Date	Thursday, 24 November 2016
Venue and Time	Cooranga North Memorial Hall, Cooranga North
Documents	Meeting minutes and actions
Chair	Rob Hart (RH), Acting Independent Chair
Minutes	Liz Todd, Independent Consultant
AGL representatives	Clare Mildren (CM), Senior Manager Government and Community Relations Kathryn Lamond (KL), Head of Media Neil Cooke (NC), Project Manager, Power Development Stuart Galway (SG), Land & Approvals Manager Evan Carless (EC), Manager, Power Development Tim Knill (TK) Project team member
Committee Members	Neil French Russell Glode Cyril Stewart Mick Cosgrove Jim Scutt Tom Hoare
Apologies	Kath Elliot Bill Sparkes Tony Brame
Community observers in attendance	Approximately 20



Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

Rob Hart was supported to stand in as Acting Independent Chair.

- Meeting opened at 4:03pm.
- Rob Hart introduced himself. Rob is from Chinchilla and involved in community and business projects.
- CCC members, guests and observers were welcomed.
- Apologies were noted.
- Overview provided of the meeting agenda.

Media

- South Burnett Times were present at the meeting. There were no objections to media taking footage at the meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting

- Edits - Wally Gooderham name spelling.
- Regarding the name "Coopers Gap at Cooranga North", discussions are ongoing within AGL, including Coordinator Generals Office. Once approved, the name change can be adopted.

Motion: That the minutes from the 13 October 2016 meeting are accepted as read. Moved Mick Cosgrove, seconded Neil French. CARRIED

Action Items

- Minutes to be posted to Jim Scutt.
- Completed

2. Project Team Update

Evan Carless, AGL Project Manager

- Neil was thanked for his contribution to the project over the years and wished all the best.
- Neil Cooke – Project manager (outgoing)
- Evan Carless – Project manager (incoming). Evan was involved from 2012 for four years.
- Adrian Gibney – Assistant project manager
- Stuart Galway – Manager land and approvals
- Clare Mildren – Senior manager government and community relations
- Sean Halloran-Lavelle – Engineering manager renewables
- Tim Knill – Project team member
- Kathryn Lamond – Head of media

3. Project status update

Evan Carless, AGL Project Manager

Connection to the Grid

- Connection Application submitted to Powerlink.

Tender Process

- Capability statements from local businesses have been included in tender considerations.
- Tender packages submitted to AGL Tuesday 15 November and are currently under review.
- Tender negotiations will be ongoing in the development of a final contract.
- Project commitment target for the second half of 2017. The project commitment is a final financial decision. The project is planned to be funded by the Powering Australia Renewables Fund.
- Construction is targeted to commence 3-6 months post commitment.
- Construction period of approximately two years.

EIS

Neil Cooke, AGL Project Manager

- Submissions period closed 7 November 2016.
- AGL is preparing responses to submissions and updating the EIS to address submissions where required.
- Final EIS target completion by the end of December.
- Office of Coordinator General report anticipated early 2017 with project determination to follow.
- 24 submissions were made to the EIS. AGL prepared responses to submissions that went to the Office of the Coordinator General last night, and will now be reviewed.
- The Office of the Coordinator General will prepare their report through December/January. It is hoped that the Coordinator General offers an approval and that part of the process will be completed by end of February.
- The last part of the process involves getting a material change of use from the Department of Infrastructure and Local Government. This process is expected to happen during March 2017. Once the material change of use is in place the project will be approved. AGL is reasonably pleased with the progress and the process.

Comment: Can AGL say what was in the submissions?

Response: There were several submissions in support of the project. Seven submissions were not in favour of project. Fourteen submissions were from government departments addressing matters such as managing impacts to flora, offsetting vegetation requirements (impacts not expected), management of roads (council discussions have already commenced), and agencies generally in favour and raising items to be considered during the construction process.

4. Business and industry information sessions

Neil Cooke, AGL Project Manager and Clare Mildren, Senior Manager Government and Community Relations

Information Sessions

- TSBE information session held in Dalby 10 November on renewable projects within the Western Downs region. Canadian Solar and Origin presented, and Neil provided an update for AGL on Coopers Gap Wind Farm, also attended by Clare. 200 attended.
- TSBE – the Western Downs and South Burnett councils are financial members of TSBE.
- TSBE is providing an assisting role with procurement and local considerations.
- Clare has been working in a consulting capacity with AGL for two years and has done a lot of government and political liaison work. Identified from government that this area is important for renewable energy, due to proximity and location and willingness to be involved in projects.
- People are genuinely interested from a business perspective, and shared information in a positive and supportive environment.
- CCC and business communities work side by side. The economic development arm of South Burnett Regional Council is call South Burnett Connections. Western Downs Regional Council prefers to work through the Chamber of Commerce and TSBE.

5. Other business

Solar for wind farm neighbours

- AGL is proposing to offer to wind farm neighbours within approximately 2 km of the wind farm boundary 5 kW of Solar Panels
- The offer is dependent upon the wind farm being committed to construction.

Q1: What if we have standalone power, or already have solar panels and batteries?

A1: AGL would consider additional panels or batteries.

Comment: Batteries would seal the deal.

Response: This meeting was an opportunity to open the offer and the details will be fleshed out, and would consider battery enablement and feed in tariff.



Q2: How many neighbours would this include?

A2: There are 25 neighbours within 2 km of the wind farm boundary.

Anyone who has further queries or opportunities regarding solar panels to contact Clare.

Q3: How is AGL working with Powering Australia Renewables Fund?

A3: (EC) The Powering Australia Renewables Fund is an innovative funding investment established by AGL. The Fund is targeting approximately 1,000 MW of large-scale renewable generation, with a total investment of \$2-3 billion dollars. AGL provided cornerstone equity and QIC, on behalf of its managed clients including the Future Fund, is providing further equity funding to the Powering Australian Renewables Fund. The first transaction was completed with AGL's 102 MW Nyngan and 53 MW Broken Hill solar plants. The next two projects proposed are Silverton Wind Farm and the Coopers Gap wind farm.

Silverton is 200 MW and Coopers Gap is 400 MW. There is still scope for further projects for 600 MW.

Don't have to rely on government funding to progress projects, making it attractive and supportive of governments.

Q4: What are the dates for when things are happening, when will confirmation of operations be announced?

A4: Once the final investment decision is made dates will be determined. AGL is pleased with progress and steps for project, and moving through on the timeline that was expected.

AGL received tenders last week and currently reviewing them, followed by contract negotiations. It will be several months before AGL will be in a position to select a contractor.

Q5: Question for Neil, based on your experience and history with this project and many others, if you had time over what would you do differently, particularly in respect to the community interaction?

A5: (NC) The CCC is absolutely critical. Making sure the team spends a lot of time with all of the stakeholders. Landholders, neighbours, non-financial and financial stakeholders, governments, councils. Maybe 3 years ago this emphasis was not as strong as it is now.

Comment: It is a positive step for AGL to be supporting neighbours.

Response: (CM) Clare is passionate about regional communities and her commitment to the local people comes first.

Judy and Ian Schafferius were thanked for their contribution of time and effort while serving on the CCC.

Rob Hart commented that it is important for people to become educated about projects and the process to reduce anxiety. He encouraged involvement in the process and to stay informed about developments. There will be impacts that will result, such as traffic increase, and open communication with AGL and the CCC will help to manage these impacts and benefits.

AGL staff are available at any time to answer questions.

6. Next meeting

- Thursday 9 February, 1-3pm, Cooranga North.

Meeting closed 4:44pm.

Action Item	CCC meeting	Status	Who
Ensure minutes are posted to Jim Scutt	13 October	Ongoing	CM