

Boco Rock Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee – Annual Report for 2021

CCC / Project Name:	Boco Rock Wind Farm CCC	Reporting Period:	March 2020 to March 2021
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Adam West/Jessica Petersen

1. Executive Summary

The Boco Rock Wind Farm is situated on ridgelines 10km south west of Nimmitabel and 30km north of Bombala in NSW. The development was approved in August 2010 for up to 122 turbines, with Stage 1, comprising of 67 being constructed, which commenced operation in 2015. EGCO invested in the project in 2012 and now own the wind farm, however, the site is managed by CWP Asset Management.

The proponent, CWP Renewables Pty Ltd, consulted with the community from the commencement of its preparation for their development application in 2013. Originally meeting approximately once per year, the CCC now meets on a quarterly basis, in Nimmitabel.

The Community Consultative Committee (CCC) operates in accordance with the Department of Planning & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development (January 2019). The committee's membership consists of:

- Three local community representatives
- One Snowy Monaro Regional Council delegate
- One stakeholder group representative (Nimmitabel Advancement Group)
- One stakeholder group representative (Country Women's Association – Nimmitabel Branch)
- Two company representatives
- One host landholder; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

Stage 1 of the project has been operational since 2015 however, with Stage 2 of the development currently being assessed by DPIE, regular briefings have been presented to CCC members by the proponent. Accordingly, the CCC's meeting cycle changed from bi-annually to quarterly in order to receive operational reports as well as engage with members on the Stage 2 development process to ensure comprehensive consultation with the community. The modification (MOD 1) for Stage 2 sought to amend the layout of the Yandra Cluster.

The CCC met in June 2020 (rescheduled from May, due to COVID-19 restrictions), August 2020 and November 2020. Members have received presentations and updates from the proponent's representatives on:

- Modification 1 – Proposed Yandra Project changes; response to submissions, design changes, key issues, themes, etc.
- Traffic and transport
- Community Enhancement Fund
- Operational Update
- Environmental issues
- Maintenance of turbines
- Wind generation/outputs; and
- Weed Management

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community, the Council and the company. It fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines and attendance has been consistent.

There were no joint CCC's held in the region.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Disbursement of monies from the Community Enhancement Fund (CEF)	This item was a major concern for the community, with residents impacted by the development disappointed that the disbursement of monies from the CEF being approved for projects well outside the locale. This committee operates under the auspices of SMRC, who manage the governance requirements. Applications are received in accordance with the CEF's Charter and a new committee was established during this reporting period. The consideration and determination of the CEF applications appear to be more in keeping with the community's expectations and the intent of the original condition of consent.	Continue to receive feedback at each CCC on the activities of the CEF committee.
Updates on progress of MOD 1	Regular updates are provided at the quarterly CCC meetings and via emails. Newsletters have been prepared and distributed into the broader community. The proponent is currently awaiting the determination of the application from DPIE.	Ongoing updates to be provided.
Independent Planning Commission Determination	Due to the number of submissions, the MOD 1 application will be referred to the IPC for its determination.	CCC members to be kept informed of the IPC process (referral date, public meetings and hearings).
Local employment opportunities	Where possible, local contractors were engaged for Stage 1 and it is proposed to continue this policy, should Stage 2 of the project proceed to construction.	Expressions of Interests to be registered online.
Visual Impacts	As is often the case with wind farms, visual impacts have been raised for the proposed Yandra Cluster.	Under assessment by Department of Planning, Industry & Environment.

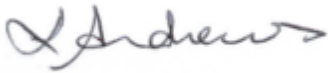
<p>Road maintenance</p>	<p>Some gravel and sealed roads around the project require ongoing maintenance, especially during the construction phase.</p> <p>Submissions have been made during the exhibition period of MOD 1 seeking conditions of consent for relevant roadworks.</p> <p>Fortunately the Council delegate on the CCC is able to listen and respond to community representatives concerns.</p>	<p>Road dilapidation reports and quality control to be improved.</p>
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4. Focus for next 12 months

- The assessment of Modification 1 has been a long and protracted process. Accordingly, the proposed meeting scheduled for Q1 – February 2021 was cancelled as there was little to report whilst awaiting the application’s determination.
- The CCC will continue to receive updates on Modification 1 for the proposed changes to the Yandra Cluster (Stage 2).
- Continued updates on the environmental monitoring, land management and maintenance for the existing operational wind farm.
- Continue to negotiate a satisfactory outcome for the community on the CEF disbursing funds to the areas impacted by the construction and operation of the overall development.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

CCC minutes and presentations are available on the website.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	15 April 2021