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Meeting Coopers Gap Wind Farm at Cooranga North – Community Consultative Committee

Meeting no 27

Venue Cooranga North Memorial Hall, Cooranga North

Time 1:00pm

Date 31 May 2018

Chair Rob Hart

Attendees Committee Members: Mick Cosgrove, Cyril Stewart, Bill Sparkes, Tom Hoare

Rob Hart (Independent Chair), Rachael Pascoe (minutes), Neville Tarry, Judy Pickering, Val Stewart, Ann Gooderham, Gordon, Beth, Heath Stewart, Delta Sparkes, Rob Fitzherbert (TAFE QLD), Ros Heit (SBRC), Jim Scutt

AGL: Tim Knill (Construction Project Manager), Han Tay, Sue Hogan, Clare Wilkes (Senior Manager Government and Community Relations)

GE-CATCON: Andrew O'Connor (Site Manager)

AECOM: Michael Yeo

Apologies Will Tarry

Meeting Minutes

1 Welcome

Rob Hart, Independent Chair

- Rob opened the meeting at 1.05pm and welcomed Committee members, guests and community to the meeting.
- Apologies were noted.
- No conflicts of interest were raised.

Minutes previous meeting

Neville Tarry moved: That the minutes from the meeting 1st March 2018 were a true and correct record. Mick Cosgrove seconded

Carried



2 Project Update

Tim Knill, AGL Coopers Gap Construction Project Manager

Thanked everyone for attending. He introduced Sue and Han (AGL), Michael (AECOM), and Andrew (GE-CATCON).

Components for 19 wind turbines have arrived at the Port of Brisbane. Big focus now is getting permits to deliver the components from port to site. Waiting for approval from SBRC for the upgrade of Niagara Road to carry the heavy vehicles. Powerlink's control building and two power transformers will be delivered in July, which will be another milestone for the project.

Through AECOM, AGL has engaged independent specialist consultants Elliott Whiteing. They will prepare a report on the project's economic benefit and social impact for the period between July 2017 and June 2018.

Congratulated Andrew on Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) record on site. Hazards are being identified and addressed very well. No significant incidents to date with 128 people on site.

Complaints are addressed and registered. The condition of Niagara Road has suffered since construction commenced. Permit application has been put in to council to upgrade the road. GE-CATCON are working with the Council to get these works underway. Apologies for the inconvenience. Maintenance plan has been put in to Council. The plan is to widen and overlay the road. Primary focus of site team working with both Councils (SBRC & WDRC) and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR).

Ros Heit (SBRC) gave an update. The single lane Niagara Road was designed for country load only. Structural plan for 20+ culverts arrived at Council yesterday. SBRC needs to get an Infrastructure Agreement signed and a Bank Guarantee in order to allow the road upgrade to commence. It will be a gravel road for the duration of construction of the wind farm. The road will then be sealed at completion. In the end it will be a better road. Celeste asked what was GE-CATCON's involvement. They will do the upgrade of road. Council will be responsible for sealing of the road on completion of project. Tim attended meeting with Council and GE-CATCON. Road Impact Assessment report requires further update. Meeting today about getting documents executed.

Mick Cosgrove proposed for a viewing area of the wind farm, which will become a tourist attraction for the area. Springs Road was suggested to be a suitable spot.

Action: Clare to coordinate a local tourism sub-committee including representatives from both councils. Ros would also like to be involved.

Tim suggested an inspection of site for next meeting.

Action: Sue to organise a bus trip for next meeting to inspect the site.

Cyril asked who was funding road upgrade? GE-CATCON are.

Telecommunications – GE-CATCON received a proposal from Telstra for installation of 2 mobile phone towers for site coverage. The cost proposed was commercially prohibitive. Clare –AGL feels that Telstra should revisit and not look at it as a commercial venture. David Littleproud has been very helpful. Clare met with David Littleproud. David Littleproud happy to continue to assist in a government capacity. Clare appreciated the confidence this committee has given her to represent them.



Landline issue - if you don't take up NBN offer you will more than likely lose landline. This is not a project related issue but is a concern of the community, therefore our concern.

3 Construction Update

Andrew O'Connor, GE-CATCON Site Manager

Very good safe run to date. Construction is in full production. GE-CATCON has regained the time lost and are within a week of schedule. Towers should be arriving on site in late June / early July. Progressing west for all internal roads. 70% complete. Public roadworks falling behind waiting on both councils and the infrastructure agreement. 2 more visits from Geotech team. Civil component should be complete by Dec/Jan.

Photo presentation.

All turbine components to be transported via Bunya Highway.

There are currently over 100 people on site, with approximately 40% of them from the local area. 60% of GE-CATCON's on-site team are locals. During turbine erection and commissioning, GE-CATCON will have to bring in external crew as these are very specifically skilled. During the operation of the wind farm, almost all of the 15 – 20 strong maintenance crew will be hired locally.

Project completion is expected by June 2019. GE has a 25 year contract to operate and maintain the wind farm.

Action: Tim to coordinate AGL and GE-CATCON to update their websites with who the contractors are and have links to Chambers of Commerce.

4 Community Update

Clare Wilkes, AGL Senior Manager Government and Community

Clare will be attending the Budget lunch on 18th June.

Clare has briefed the Member for Callide, Colin Boyce at the Beef Week event. She suggested Colin Boyce should be invited to the next meeting.

Action: Clare to invite Member for Callide, Colin Boyce to the next meeting.

TSBE to meet with all Mayors in Toowoomba. Clare is invited.

Tim – approximately 40 solar systems have been installed under AGL's Solar Program, with only 2 to 3 more residences to go. Ergon Energy has been dragging the chain.

5 Community Fund

Tim Knill, AGL Coopers Gap Construction Project Manager

\$33,000 allocated in second funding round. Tim ran through the second funding round recipients. Next round will open in September 2018.



Feedback was that the application process was more user friendly. Need clarity on the funding criteria.

Action: Sue to review Community Fund criteria.

6 General Business and Q & A

Q. Jim Scutt – the original Environmental Impact Study was done on 4 turbines on the property adjacent to his. Now the plan is to construct 10 turbines. He is worried about noise and shadow flicker due to where his home is and the type of country surrounding it. Would like a new noise assessment done for his property.

A. Tim advised that there is a 1.5km set back criteria, as well as strict limits for noise and shadow flicker. This is all set out in the Queensland Wind Farm Code which provides certainty for developers and communities. GE-CATCON have assessed these limits using modelling. Once operational, GE will need to verify compliance and will rectify if operating outside allowable limits.

Action: Clare to make sure the TV reception surveyor has been to all homes.

Q: Jim worried about telephone cable when constructing the road.

A: Andrew responded, GE-CATCON will be very careful to locate all in-ground services before road construction starts.

Q: Mick worried about no one knows where Coopers Gap is and should refer to as Cooranga North.

A: AGL committed to name it Coopers Gap Wind Farm at Cooranga North. This will be reflected on project signage once operational.

7 Next Meeting and Close

Next meeting will be at the end of August. Time and date to be advised.

Action: Sue to send out meeting invitations.

Meeting closed at 2:46pm



Item:	Discussion:	
1	Tourism <u>Action:</u> Clare to coordinate a local tourism sub-committee including representatives from both councils. Ros would also like to be involved.	Clare
2	Site Visit: <u>Action:</u> Sue to organise a bus trip for next meeting to inspect the site.	Sue
3	Communication <u>Action:</u> (kept open) Clare to circulate information on the possibility of landlines being cut off.	Clare
4	Construction update <u>Action:</u> Tim to coordinate AGL and GE-CATCON to update their websites with who the contractors are and have links to Chambers of Commerce.	Tim
5	Community Update <u>Action:</u> Clare to invite Member for Callide, Colin Boyce to the next meeting.	Clare
6	Community Fund <u>Action:</u> Sue to review Community Fund criteria.	Sue
7	General Business and Q & A <u>Action:</u> Clare to make sure the TV reception surveyor has been to all homes.	Clare
8	Next meeting: <u>Action:</u> Sue to send out meeting invitations.	Sue