



MINUTES OF SAPPHIRE WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9am, Thursday 24 September 2020
RSM Club, Evans St, Inverell

Attendees:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chairperson
Patric Millar (PM)	CWP Asset Management
David Williamson (DW)	Sapphire Wind Farm Representative
Anthony Alliston (AA)	Inverell Shire Council
Cr Carol Sparks (CS)	Mayor of Glen Innes Severn Council & delegate
Ben Swan (BS)	Host Landholder
Neil Eigeland (NE)	Community Representative
Peter Sniekers (PS)	Office of Regional Development (Guest – <i>via telephone</i>)

Apologies:

Annabel Sides – Community Representative
 Mike Norton – Community Representative
 Cr Stewart Berryman – Inverell Shire Council
 Matthew Velcich – Business in Glen
 Chris Voll – Community Representative (Church Communities Australia and Inverell Chamber of Commerce & Industry)

This meeting was conducted in accordance with COVID-19 requirements, with appropriate social distancing, hand sanitiser, etc. All members completed a health declaration.

ITEM		ACTION/COMMENTS									
1.0 Welcome and Introductions CCC meeting opened at 9.03am by LA who welcomed all attendees, introducing them to PS who was participating via telephone.											
2.0 Apologies As listed above.											
3.0 Finalisation of Previous Minutes In accordance with the guidelines. The minutes from the 10 th March 2020 were finalised and distributed to CCC members.		Emailed 26/3/20.									
4.0 Declaration of Interests LA stated that she is an approved Independent Chairperson with DPI&E and engaged by CWP to chair the meeting.		No changes to members' declarations of interests.									
5.0 Business Arising Action Items from previous meeting: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>ISSUE</th> <th>WHOM</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (<i>ongoing</i>)</td> <td>PM</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Provide a presentation to the next CCC on the output of the project during its first year of operation. <i>Moved to project update.</i></td> <td>DW</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			ISSUE	WHOM	1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (<i>ongoing</i>)	PM	2	Provide a presentation to the next CCC on the output of the project during its first year of operation. <i>Moved to project update.</i>	DW	2 Project & Market Update handout provided to members. (see attachment 1)
	ISSUE	WHOM									
1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (<i>ongoing</i>)	PM									
2	Provide a presentation to the next CCC on the output of the project during its first year of operation. <i>Moved to project update.</i>	DW									
6.0 Correspondence as per email 24/8/20, with one additional item, which was the reminder for this meeting on 21/9/20: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18/3/20 – Email to members with the draft minutes from 10/3/20. • 26/3/20 – Email to members with the finalised minutes. 		Accepted.									

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/8/20 – Email to CCC members postponing CCC to 24/9/20 with Meeting Notice, Agenda & Correspondence Report. • 16/9/20 – Email from Annabel Sides with an apology for this meeting. • 21/9/20 - Email to members with a reminder for this meeting. 	
<p>7.0 Project Update Operational</p> <p>DW advised that operational annual maintenance is ongoing including regular maintenance on site.</p> <p>There has been crane activity that both Councils have been informed about. Appropriate road permits being submitted and approved. The crane assists with the blade changes for maintenance purposes.</p> <p>Product and Market Update – DW spoke to the handout provided to CCC members (Action Item 2):</p> <p>2019 ~800 GWh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98,280 tons of coal left in ground • 2020 ~500 GWh to the end of August • 61,425 tons of coal left in ground <p>Enough to Power ~ 110,000 Homes</p> <p>Power Prices Coming Down Due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind Farms • Solar Farms, and • COVID <p>CS enquired how green power is purchased. DW advised that Sydney City Council have purchased green power through Flow Power (a green energy broker) through a third party agreement. Sydney airports and the Sydney Opera House also have agreements in place. NE commented that if the battery goes ahead, this will make it more practical for Councils (like Glen Innes Severn & Inverell) to participate in this type of program. PM commented that if all Council's got together they could facilitate a similar arrangement. BS enquired whether green power has followed the price downward curve with PM replying that it depends on the retailer.</p> <p>CS suggested that this CCC recommend to New England Joint Organisation (NEJO) that member Councils should seek to purchase green power as a joint venture. (Member Councils in NEJO are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armidale Regional Council • Inverell Shire Council • Glen Innes Severn Council • Narrabri Shire Council • Moree Plains Council • Tenterfield Shire Council • Uralla Shire Council <p>CS advised the committee that the roads in GIS Shire are being prepared to bring in the battery. DW advised that access roads in both shires will be similar to those required for the wind turbine deliveries. PM commented that dilapidation reports have been carried out and</p>	<p>Agreed. Action: LA to write to NEJO.</p>

<p>submitted to Inverell Shire Council. Whilst the suppliers for the solar panels are different companies to the wind turbines, the same reports and surveys still need to be carried out. Following the delivery/construction phase, the roads will be “made good” by providing a cash payment to Council.</p> <p>CS informed the committee that GIS & Inverell Shire Councils are undertaking a joint venture to seal some of the roads with state funding. CS has spoken with Adam Marshall (MP) who has suggested that this is a priority for the next funding application.</p> <p>BS enquired where the battery would be positioned, with PM advising that the battery will be located wholly within the Sapphire Wind Farm development which allows for easy access to the existing substation and transmission grid. This is close to the source (grid) and the battery on flat land.</p> <p>BS asked what the size of the battery would be and why there aren't smaller batteries (at the bottom of each turbine) instead of one big one. PM advised that it's all about the cabling back into the grid. Discussions about peak demands for power and pricing ensued. DW advised that a decision has not yet been made on the battery supplier.</p>	
<p>8.0 Solar & Battery Projects Update</p> <p>The battery project has received \$10m seed funding from the State government. CWP is in the final stages of negotiating with an Engineering, Procurement and Construction Contractor. Once this is finalised we will announce who that is. In the background CWP is working towards a financial close in Q1 2021 which will enable construction to commence in Q2 2021. The solar projects are trickling along and not much has changed since the last meeting. Sapphire Solar is approved and Sundown Solar is at EIS stage. CWP is working with and updating the host landholders as things progress.</p>	
<p>9.0 General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NE asked whether anyone has looked into the pumped hydro opportunity map (Pindari) in the commonwealth report and if this would be Council or investors. PM responded that pumped hydro is not on CWP's portfolio. NE suggested that it would be a good infrastructure project during COVID to install 500kVa transmission lines from this region to the south coast. PS commented that there has been a recent announcement by the state government regarding the New England Renewable Energy Zone, providing \$80M in funding to deliver affordable energy generation. • Community Benefit Fund – DW advised that Round 1 has been decided with funding issued. Round 2 closes tomorrow (26/9/20). NE informed the committee that he was now residing in Wagga Wagga. LA advised that provided he was still a landholder in the shire he could continue his role as a community representative. NE confirmed that he was and still a regular visitor to the area. LA advised that NE is a valuable member and contributor on this CCC and welcome to continue his role. 	<p>Action: PS to forward information to LA for distribution to members.</p> <p>Action: DW to provide monetary details on funding issued to date.</p>

<p>10.0 Meeting Schedule for 2021</p> <p>LA sought the committee’s opinion on moving the CCC to an annual meeting as the wind farm is in its operational phase. It was suggested that the next meeting be scheduled for the end of Q2 to enable CWP to provide an update on the battery project. A decision will be made at that meeting on whether a CCC would be held in the Q4 of 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Wednesday 16th June 2021, commencing at 9am, RSM Club Boardroom, Inverell. 	<p>Agreed.</p>
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Meeting closed at 9.38am with LA thanking everyone for their attendance and contribution.

ACTION ITEMS:

ITEM	ISSUE	WHOM
1	Keep CCC members informed on the progress of the Solar Projects (ongoing)	PM
2	Write to NEJO recommending that its member Councils consider entering into green energy purchase agreements. (Complete – 3/10/20)	LA
3	Provide further information on the Renewable Energy Zones	PS
4	Provide monetary details on funding amounts issued via the Community Benefit Fund (see below)	DW

Action Item 4 Post Meeting (30/9/20) David Williamson provided the following information:

The 2020 Round 1 funding has been awarded with a total sum of \$75,000 being distributed. Round 2 applications will be reviewed in October 2020 for the remaining \$107,500.