

Sapphire Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

CCC / Project Name:	Sapphire Wind Wind Farm CCC	Reporting Period:	April 2018 to April 2019
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Patric Millar

1. Executive Summary

Sapphire Wind Farm Pty Ltd is located in the Northern Tablelands region, 18 kms west of Glen Innes and 28 km east of Inverell, in the Glen Innes Severn and Inverell Shire local government areas.

The project was originally approved on 26/6/13 for 159 wind turbines, and associated infrastructure, however, following a modification application was reduced to 109 turbines and approved on 30 June 2016.

The proponent, CWP Renewables Pty Ltd, consulted with the community from the commencement of its preparation for their development application in 2013. First meeting approximately once per year, the CCC now meets on a quarterly basis, alternatively between Glen Innes and Inverell venues.

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 Glen Innes Severn Council delegate
- One Inverell Shire Council delegate
- One stakeholder group representative (Inverell Business Chamber & Church Communities Australia)
- One stakeholder group representative (Business in Glen)
- One host landholder; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

Over the past 12 months, the CCC met in May 2018, July 2018, October 2018, January 2019 and April 2019 and members have received presentations and updates from the proponent's representatives on:

- The construction of the project
- Management Plans
- Environmental issues
- Local contractor and employment opportunities
- The type of turbine, supplier & software suppliers
- Voluntary Planning Agreements with both Councils
- Community Open Day
- Community Enhancement Fund Program

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 and strong.

A site inspection of the project was undertaken in May 2018 by CCC members, who toured the location and viewed the turbines internally and externally, as well as the sub-station/infrastructure. There were no joint CCC's held in the region.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Dust concerns during construction	Gravel roads and dry weather contributed to dust impacts from vehicles, however, were mitigated by the construction contractor.	The extra vehicle movements from construction contractors has ceased following the completion of the project.
Aviation Lighting	Aviation lighting continues to be the biggest concern of CCC members and the broader community. The National Wind Farm Commissioner recently hosted a meeting of stakeholders (DP&E, CASA, CEC, etc) to address this important issue.	A more consistent approach to aviation lighting requirements for wind turbines is being addressed. Sapphire Wind Farm is currently trialing a reduced candela & reduced lights.
Local employment opportunities	Where possible, local contractors were engaged and local residents employed by the project.	Employees remain contributing members of the community.
Visual Impacts	As is often the case with wind farms, visual impacts were raised. Some turbines were removed from the original approval to address concerns.	No further action.
Community Enhancement Fund	It is the CCC's opinion that the funds should be spent in the communities most affected by the project.	Regular briefings are provided at each CCC by delegates.

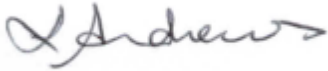
4. Focus for next 12 months

The focus for the next 12 months will be the aviation lighting trial, with the CCC members adamant that all lighting should be removed from the turbines. The Chair on behalf of the CCC will continue to lobby CASA to mitigate a satisfactory outcome for the community.

Due to the project's location, it has been agreed that CCC meetings will now be held permanently in Inverell. With construction of the development being completed and now operational, quarterly meetings should decrease to bi-annual meetings (subject to the aviation lighting issue being resolved).

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:	30 April 2019