

# Sapphire Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for 2023-2024

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Sapphire Wind Wind Farm CCC	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	June 2023 – July 2024
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Lisa Andrews</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>David Williamson</b>

## 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.

In late 2022 the project was purchased by Squadron Energy.

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

- Two local community representatives
- One Glen Innes Severn Council delegate
- One Inverell Shire Council delegate
- Two stakeholder group delegate (representing both the Inverell Business Chamber & Church Communities Australia)
- One stakeholder group representative (Business in Glen)
- A guest from Department of Regional NSW North West
- One host landholder; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

## 2. CCC activities over last 12 months

Over the past 12 months, the CCC met in June 2023 and June 2024 with members receiving presentations and updates from the proponent's representatives on:

- The operation and output from the project
- Management Plan Updates
- Environmental monitoring
- Annual and ongoing maintenance of the wind turbines, site roads and weed management
- Continued Improvement Modifications (ongoing)
- Bird and Bat Management (second phase)
- Power generation budgets
- Sapphire Solar Farm
- Community Enhancement Fund Program

- The CCC received a presentation by the Independent Chairperson on the Department of Planning’s revised guidelines for SSD CCCs; outlining the changes and providing an opportunity to reinforce the objectives of the CCC and role of members. The members of the CCC have developed a specific Terms of Reference for this committee as well as completed the necessary governance forms (Pecuniary Interest Declarations and Code of Conduct), which will be reviewed annually.

### Review of Effectiveness of the CCC

In accordance with the revised CCC guidelines, it is deemed that the CCC operates effectively. The proponent provides comprehensive presentations, ongoing notifications, timely responses to requests and completion of action items. There have been no concerns raised by CCC members.

As the project is now in its operational phase and therefore minimal concerns from the community, accordingly, CCC members agreed to reduce meetings to 1 per year.

The CCC is a successful forum between the community, the Council and the company. It fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines and whilst attendance has been low, it is consistent.

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

### 3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Outcome
<b>Community Enhancement Fund</b>	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.
<b>Proposed Solar and Battery Projects</b>	The solar farm has been approved by the Department of Planning. The project is still in pre-construction tendering process. The battery project is on hold during the organization design and strategy decision.	CCC to receive updates.
<b>Sale of Sapphire Wind Farm</b>	Members were advised that CWP Renewables were sold to Squadron Energy in late 2023.	Complete.
<b>New England Renewable Energy Zone</b>	The Department of Regional NSW North West provides members with updates on the propose Renewable Energy Zone in the New England region.	Ongoing

### 4. Focus for next 12 months

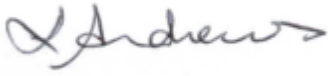
The project is fully operational and the main interest for members is the management of the Community Enhancement Fund. The CCC receives a full update on the program, including applications received and approved, types of projects and funding granted.

The proponent will continue to provide CCC members with a presentation on the operation of the Sapphire Wind Farm, including output, maintenance and environmental monitoring.

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.

*Note: At the 30 July 2024 CCC, the Independent Chairperson advised that she was stepping down from this committee and that a replacement Chair would be appointed by DPHI. The committee members were thanked for their support and contribution to their community over the past nine years whilst she chaired the meeting.*

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	30 July 2024