



Meeting	Coopers Gap Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee No. 37
Venue	Cooranga North Memorial Hall, Cooranga North
Time	1:00 pm
Date	29 April 2021
Chair	Rob Hart
Attendees	<i>Committee Members</i> - Neil French, Bill Sparkes, Mick Cosgrove.

Rob Hart (Independent Chair), John Young (AGL), Martin Mansell (AGL), Ben Lyons (AGL), Robert McGrath (AGL), Delta Sparkes, Brian McEvoy (AGL), Renee Mulholland (Independent), Bruce Gooderham, Elizabeth Beavis (AGL), Carl Allcorn (GE), Han Tay (AGL), Tom Villers (PARF), Geoff Dutailis (PARF), Madeline Atkins (AGL), Colin McLoughlin, Brent Reading (WDR)

Apologies

Carol Wicks
Jim Scutt
Kate Scutt
Russell Globe
Amanda Maurice (SBRC)
Colin Boyce - MP

Item

01

Welcome

Rob Hart opened the meeting at 1pm.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 28 January 2021 were distributed prior to the meeting.

Confirmed that all members received copies of previous minutes.

Minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously accepted.

Conflicts of interest

Rob Hart (Chair) called for any new conflicts of interest. None declared.

Rob requested update on last meetings action items.

Item 1 - Meeting to be initiated with SBRC in response to their invitation to further discuss the viewing platform.

Mick Cosgrove met with SBRC representatives on site to discuss the viewing platform. Meeting took place on the corner of Niagara and Bilboa Road near where the AGL offices used to be. SBRC identified this location for a viewing platform as it provides a safe area to pull over, good turning circle for a caravan and has a good view of numerous turbines.

Brian McEvoy reiterate that the viewing platform is separate from AGL and remains a matter between the Community Consultative Committee and the Council.

Item 2 - AGL to provide further advice regarding the governance structure of the Community Fund so that the committee may be formed.

The next round will roll over from a \$30,000 fund to a \$100,000 fund. Neil French and Mick Cosgrove assist with the assessment and disbursement of those grant applications. It was decided that going forward the Community Fund Panel would look for more representation from Kumbia region to ensure fair disbursement across the region.

Need to look at a more formalised governance to ensure there is open transparency about the rules by which the Community Fund Panel will operate and selection criteria for applicants. Also want to make sure we are getting projects that are significant to the region.

It was suggested the grant criteria be published and possibly circulated in one of the newsletters.

02 Project Update

Han Tay- AGL

The Windfarm has received approval from AECOM and Powerlink to generate up to 401 megawatts which is about 91% capacity in terms of power generation. Hoping to achieve the final 9% in the next couple of weeks making it the largest windfarm in Australia.

Last year it was announced that a project would commence to changeout 50 generators, and that has now been completed.

Yaw brake changeout project due to be completed by end of next week. Priority was given to faults causing noise issues near residences.

Niagara road upgrade 99% complete, due for completion 6th May 2021.

An agreement has been signed with Telstra to survey the site to ensure the location for a new tower is suitable. A desktop survey indicates 90% of the Windfarm will be covered with residences as a priority. On-site feasibility study to commence in the next 2 to 3 weeks. Telstra advised construction of the tower may take up to 12 to 18 months.



03

Construction Update

Brian McEvoy - AGL

Decision has been made to replace Tower 10. Deconstruction of existing structure is due to commence on the 24th May 2021. Safety issues prevent getting people in to perform this so two thirds of the deconstruction will be performed by robots which will perform cut outs. The final stage will be by explosives and magnetic plates on the tower. From a noise perspective, you will hear 75 decibels for about 5km. Equivalent to standing next to a highway.

Several blades were required to be changed due to lightning strikes. Damaged blades will be repaired and put back into stock as spare parts.

04

Community Update

Ben Lyons – AGL

Noise remains an ongoing issue. Data is being collected and as part of the regulatory requirement a final noise monitoring study will be performed prior to commissioning. That will be performed not by AGL or any related party, but by a government body.

More recently there has been a report of disruption to TV reception. Trying to determine if this is a widespread issue as it has only happened at one location. No angst with resident but something that has been noticed.

Bit of interest around the tourism aspect not to be understated. The viewing platform will be important for the region.

05

General Business and Q&A

Bruce Gooderham was asked how his previous noise issues were progressing. Issue is ongoing under certain weather events and only has significant impact at night as it is affecting his sleep. Noise is from turbines and blades and Bruce has asked that something be done about it. John Young has been working closely with Bruce on the issue. John reiterated that the yaw brakes changeout has been finalised and believes this may alleviate some of the concerns.

Bill Sparkes noted concerns over the use of his paddock with the decommissioned tower 10. In an effort to keep people away from the tower one of his paddocks has been divided by a fence limiting ability graze cattle in that area. Ben Lyons to liaise with Mr Sparks on the matter.

06

Next Meeting and Close

Meeting closed 1:50pm

Next meeting:

Thursday, 29 July 2021

Location Corang North Memorial Hall

1.00pm to 2.30pm



Item	Action	Date	Who
1	AGL to provide further advice regarding the governance structure of the Community Fund.		Ben Lyons