

# Coopers Gap Wind Farm

## Social Impact Management Report 2021/2022

July 2022



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## 1. Introduction

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The Coopers Gap Wind Farm Project (CGWF) is located at Cooranga North, approximately 50 kilometres (km) west of Kingaroy, 60 km northeast of Dalby and 250 km northwest of Brisbane. CGWF is located within the South Burnett and Western Downs Regional local government areas (LGAs).

When fully operational, CGWF will be one of the largest wind farms in Australia, with 123 wind turbines and a total installed capacity of up to 453 megawatts (MW). At full operation, CGWF will produce around 1,510,000 Megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable energy, equivalent to the requirements of approximately 264,000 average Australian homes. CGWF is connected to the Western Downs to Halys 275 kV transmission line which is owned and operated by Powerlink, and began generating electricity into the National Electricity Market on 24 June 2019.

CGWF is being developed and will operate in accordance with:

- its Material Change of Use (MCU) Development Approval, issued on 24 May 2017 by the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP); and
- Imposed Conditions provided by the Coordinator-General on 1 March 2017 as part of the project's approval as a 'coordinated project' under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act (1971) (SDPWO Act).

### 1.1 Project status

Preparation of the CGWF site commenced in September 2017 and construction commenced in January 2018. The first set of ten turbines commenced operation in July 2019, with successive sets of turbines being brought online as their construction was completed. Construction of all turbines was completed in April 2020.

As reported in the CGWF Social Impact Management Report (SIMR) for 2020/21, practical completion and commissioning of the wind farm was expected to be complete in December 2021. The commissioning and reliability testing phase has taken longer than expected, involving the need to replace one of the turbines, change out generators in 50 of the turbines and remediate gear boxes in turbines. Weather events also delayed the completion of works, whilst global logistics issues have affected access to parts.

Works are currently underway to finalise access roads and associated stormwater drainage, along with rehabilitation and revegetation works. Full operation is now expected in December 2022, and the construction contractors will demobilise from the site during December 2022.

AGL Energy (AGL) managed CGWF's construction on behalf of Powering Australian Renewable Fund (PowAR), which was delivered by a consortium comprising General Electric and Civil & Allied Technical Construction (GE/CATCON). PowAR merged with Tilt Renewables in 2021 and now operates under the name of Tilt Renewables (Tilt). Tilt is the owner of Coopers Gap Wind Farm.

AGL will operate Coopers Gap Wind Farm on behalf of Tilt, with General Electrical (GE) as the Operate & Maintain (O&M) contractor.

## 1.2 Purpose of this report

The Coordinator-General's Evaluation report for the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required the proponent to produce Social Impact Management Reports (SIMRs) to '*ensure the delivery of social and economic benefits and demonstrate how the proponent had addressed any community and stakeholder issues*'.

This is the fifth annual SIMR, and reports on the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 in accordance with the requirements of the Coordinator-General's Imposed Condition 1, which states:

*" (a) The proponent must provide an annual Social Impact Management Report (SIMR) for approval by the Coordinator-General for a period of five years on each anniversary of the commencement of construction.*

*(b) The SIMR must describe the strategies and actions implemented and the outcomes achieved:*

*(i) to inform, engage, consult, collaborate and negotiate with stakeholders and the community and to demonstrate that stakeholder and community concerns have been considered in making decisions to avoid, mitigate and manage social impacts (refer to Section 2);*

*(ii) to provide, local and regional employment, training and development opportunities and to mitigate and manage any project related impacts on the local labour markets (refer to Section 3);*

*(iii) to mitigate and manage project related impacts on the local and regional housing markets (refer to Section 4);*

*(iv) to mitigate and manage project related impacts on community health, safety and wellbeing (refer to Section 5).*

*The proponent must make the reports publicly available on its website promptly following approval by the Coordinator General<sup>1</sup>".*

This report was prepared by Elliott Whiteing Pty. Ltd. during May - August 2022 based on information provided by AGL and GE/Catcon. As the fifth SIMR for CGWF, this report completes fulfillment of the conditioned reporting requirements.

## 1.3 Report structure

From Section 1, the report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement: reporting on the project's engagement activities and how concerns have been considered in project planning and decision-making;
- Section 3 Local and Regional Employment, Training and Development: reporting on the project's employment and training strategies;
- Section 4 Housing and Accommodation: reporting on CGWF's housing and accommodation use, housing availability and affordability;
- Section 5 Community Health, Safety and Wellbeing: reporting on project commitments and

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<sup>1</sup> CG Evaluation Report, Condition 1

management strategies which address safety and wellbeing; and

- Section 6: Conclusion, which includes a summary of compliance with the project's SIMP and a summary of monitoring results.

#### 1.4 Key actions for 2021/22

The CGWF SIMR 2020/21 forecast key actions for the reporting period. Actions implemented during 2021/22 included:

- implementation of the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan during the completion of the project (construction and commissioning) phase;
- confirming the ramp-down of accommodation demands to WDRC, SBRC, real estate agents and short-term accommodation providers one month prior to the expected completion date (completed four months prior to the expected completion date);
- ongoing implementation of the CGWF Community Fund, including stakeholder consultation regarding community priorities via the CG Community Consultative Committee (CGCCC);
- implementation of AGL's Workforce Code of Conduct for operations;
- a continued focus on CGWF's workforce health and wellbeing;
- engagement with local and regional emergency service representatives, including a QPS, QAS and QFES site visit and discussion of emergency response procedures for operations;
- implementation of training strategies for operational personnel; and
- development of the Operations Emergency Response Plan and Emergency Response Procedure for operations.

Forecast actions which were not implemented included:

- recruitment of local people and people who will move to local communities, as no new recruits were required in the reporting period;
- additional cooperation with police and emergency services personnel, as there were no specific requirements for cooperation; and
- communication with WDRC and SBRC regarding emergency and disaster management, which will be addressed as part of consultation on the SIMP for operation.

Prolongation of the commissioning phase resulted in the deferral of development of the revised SIMP for operations, which was scheduled for completion before the commencement of full operations. The SIMP for operation is currently being drafted, and will involve consultation with Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC), South Burnett Regional Council (SBRC) and the CGCCC.

## 2. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

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This section summarises the actions undertaken to engage with stakeholders and the community, and demonstrates that the project team has considered stakeholder concerns in its decision-making processes.

### 2.1 Desired outcomes and priority actions

The desired outcomes from community and stakeholder engagement over the life of CGWF include:

- building community trust and pride in the CGWF through stakeholder engagement;
- providing a range of engagement opportunities tailored to different stakeholder needs and preferences;
- providing regular project information (including notification of key activities, timeframes, potential impacts and benefits) to interested and affected stakeholders;
- providing community consultation opportunities at different project stages and milestones; and
- proactive identification and response to community issues and concerns, including effective and efficient response to complaints.

Priority actions for 2021/2022 are discussed in Section 2.2 and included:

- landholder liaison, underpinned by AGL's Agreed Principles of Land Access (2014) and individual Landholder Access Management Plans (LAMPs);
- CGCCC operation;
- Council engagement on matters of interest including emergency management and disaster recovery;
- engagement with local and regional emergency services representatives;
- complaints management;
- mechanisms to address any emerging issues and information requests as part of the CGCCC and/or with concerned stakeholders;
- development of a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the operations phase, as part of a revised SIMP for operations, with completion due before full operations commence; and
- maintaining the CGWF Community Fund, as discussed in Section 5.6.

As noted above, development of a SIMP for the operations phase, including a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, was deferred due to delays in completing construction and commissioning works. Drafting of the SIMP for operations including a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan commenced in April 2022, and will be completed before the commencement of full operations, which is expected in December 2022.

The following subsections describe Community and Stakeholder Engagement activities and outcomes during the reporting period.

## 2.2 Engagement activities

AGL has continued to implement its Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project during 2021/2022. Key activities are discussed below.

### *Landholders*

AGL has established productive and cooperative working relationships with asset hosts (landholders who are hosting CGWF infrastructure) and neighbours to the wind farm. AGL's mechanisms for engagement with landholders include:

- encouraging direct contact by phone and email between landholders and AGL's Senior Project Manager Representative;
- implementation of tailored Landholder Access Management Plans with asset hosts;
- liaison via phone and face to face meetings with neighbouring and nearby landholders, as needed e.g. with respect to noise complaints;
- landholder representation on the Coopers Gap CCC (CGCCC); and
- general communication methods e.g. access to CGCCC minutes and the availability of AGL's stakeholder engagement personnel to discuss any questions or concerns.

Key areas of interest for landholders including asset hosts and neighbours during this reporting period included:

- the progress of construction and commissioning activities;
- noise (see Section 2.4); and
- reinstatement of property impacted during construction in accordance with individual agreements with landholders, e.g. gate maintenance and rehabilitation.

Two landholders (including one identified in the previous reporting period) contacted AGL about television reception, AGL responded by providing television technicians to remediate the issues being experienced.

### *Indigenous community members*

PARF (now known as Tilt) and AGL developed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) in 2018 in consultation with each of relevant Aboriginal Parties for the area, including the Wulli Wulli People #2, the Barunggam People and Western Wakka Wakka People (Team McLeod and Team Beattie). Local traditional owner representatives were engaged in Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys, which were completed in 2018. Cultural heritage issues have been managed in accordance with the CHMPs, and there has been no other active engagement with Traditional Owner groups during the reporting period.

### *Coopers Gap Community Consultative Committee (CGCCC)*

The CGCCC was established in May 2012 and has met regularly over the past nine years. The CGCCC is the key mechanisms to address any emerging issues and information requests along with engagement with landholders, and implementation of the complaints mechanism.

Three CCC meetings were held during the reporting period:

- 9 September 2021, with 14 participants;

- 21 December 2021, with 32 participants; and
- 24 May 2022, with 15 participants.

CGCCC presentations and meeting minutes are published online at: <https://www.agl.com.au/about-agl/how-we-source-energy/coopers-gap-wind-farm>.

Key areas of community and stakeholder interest identified by CGCCC members during this period have included:

- progress with investigations to facilitate improved mobile phone coverage in the local area;
- completion of the Niagara Road works with SBRC;
- SBRC progress on the proposed viewing platform; and
- involvement of community members in Community Fund governance.

CGCCC members' inputs and discussion points, and responses to members' inputs are summarised in Table 1.

In consultation between the CGWF team and the CGCCC, it was agreed that the CCC would move to six monthly meetings after the first three months of operations, at which point the membership of the CCC may also be reviewed.

**Table 1: CGCCC inputs and AGL responses**

Issue	Members' inputs /discussion points	Responses
<b>Meeting No. 38: 9 September 2021</b>		
Telecommunications	Status of investigation of mobile phone boosters	Feasibility study on the mobile tower has been completed, and AGL were assessing Telstra's approval.  Estimated timeframe for assessment and construction is 14 to 16 months. Feasibility has determined there will be good coverage with indicative map of potential service area suggesting 95% of the properties within the wind farm area will be covered as well as some peripheral areas outside the wind farm.
Construction update	Regular construction update  Members asked why there are blades on the ground	Niagara Road reworks were performed by Council and feedback from landholders is positive.  Blades are put on the ground for general upkeep and maintenance as the work much safer performed on the ground than at height.  Deconstruction of T10 has occurred. Traffic management plan is in place and they are conscious of the school bus run.  Landowners are satisfied with the clean-up of the deconstructed site.



Issue	Members' inputs /discussion points	Responses
Community benefit fund governance	Committee governance with the increased value of the community fund	Recommendation is to maintain the current standard community governance model but add an additional member preferably from the Kumbia area.  Committee has been through the process of publicly seeking applications for new members, so it is now at the discretion of the existing committee and AGL to bring on a new member.
Community funding	Regular update on community funding	AGL completed round eight of the community fund, with 12 projects being awarded a combined value of roughly \$26,000. Fund now moves to two rounds annually of approximately \$50,000 each.
Viewing platform (SBRC initiative)	SBRC provided an update on the viewing platform	SBRC has identified a location at the top of Niagara Road and has consulted community members and neighbours in that area. Issues to be managed include the length of stop overs, rubbish, and entry and access into the site, to develop a proposal for funding under the 'Works for Queensland' grant program. Signage is also required for safety reasons and has been incorporated into the project scope.
Community engagement	Update on CCC structure and meeting frequency	An agenda item will be added for the next meeting to discuss ongoing committee structure and regularity of meetings as the project transitions to operations.
<b>Meeting No. 39: 21 December 2021</b>		
Construction update	Regular construction update	Weather events have delayed the completion of construction which is now expected in the new year (2022).
	Gates were still being left open	This will be addressed with staff at the next pre-start meeting. It was also noted that gate movements will reduce with the end of construction.
	Plan to update gates etc post construction	This has been scheduled and will be done throughout the wind farm.
Community funding	Update provided	The committee completed its first round of funding under the increased fund of \$100,000 p/a. There were 18 projects funded over a large regional spread.
Community fund governance	Update	The committee has introduced a new member from Kumbia which provides fair representation across the region.  CGCCC may look to change the governance rules that currently cap projects at \$3,000 to allow for larger projects. The committee is investigating the possibility of

Issue	Members' inputs /discussion points	Responses
		utilising a grants writer as co-contribution grants would allow funds to go further.
Telecommunications	Status of investigation of mobile phone boosters	After completing a feasibility study, Telstra has recently advised that the location selected is not suitable. Telstra will return to site to locate alternate locations. There is funding allocated in the budget for the tower construction.
	Previous suggestion that the community funds be accessed to provide mobile boosters as an alternative	Committee advised that access to the community fund would have to go through the application process. AGL would be inclined to wait for confirmation on the construction of the tower.
Viewing platform (SBRC initiative)	Status of viewing platform progress	With no SBRC representative in attendance, an update from SBRC on the progress was deferred.
<b>Meeting No. 40: 24 May 2022</b>		
Construction	Update provided	Crane works had been completed, and final works and testing were underway, with completion expected in August or September 2022.
	Potholes on Niagara Road	GE will be repairing the potholes on Niagara Road within the next few weeks.
Operating entity	Update provided	AGL advise that following commercial arrangements between PowAR and Tilt, Tilt is now the entity operating Coopers Gap Wind Farm. Tilt's Manager confirmed no changes for CGWF and the importance of developing a long term relationship with the community.  An update on the proposed demerger of AGL was also provided.
Viewing platform (SBRC initiative)	SBRC and CCC members provided update	SBRC is still confirming a suitable location for the viewing platform. Key issues include visitor expectations of a viewing platform, rubbish management and access on and off the Bunya Highway. SBRC is seeking WDRC support for the project and cooperation regarding highway signage. AGL support to provide interpretive signage would also be sought. A 3 to 4 year timeframe is required to develop a tourism opportunity. Project to be renamed 'Viewing and Turn Around Area'.  The opportunity for a decommissioned blade to be included in the viewing area was identified by a community member. AGL will notify the CCC if a blade becomes available and discussions will be initiated about how that can be safely displayed for educative purposes.

Issue	Members' inputs /discussion points	Responses
Community Fund	Update provided	\$100,000 per annum is now available through the Community Fund, with two fund rounds per year. Funding has been provided to a range of community groups (see Section 5.6).
Telecommunications	Update provided Question regarding in-home signal boosters	The mobile phone tower project has been delayed due to Telstra's restructure. The site selected by Telstra proved to be unsuitable. AGL is committed to assisting with the tower and is continuing to pursue the matter with Telstra.  AGL has committed funding to the mobile phone tower but not to subsidising the installation costs of in-home signal boosters. Meeting determined that it was better to wait for the Telstra tower to gain broad coverage for the community.
CCC	Meeting frequency	By agreement with CCC members, meetings will now be six monthly.

### ***Community members***

The CGCCC is the primary vehicle for community engagement, with community members welcome to attend all meetings. Community members also have access to AGL's online community engagement tools to raise issues or questions regarding CGWF.

AGL has not produced newsletters or media releases of direct relevance to CGWF during the reporting period, but provides community updates through the CGCCC and through dissemination of CCC minutes and presentations on the Cooper Gap webpage. Upon completion of construction and commissioning, AGL will produce and make available a newsletter to update the community about CGWF's commissioning, promote the Community Fund, and provide contact details for CGWF personnel for any enquiries, including access to the complaints management mechanism.

CGWF conducted one site tour during 2021/2022, attended by two community members. An Operations Open Day may be held when commissioning is complete.

The CGWF project team attend and support a range of local community events and work closely with the CGCCC to provide funding support for local projects via the Community Fund. AGL has engaged 43 community groups in the Community Fund process during the reporting period, with 23 grant applications funded over two rounds (see Section 5.6).

Key issues raised by community members during interactions with CGWF team members during the reporting period included:

- interest in the project's progress;
- interest in and appreciation for AGL's Community Fund; and
- mobile reception and progress with the mobile phone tower.

### ***Local Governments***

As the construction and commissioning phase draws to a close, there has been less need for consultation with WDRC and SBRC during the reporting period. Consultation has included:

- representation of both Councils on the CGCCC;
- correspondence with SBRC regarding the completion of Niagara Road works; and
- discussions with Councils regarding CGWF's leases over SBRC- and WDRC-owned land.

The two Councils have been advised of the expected date for completion of the construction and commissioning phase, through the May 2022 CGCCC meeting.

Councils' interests include SBRC interest in tourism opportunities in South Burnett LGA (including the SBRC's proposed viewing area at Niagara Road) and continued local employment and business opportunities for local residents.

As noted in Section 1.4, AGL will consult with WDRC, SBRC and the CGCCC, as part of developing the SIMP for operations. This will include consultation on:

- how Councils would like to be involved in consultation during operations;
- priorities for community investment through the Community Fund; and
- emergency and disaster management procedures.

### ***State Government***

The CGWF project team provides an annual SIM report to the Office of the Coordinator-General and other updates on request.

Other issues are discussed with the Department of Resources and Energy on an as-needed basis.

### ***Health and emergency services***

Five regional QAS, QFES and QPS officers visited the CGWF site in May 2022 for site orientation and to discuss and provide feedback on emergency management procedures. Liaison with health services has not been required during the reporting period.

### ***Business and industry***

GE/CATCON continues to welcome expressions of interest and capability statements to [coopergapWF@catcon.com.au](mailto:coopergapWF@catcon.com.au). With construction activities completed, there have been no contracts awarded through ICN during the reporting period

AGL is a Gold member of the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE), assisting to raise the profile of AGL in the region and facilitate project engagement with local industry and employment suppliers. AGL is also a member of the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce, facilitating engagement with local businesses.

CGWF is currently engaging 12 local businesses who supply the project, which has supported local employment opportunities and developed local companies' capacity to respond to the requirements of working on large scale projects.

### Aviation stakeholders

GE/CATCON provided regular updates to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) as meteorological masts and wind turbines were erected. A final update on the location of the wind farm’s infrastructure has been provided to CASA. Interactions with CASA are not expected to be required during CGWF operations.

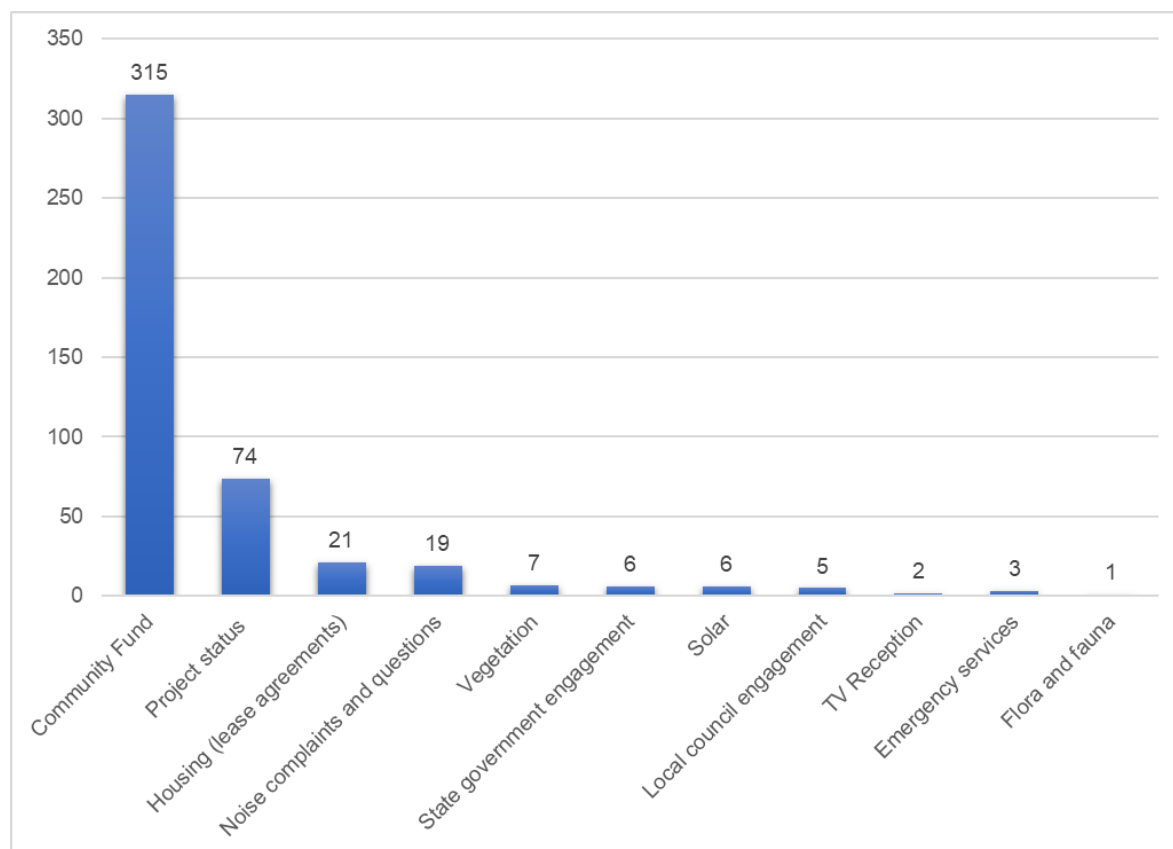
### Housing and accommodation providers

Rental agreements for local housing used by project personnel include provision for six weeks’ notice of the end of the tenancy. Real estate agents and short-term accommodation providers were made aware of the projected date for commissioning and cessation of use of housing and accommodation. All dwellings that were rented by GE/Catcon to accommodate non-local personnel have now been released to the market.

## 2.3 Outcomes of stakeholder engagement

As discussed in preceding subsections, AGL communicates with stakeholders via a range of means. Figure 1 presents a breakdown of the key issues raised during stakeholder interactions via emails, letters, phone discussions and face-to face meetings. A total of 459 stakeholder interactions were recorded during 2021/2022. Figure 1 shows the key issues raised, as discussed below.

**Figure 1: Stakeholder Issues 2020/21**



### ***Community fund***

Enquiries and discussions about Community Fund applications represented 69 percent of interactions. This included how to apply, eligibility for funding, progress with applications and outcomes of the grant rounds.

During the reporting period AGL delivered two rounds of Community Fund investment (September 2021 and March 2022), supporting a range of community, sporting, education, civic, emergency services, cultural and business organisations in the project region, as discussed in Section 5.6.

### ***Project status***

The status of construction activities and forecast date for the project's completion and operation have been of ongoing interest to landholders and other stakeholders, and were the key topic for 16 percent of interactions. In particular, stakeholders were interested in when specific works such as the Niagara Road works will be finished, and when commissioning would be complete. As described in Section 2.2, AGL has communicated project progress through the CGCCC and individual meetings with stakeholders to ensure interested stakeholders are kept informed.

### ***Housing***

Interactions with housing and accommodation stakeholders represented 5 percent of interactions, including advice regarding the completion of construction and ending of lease and short-term accommodation arrangements. Housing and accommodation are further discussed in Section 4.

### ***Noise***

There were 19 interactions regarding noise, including 17 noise complaints made by one stakeholder and questions about noise raised by two stakeholders, representing 4 percent of interactions. This is further discussed in Section 2.4.

### ***State and local government agency engagement***

AGL had a total of 11 interactions with State and local government agencies ranging from formal reporting mechanisms, consultation with departments on specific requirements, and provision of project updates. This accounted for 2.0 percent of total interactions. There were also three interactions with QFES, QAS and QPS regarding emergency management procedures.

### ***Other issues***

Other issues raised in stakeholder interactions which comprised less than 2 percent each of total interactions included:

- vegetation, with seven interactions involving discussion related primarily to seeding, weed spraying, and rehabilitation of land disturbed by the project;
- six enquiries about the Coopers Gap Solar Program which was offered to non-participating landholders within a 2 km radius of the wind farm and was completed in 2019;
- two enquiries about television reception related to the possibility of interference from the wind farm; and
- flora and fauna, with one enquiry received.

## 2.4 Complaints management

Tilt is committed to maximising community and stakeholder satisfaction through effective and efficient response to complaints. AGL, as Tilt's agent, actively promotes CGWF's complaints process and project feedback mechanisms, and publishes its Complaints Management Policy on the AGL website.

AGL manages all complaints and feedback received in line with the AGL Community Complaints & Feedback Policy. AGL communicates relevant information about complaints to GE in accordance with their internal communication procedures.

GE's reporting procedure incorporates a register in which information pertaining to all complaints received is compiled. This includes information about how complaints have been addressed, whether a resolution was reached and if mediation was required.

The community has access to a 24-hour telephone number and postal and email addresses through which enquiries and complaints are recorded, registered and forwarded to the appropriate personnel for a response, as shown below.

Channel	Contact details
AGL Community Complaints & Enquiries Hotline	1800 039 600
Email	AGLCommunity@agl.com.au
Mail	AGL Community Complaints & Enquiries Locked Bag 3013, Australia Square NSW 1215

During the reporting period, the project had seventeen complaints from one landholder regarding noise from turbine operation. Resolution of the complaint involved multiple interactions between AGL and the landholder. AGL engaged an independent noise consultant who conducted monitoring at the complainant's property over a six-week period, and provided the results of the monitoring to the complainant. The noise monitoring indicated that CGWF's noise levels are within noise criteria and comply with the project's environmental approval. As at June 2022, no complaints had been received for approximately three months.

No other complaints were received during the reporting period.

## 2.5 Monitoring results

The desired outcomes for community engagement and the status of those outcomes are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Monitoring results - Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
Building community trust and pride in the CGWF	Landholder, CGCCC and Council feedback regarding CGWF engagement	Consultation records, CCC minutes	AGL and its contractors have maintained positive relationships with community members and stakeholders including WDRC and SBRC.

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
			<p>One landholder may remain dissatisfied with the audibility of noise from wind turbines.</p> <p>AGL requested feedback from the CGCCC including Council representatives regarding the frequency of CCC meetings.</p>
	Community attendance and participation in project milestone events	Project event statistics	There were no CGWF community events held in the reporting period.
Regular project information to interested and affected stakeholders	Timely and clear information (including notification of key activities, timeframes, potential impacts and benefits) provided in project communications	Project records including CGCCC minutes	<p>AGL publishes its update presentations to the CGCCC and CGCCC meeting minutes on its website for community review. Community members are also welcome to attend CGCCC meetings.</p> <p>There have been no activities affecting community members which would require specific information provision.</p>
Providing community consultation opportunities at different project stages and milestones	<p>Consultation opportunities are scheduled for each project stage and at relevant milestones.</p> <p>Opportunities are well promoted to interested and affected stakeholders</p>	<p>Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan</p> <p>Communications collateral</p>	<p>AGL has maintained the CGCCC throughout the construction period. By agreement with CGCCC members, meetings will be held six monthly going forward. The need for the CGCCC's ongoing operation will be reviewed in cooperation with the CCC after the first twelve months of operations.</p> <p>The CCC is involved in assessing and recommending Community Fund grants.</p> <p>A newsletter is planned to advise community members of the project's commissioning and promote the Community Fund. An Open Day may also be held when commissioning is complete.</p>
Proactive identification and response to community issues and concerns, including effective and efficient	Regular monitoring of project consultation activities to anticipate and address community issues and concerns	Consultation records and issue reports	<p>AGL is continuing to pursue discussions with Telstra regarding the construction of a mobile phone tower at Cooranga North to improve local reception.</p> <p>AGL provided independent noise monitoring in response to the only</p>



Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
response to complaints.			complainant. This demonstrated compliance with the project's conditions of approval.

## 2.6 Forward Plan

AGL is currently updating the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the operational phase, with completion due before full operations commence around the end of 2022. This includes reviewing the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement to date and the need for ongoing consultative mechanisms in cooperation with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC. The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will form part of the revised SIMP for operations and will address:

- landholder liaison, underpinned by AGL's Agreed Principles of Land Access (2014) and individual Landholder Access Management Plans (LAMPs);
- CGWF operation, including accessible information about wind farms and how they operate, planning and management documentation, and compliance reporting;
- how community members will be notified about land access requirements and major repair/maintenance activities;
- Council engagement on matters of interest including emergency management and disaster recovery;
- engagement with QPS and QFES as agreed with these agencies, including their involvement in reviewing Emergency Response Plans, and the emergency notification procedure (as per the Emergency Response Plan) if landholders would potentially be impacted by site emergencies;
- general communication methods to provide information to stakeholders and community members;
- mechanisms to address any emerging issues and information requests as part of the CGCCC and/or with concerned stakeholders;
- complaints management; and
- maintaining the CGWF Community Fund, including engagement with the SBRC and WDRC and community members on community investment priorities.

WDRC, SBRC and the CGCCC will be invited to provide feedback on the draft Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

The project website (<https://www.agl.com.au/about-agl/how-we-source-energy/coopers-gap-wind-farm>) will be maintained and updated throughout the operational phase by AGL, to provide current information to the community, including:

- status of the project;
- copies of regulatory documents, for example, the EIS;
- a copy of the development approval and any licences or permits;
- management plans, company policy, guidelines and other relevant documents;

- compliance reporting; and
- the contact details for enquiries and complaints.

The Coopers Gap Community Fund of \$100,000 per annum will be provided to September 2025, with the objective to broaden the environmental and community benefits of the wind farm within the local Western Downs and South Burnett communities. AGL has established and convenes the CGCCC panel which administers the Community Fund.

A Community Fund of \$30,000 per annum will be made available during the subsequent 20 year (approximate) operational phase.

### 3. Employment, Training and Development

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This section summarises the status of employment, training and development actions undertaken to provide local and regional employment, training and development opportunities, and mitigate and manage any project-related impacts on local labour markets.

With a modestly sized construction workforce (see below) including a combination of local personnel and specialist personnel from other areas, impacts on local labour markets have been shared between several LGAs, minimising impacts on local labour markets.

#### 3.1 Desired outcomes and priority actions

The desired outcomes for employment, training and development are:

- at least half of the CGWF workforce are local hires;
- project employment and supply opportunities are well promoted locally and through local stakeholders;
- increased opportunities for local Indigenous stakeholders to participate in the project and local business enterprise;
- demonstrable benefits to local community members from increased access to up-skilling and training opportunities; and
- Australian entities have full, fair and reasonable opportunity to bid for the supply of key goods or services for the project and, if applicable, initial operation of the facility.

Priority actions for 2020/21 included:

- a continued focus on employment of local residents or people who will move to the region to fill any permanent vacancies;
- implementation of training strategies for operational personnel; and
- wherever possible, sourcing goods, services and contract labour from GE's established local network of business within the South Burnett and Western Downs LGA.

## 3.2 Construction and commissioning employment

CGWF's construction and commissioning personnel include electrical, safety and trades workers, and specialist technicians. The number of workers changed during the reporting period according to the works being undertaken.

During 2021/2022, an average of 22 and a peak of 32 construction personnel were employed. Of the 32 personnel, 10 were local residents and 22 were from outside the project region. There were no identified Indigenous people employed during the reporting period.

As at June 2022, approximately 30 construction personnel including approximately 20 non-local personnel were on site for the completion of works. Practical completion and commissioning of the facility is expected in December 2022, with GE/CATCON demobilising from the site.

## 3.3 Operational employment

CGWF employs 12 full-time employees to service the wind farm and manage its operations, all of whom are local residents (living in the South Burnett or Western Downs LGAs). Operational personnel include the site manager, lead technician, technicians, an engineer, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) advisor and a store person. This level of employment and the commitment to local employment will be maintained for the operational period.

Operational recruitment was completed in 2020. No further recruitment was required during 2021/2022. The CGWF webpage will continue to provide a link to GE information on the availability of operational roles.

Commissioning and testing works also involved the employment of nine services contractors during 2021/2022. On average, there were four local and five non-local sub-contractors undertaking operational works during the reporting period, including specialist electrical work, work at heights and confined space entry works.

It is likely that for periods of time during operations, additional subcontractor personnel will be required (e.g. for maintenance campaigns). GE will seek to utilise sub-contractors from their established local network of electrical, painting and machine maintenance services. Non-local subcontractor personnel may also be required due to the specialist nature of works and/or work certification requirements. For the purpose of estimating any future occasional usage of accommodation (see Section 4.2), up to ten non-local subcontractors has been assumed to be required on an occasional basis.

## 3.4 Training and development

CGWF employed two electrical apprentices in wind farm services during the reporting period. As construction activity was substantially complete by September 2020, additional training and apprenticeships in construction were not possible.

All personnel and contractors are required to attend a General Site Induction, which includes information about the OEMP and their obligation to prevent, minimise, mitigate and report environmental impacts. Cultural heritage awareness and environmental requirements are included in the Site Induction.

CGWF operational personnel are provided with regular training to support the delivery of their roles and the safe management of CGWF. Training for CGWF personnel is implemented in accordance with GE's EHS Training Management Procedure which establishes the process for identifying training requirements, planning, the delivery of training and evaluation of training activities.

GE/CATCON ensures that appropriate and compliant training is provided to all personnel and contractors, and that training is reviewed and updated as required, to reflect current statutory obligations and internal policy. Training is generally prepared and delivered by GE's EHS Team or the wind farm Site Manager. During 2021/22, this included Global Wind Organisation (GWO) Basic Safety Training and GWO Advanced Rescue Training.

Additional, role-specific and/or targeted training is provided to personnel undertaking work tasks that present a risk of environmental harm and those identified as having specific authority or responsibilities for environmental management. This training is generally prepared and delivered by GE's EHS team or the Site Manager.

EHS Toolbox meetings are attended by all site personnel, and are held at least monthly to provide a forum to discuss EHS issues and opportunities for improvement, share EHS innovations or initiatives, and provide refresher training in relevant EHS topics. Access to information about mental health and wellbeing is also provided.

### 3.5 Local supply opportunities

AGL and GE/Catcon established their local supply arrangements in 2018-19, including ongoing engagement with employment and labour hire companies, implementation of the project's Australian Industry Participation (AIP) Plan, and publishing all project supply opportunities on the ICN Gateway (which is no longer relevant, as there have been no additional construction contracts required).

During 2020/21, GE/CATCON let 15 contracts for consumables, services and equipment. This involved 10 local businesses (within the South Burnett and Western Downs LGAs) in supply to CGWF, including businesses supplying cleaning, cramage, water supply and waste removal, safety supplies, freight, labour, fuel supply, generator and caravan hire. This was a decrease from the twelve local businesses who supplied CGWF during 2020/2021, reflecting the overall decline in procurement requirements as the wind farm reaches its completion. Non-local suppliers included environmental monitoring, tooling and parts, freight, labour and cramage suppliers under AGL's nationally accredited supplier program.

The value of CGWF's expenditure with businesses in the South Burnett and Western Downs LGAs during 2020/21 was approximately \$11.4 million, down on the \$24.5 million spent in 2020/2021, reflecting the overall decline in procurement requirements.

An additional \$360,000 was spent with businesses in the Toowoomba region during the reporting period, an increase from the \$150,000 spent in the Toowoomba region during 2020/21.

Wherever possible during the operational phase, GE will source goods, services and contract labour from their established local network of business, which includes electrical, painting and machine maintenance services, cleaning services, catering and hospitality services, and accommodation providers.

### 3.6 Monitoring results

Table 3 summarises the desired outcomes and status of outcomes for employment, training and development.

**Table 3: Monitoring results - Employment, training and development**

Desired Outcomes	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
At least half of the CGWF workforce are local hires	Employees by postcode / by LGA	Project employment and contractual records	The project's construction and commissioning workforce included an average of approximately 31 percent local personnel over the reporting period.  The operations team are all local residents.
Project employment and supply opportunities are well promoted locally and through local stakeholders	Implementation of the AIPP communication strategy	Procurement communications and engagement records	Operational recruitment was substantially complete in 2019/20.  Ten local businesses were involved in supply to CGWF during the reporting period (down from 12 local businesses in 2020/2021)  Expenditure of more than \$11,760,000 with businesses located in the South Burnett, Western Downs and Toowoomba LGAs was achieved during the reporting period.
Increased opportunities for local Indigenous stakeholders to participate in the project and local business enterprise	Indigenous personnel employed and Indigenous businesses engaged	HR records	There were no identified Indigenous people employed during the reporting period.
Demonstrable benefits to local community members from increased access to up-skilling and training opportunities	Local community members access upskilling and training opportunities associated with CGWF	Project records	Ongoing on-site training and development have been provided during the reporting period.
Australian entities have full, fair and reasonable opportunity to bid for the supply of key goods or services for the project and, if applicable, initial operation of the facility	Implementation of AIP Plan commitments to equitable promotion of project supply opportunities	Procurement communications and engagement records  AIP Compliance Report	The project has advanced and is close to completion, hence most of the major procurement activities were completed in prior reporting periods.

### 3.7 Forward plan

Priority actions to be implemented by GE/CATCON and AGL during operations include:

- a continued focus on employment of local residents or people who will move to the region to fill any permanent vacancies;
- implementation of training strategies for operational personnel; and
- wherever possible, sourcing goods, services and contract labour from GE's established local network of business within the South Burnett and Western Downs LGA.

Any vacancies will be advertised via a link to GE's recruitment page on CGWF's website, with interested local people encouraged to monitor this site.

## 4. Housing and Accommodation

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This section summarises the actions undertaken to mitigate and manage project-related impacts on the local and regional housing markets.

### 4.1 Desired outcomes and priority actions

The desired outcome for the CGWF is for there to be no significant impact on local housing and accommodation availability during its construction and operation. To mitigate and manage project-related impacts on local and regional housing markets, the project established a Housing and Accommodation Action Plan (HAAP) in January 2018, developed in consultation with the relevant Councils.

Anticipating the completion of the construction and commissioning phase, the key action identified for 2020/21 was confirming the likely ramp-down of accommodation demands to WDRC, SBRC, real estate agents and short-term accommodation providers one month prior to the expected completion date. This had occurred by May 2022.

### 4.2 Housing use

As at May 2022, there were 22 non-local construction/commissioning personnel staying locally whilst rostered on. This was down from the 109 non-local personnel who were staying locally as at May 2021.

During the reporting period, project personnel were accommodated between eight houses in Dalby and four in Kingaroy. Use was also made of two caravan units in Kingaroy and two motel rooms in Dalby. This was a decrease from the 19 rental dwellings and 12 short term accommodation units used by the project during 2020/2021.

As at June 2022, the availability of rental housing in Postcode 4610 (Kingaroy/Kumbia/Cooranga North) and Postcode 4405 (Dalby) was very low, with rental vacancy rates of 0.3 percent in both areas and approximately 11 rental dwellings available, down from approximately 20 dwellings across these two postcodes in May 2021. As a consequence of increased demand, the average weekly rental cost increased by 30.4 percent in the Kingaroy/Kumbia postcode and by 4.6 percent in the Dalby postcode in the year to 30 June 2022 (see Table 4). The decline in local housing availability is

in line with a national trend of reduced rental vacancies in regional towns during 2020-2022, as the result of a drift of new residents from larger centres to regional towns.

**Table 4: Rental dwelling use, availability and cost, June 2022**

Postcode	Dwellings rented by project	Rental dwellings available	Rental vacancy rate	1 year rental cost change (houses)
4610 - Kingaroy, Kumbia Cooranga North	0	7	0.3%	30.4%
4405 -Dalby	0	4	0.3%	4.6%
Total	0	65	-	-

Source: SQMRResearch. June 2022

In response to the very low rental vacancy rates being experienced in the South Burnett and Western Downs region (in common with many other regional areas), the project had ceased use of rental housing by June 2022, and will rely on short-term accommodation in the region to accommodate non-local personnel during the remainder of the construction and commissioning period. On average, approximately 20 non-local personnel may require accommodation between June and October 2022. Accommodation providers have indicated that this is well within their capacity, and they welcome the trade.

Operations personnel all live locally, with no further uptake of either rental dwellings or purchased dwellings during the reporting period.

At June 2022 there were 235 dwellings in Postcode 4610 and 294 dwellings in Postcode 4405 that were available for purchase, or a total of 529 dwellings (SQM Research, June 2022<sup>2</sup>). This was a decrease from the 782 dwellings available for purchase in May 2021. There is potential for a small number of operational personnel to convert from rental housing to home ownership during the next reporting period, however in the context of current availability, this would not have any negative effect on other residents' access to housing.

### 4.3 Short term accommodation

The project's use of caravan units and motel rooms in Kingaroy and Dalby (an average of four units of accommodation during 2021/2022) has been of value to local accommodation providers.

Between June and September 2022, approximately 20 non-local personnel are expected to require accommodation in the project region. Sharing the demand between five motels in Kingaroy and nine motels in Dalby, this will be well within the capacity of local accommodation providers.

If non-local subcontractors are required during operations e.g. for maintenance campaigns, and assuming up to 10 short-term non-local subcontractors, any future occasional usage of accommodation is also likely to be appreciated by local accommodation providers. Occasional

<sup>2</sup> Available at [sqmresearch.com.au](http://sqmresearch.com.au)

demands from subcontractors are unlikely to have an impact on the availability of local tourism accommodation.

#### 4.4 Monitoring results

Table 5 summarises the desired outcomes and status of outcomes for housing and accommodation.

**Table 5: Monitoring results - Housing and accommodation**

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
No significant impact on local housing and accommodation as result of the project.	Change in rental availability and affordability (median rent, stock and vacancy rate) - Nanango, Dalby, Jandowae, Kingaroy postcode areas	SQM Research data	Rental vacancy rates have decreased over the past year in towns accommodating CGWF personnel, due to market factors.  The completion of the construction and commissioning phase has seen approximately 19 rental dwellings released to the market since June 2021, including 12 dwellings during the first half of 2022.
	Change in property sales (median and stock) - Nanango, Dalby, Jandowae, Kingaroy postcode areas	SQM Research and consultation with Council	Changes in the availability of housing for purchase are not attributable to the project.  Operational personnel are expected to make minimal demands on local housing stock with potential for a small number of households who are currently renting to convert to purchased housing.

#### 4.5 Forward Plan

AGL had advised stakeholders including SBRC, WDRC, real estate agents and short-term accommodation suppliers of the likely date for completion of construction and commissioning during 2020/2021, and updated this advice throughout the first half of 2022.

Operations personnel live locally, renting or purchasing their housing. With the potential for very small incremental changes in housing demand related to occasional staff vacancies, any future housing demand would be well within existing capacity.

Requirements for short-term accommodation would be limited to occasional requirements for an estimated 10 non-local subcontractors, which in the context of supply in the Western Downs and South Burnett LGAs is not expected to have a significant impact on the availability of accommodation for other users. No future housing management requirements are foreseen.



## 5. Community Health, Safety and Wellbeing

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This section summarises the actions undertaken to address concerns about community health, wellbeing and safety, including integration or relevant environmental management plans.

### 5.1 Desired outcomes and priority actions

The desired outcomes of the CGWF's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan are:

- no reduction in community health or safety characteristics as a result of CGWF;
- responsive engagement with health, community and emergency service providers to address potential service delivery issues;
- responsive engagement with local residents to address potential nuisance impacts associated with CGWF; and
- contributions to enhancements in quality of life for local residents.

Key actions planned for 2021/2022 included:

- revision and implementation of the CGWF Community Engagement Plan, including engagement with local landholders and neighbours;
- communication with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC regarding SIMP revision;
- engagement with local and regional emergency service representatives on an as-needed basis;
- communication with the WDRC and SBRC regarding emergency and disaster management; and
- maintaining the CGWF Community Fund, including engagement with community members and SBRC and WDRC on funding priorities (see 5.6).

These are discussed below. As noted in Section 2.2, emergency response plans for operations and disaster management preparedness were also prepared during 2021/2022.

AGL has also worked with the CGCCC to involve them in reviewing and selecting Community Fund grant applications, and to agree the frequency of CCC meetings.

### 5.2 Community amenity

Management mechanisms to achieve the desired outcomes include:

- management of nuisance activities, including associated controls measures for air quality, noise and electromagnetic interference, underpinned by timely and responsive engagement;
- mitigation of risks to community health, safety and wellbeing, including associated procedures for workforce management, weed and pest management, traffic management and emergency management;
- a range of communication and engagement mechanisms and commitments to support responsive and adaptive management; and

- a range of community investment and partnership initiatives to enhance quality of life for local residents.

As discussed in Section 2.4, noise complaints were received from one landholder in 2021/2022, which appears to have been resolved through the provision of independent noise monitoring which demonstrated CGWF's compliance with noise standards and the project's conditions of approval. Final noise monitoring studies will be performed by GE at three and nine months after practical completion.

### 5.3 Community health and safety

Environmental management which protects community health and safety is supported by the implementation of the project's Community Engagement Plan and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), including the following sub-plans:

- Pest and Weed Management Plan (which includes provisions for mosquito management);
- Noise Management Plan (which includes provisions for noise and vibration monitoring and management);
- Emergency Response Plan;
- Bushfire Risk Management Plan;
- Traffic Management Plan; and
- Transport Communication Plan.

Implementation of these plans during 2021/2022 has ensured that the project has avoided the potential for impacts on community health and safety.

As noted in Section 2.3, AGL and SBRC cooperated to deliver an upgrade of Niagara Road, providing a safer road connection for local residents and visitors, with completion early in the reporting period.

In response to CGCCC members concerns regarding the safety of motorists who pull off Niagara Road (a SBRC-owned road) to view the wind farm, SBRC has progressed planning for a viewing area.

The project's wind turbine layout was designed to ensure compliance with the separation distance requirements for host and non-host lots (1,500 metres) prescribed in the wind farm state code, and separation distances also align with the advice on wind farms issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council. As noted in Section 5.2, independent noise monitoring confirmed that the wind farm was compliant with its conditions of approval.

GE has prepared an Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) which describes the environmental management measures to be implemented throughout the operational phase of CGWF. The OEMP is supported by a number of sub plans, including a Noise Compliance Plan (NCP) which identifies operational activities that generate noise and outlines the management measures required to mitigate impacts and ensure compliance with the relevant conditions of approval.

GE is required to undertake noise monitoring in accordance with the approved Noise Monitoring Plan. No later than 12 months of the wind farm commencing operation, and as agreed with DSDILGP, the proponent must submit to DSDILGP a noise monitoring report prepared by a suitably qualified acoustic consultant outlining the results of the operational noise monitoring. At 12 months following

the wind farm being fully operational the proponent must submit to DSDILGP an operational strategy outlining any necessary operating measures / regime to ensure the wind farm complies with the criteria of the Wind farm state code.

Operational noise monitoring will be undertaken twice within the first 12 months of the wind farm becoming fully operational, within the first three months and again nine months from the date of the first monitoring event. All noise monitoring will be undertaken by a suitably qualified acoustic consultant with relevant experience.

#### 5.4 Workforce health and safety

AGL is a member of Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE) which supports the 'Mates in Construction' mental health network, and is a blueprint partner with Mates in Construction, committed to implementation of key measures for better mental health for AGL personnel. There were two Mates in Construction events held during the reporting period. GE also has access to a range of Occupational Health professionals via Site Supervisors/GE Renewable Energy ANZ EHS Advisors.

GE provides appropriate first aid equipment and ensures appropriately trained personnel are available on each shift based on the First Aid Risk assessment for the site. Resources necessary to respond to emergencies are available and accessible, for example rescue equipment, a chemical response kit and fire-fighting equipment.

All personnel, including subcontractors, participate in the site alcohol and drug testing program including daily breath alcohol testing and random drug testing.

CGWF has a COVID-19 management plan, which encompasses revised working protocols e.g. social distancing measures, hygiene measures and consistent and regular communication with all personnel about COVID-19 management measures. This is implemented to protect workers' health and safety but also to protect local communities from virus transmission. These measures will be ongoing as guided by Queensland Health's advice.

AGL's Workforce Code of Conduct applies to personnel engaged in the construction and commissioning phase, and will apply to all personnel during CGWF's operations phase.

#### 5.5 Emergency management

An Emergency Response Plan has been developed to cover the designated actions to be taken to ensure the safety of employees, contractors, visitors, the protection of the environment and the protection and restoration of site operations in the event of an emergency. It includes:

- Incident Management Structure (IMS) is designed to take charge and manage any emergency situation affecting site to include e.g. natural disasters, civil unrest, bomb threats or explosions, fire, etc;
- Incident Response Program (including roles and responsibilities);
- Evacuation Plan; and
- emergency scenarios

Engagement with QPS, QAS and QFES during 2021/2022 included a site visit and discussion of emergency response procedures. The Emergency Response Plan includes calling the QFES, QAS and/or QPS as relevant in the event of a fire or other emergency on site.

Copies of the Emergency Response Plan will be distributed to the QFES, QAS, QPS, local emergency response committee and Councils prior to completion of the commissioning stage. Any feedback from these stakeholders will be considered in regular reviews of the Emergency Response Plan.

Prior to the completion of the commissioning phase, GE will also engage with the Western Downs and South Burnett Regional Councils regarding the process for cooperation with the Western Downs and South Burnett Local Government Disaster Management Groups for the operations phase.

## 5.6 Contributions to quality of life

Community initiatives identified and implemented in consultation with community members are outlined below.

### *Support for community development*

During 2021/2022 AGL's Community Fund for CGWF provided \$100,000 per annum in direct funding support to community organisations (up from \$60,000 per annum in the four previous years, in response to CGCCC advocacy). This includes \$80,000 p.a. for community donations and sponsorships for local organisations, which is administered by the CCC, and an additional \$20,000 per annum which is administered by AGL to provide funding for the wider community. The Community Fund will be available for the duration of AGL's tenure on the project, to September 2025.

AGL delivered two rounds of Community Fund investment during the reporting period (September 2021 and March 2022), supporting a wide range of community, sporting, education, civic, emergency services, cultural and business organisations in the project region. Round 9 received 23 applications of which 18 were successful, and Round 10 received 20 applications of which six were successful. Round 10 included a donation of \$25,000 to the Cooranga North Rural Fire Brigade for renovation of their fire station shed, under an agreement that QFES will build the new shed to government standards and fund any shortfall if funds are insufficient to meet this standard.

Grants and donations were provided to the organisations shown in Table 6. A total of approximately \$99,999 was invested in community organisations through the fund during the reporting period.

As noted in Section 2.2, AGL and CGCCC have established a panel comprising CGCCC members to assess Community Fund applications and select donation recipients.

During 2020, AGL reviewed best practice in community fund administration (with 14 AGL Community Funds currently operating across Australia) to develop grant eligibility criteria, procedures for operation, the framework for grant assessment and selection panel/committee, and reporting procedures. New procedures and requirements have since been incorporated into the Community Fund Application Forms. The SIMP for operations will also include mechanisms for stakeholder input on local community priorities during operations including via the CGCCC and meetings with WDRC and SBRC.

**Table 6: Community Fund recipients 2021/2022**

Round 9 – September 2021	Round 10 – March 2022
South Burnett CTC	Ironpot Farmers Hall Assoc.
The Kumbia and District Memorial School of Arts Inc.	Cooranga North Memorial Hall Committee Inc
Jandowae Timbertown Festival Inc.	Bell Bunya Community Centre Assoc Inc
Bunya Mountains Community Association Inc (BMCAI)	Kumbia and District School of Arts Inc
Bell State School (Student Council)	Cooranga North Rural Fire Brigade
Kumbia Tennis Association	Bell State School
Ironpot Farmers Hall Assoc.	
Jandowae Primary P&C Association	
Bell Cares Inc.	
Jandowae Primary P&C Association	
Girl Guides Queensland	
Taralga Retirement Village INC	
Bell Bunya Community Centre Assoc Inc	
Bell Art Group Inc	
Jandowae Pony Club	
Jandowae Meals on Wheels Association Inc.	
Kumbia Race Club Inc	
Jandowae Kindergarten Association Inc	

## 5.7 Monitoring results

Table 7 summarises the desired outcomes for community health, safety and wellbeing and the status of outcomes.

**Table 7: Monitoring results - Community health, safety and wellbeing**

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
No reduction in community health or safety characteristics as a result of CGWF.	Compliance with all regulatory Codes and noise criteria	Environmental monitoring reports	CGWF has maintained an excellent safety record.  Impacts on community health or safety were not identified.

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
			CGWF has engaged with one landholder regarding noise complaints, including provision of independent noise monitoring to ensure that the wind farm is compliant with its conditions of approval.
Responsive engagement with health, community and emergency service providers to address potential service delivery issues	Positive service provider feedback regarding effectiveness of joint working arrangements	Face to face meetings Consultation records	Cooperation with QFES and QPS during 2020/2021 strengthened relationships. QPS, QAS and QFES visited the site during the reporting period for site orientation and discussion of emergency response procedures.
Responsive engagement with local residents to address potential nuisance impacts and/or health and wellbeing concerns associated with the project	Relative frequency of complaints about project impacts	Complaints register and CGCCC meeting notes	As noted above, there was only one complainant during the reporting period, down from three complainants in the previous period.
	Frequency of engagement on key issues	Consultation records Annual SIMR	This is detailed in Section 2.3.
Contribute to enhancements in quality of life for local residents	Community investment is guided by a framework of locally identified and agreed priorities	Consultation records with CGCCC, WDRC, SBRC and local stakeholders	Community investments are outlined in Section 5.6. AGL has involved CCC members in evaluating and deciding on grant applications, and will consult with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC regarding community priorities to be reflected in Community Fund criteria as part of developing the SIMP for operations.

## 5.8 Forward Plan

CGWF was designed and constructed with consideration to the health and amenity of nearby landholders, in accordance with relevant standards. A responsive stakeholder engagement process throughout the project's construction has enabled CGWF to address issues which arose, including:

- noise issues, through close engagement with landholders, provision of noise monitoring where required and replacement of turbine components which were causing noise;
- interference with television reception, through testing, advice on relocation of antennas and provision of television reception boosters where warranted;

- on-property management issues such as fencing and gates, addressed through staff training and management procedures;
- construction traffic and road traffic safety, addressed through close cooperation with QPS and QFES; and
- deterioration of Niagara Road, addressed through cooperation with SBRC.

The engagement process has developed cooperative relationships with landholders, Councils, community members and emergency service providers, resulting in benefits for community wellbeing and amenity including:

- Community Fund support for diverse range of community organisations to provide care services to community members, community events, community facility upgrades, sporting programs and facilities, and cultural programs;
- funding for renovation of the Cooranga North Rural Fire brigade shed, enabling more efficient emergency responses to the surrounding area;
- the Coopers Gap Solar Program which provided subsidised solar energy systems for landholders within a radius of 2 km of CGWF; and
- progress towards the establishment of a Telstra mobile phone tower to improve connectivity for residents near CGWF.

AGL will continue to engage with community and members and stakeholders to ensure the CGWF's operation is managed to avoid impacts on community health and wellbeing, including:

- implementation of a SIMP for operations during the first two years of operations;
- engagement with local landholders and neighbours;
- engagement with local and regional emergency service representatives on an as-needed basis; and
- maintaining the CGWF Community Fund until September 2025.

## 6. Conclusion

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### 6.1 Status of SIMP measures

The status of social impact management actions noted in the Coopers Gap Wind Farm: Coordinator-General's evaluation report on the EIS is shown in Table 8.

**Table 8: Status of SIMP actions**

Commitment	Status
<b>Community and stakeholder engagement</b>	
Employ a dedicated community engagement manager for the construction and early operations phases of the project	AGL employs a dedicated community engagement manager and community consultation support officer to support CGWF's operations team to engage with community members and stakeholders.
Consult, collaborate and engage with landowners to determine methods to prevent disruption to current agricultural practices and to avoid areas of high quality agricultural land	Complete
Collaborate and engage with the surrounding community about the scheduling of construction activities	Complete
Consult with TMR, WDRC, SBRC and stakeholders on preparation and implementation of a road use management plan and a traffic management plan, including investigating alternative routes for deliveries which avoid school bus routes and populated areas	Complete
Establish regular community consultation processes regarding noise created by the project	Established, one noise investigation during reporting period
Provide stakeholders with results of compliance noise measurements at sensitive receivers located in proximity to the project to ensure compliance with the wind farm state code and supporting planning guidelines	Complete. Final noise monitoring studies will be performed by GE at 3 and 9 months after practical completion.
Implement a complaints procedure for the project and develop appropriate management strategies in consultation with the affected party (possible issues of concern include noise, shadow flicker and EMI impacts)	Established. Complaints procedure will continue to be available during operations
Establish a dialogue with Traditional Owners and collaborate on the development of a cultural heritage management plan that includes access arrangements for Traditional Owners during construction activities	Complete
Investigate, consult and resolve any heritage-related complaints and address accordingly	Complete
Provide avenues for consultation with aviation stakeholders to resolve any issues arising during the project with respect to aviation-related factors.	Complete. A final update on the location of the wind farm's infrastructure will be provided to CASA prior to completion of commissioning. Interactions with CASA are not expected to be required during CGWF operations.
Incorporate consultation, collaboration and engagement into construction and operations management plans and implement the consultation commitments they have made with respect to noise, traffic and road conditions <b>and</b> EMI impact management.	Stakeholders involved in development of construction phase SIMP, Housing and Accommodation plan and Community Wellbeing Plan Individual consultation with landholders regarding noise and EMI management undertaken and available on an ongoing basis.



Commitment	Status
	Consultation with Councils, DTMR and other stakeholders as part of Traffic Management Plan was undertaken. AGL will consult SBRC, WDRC and CGCCC members in developing the SIMP for operations.
<b>Workforce management</b>	
Workforce management plan for OCG approval prior to construction	Complete
Workforce participation strategies providing employment opportunities and programs for indigenous and minority groups	Complete
Recruitment planning—the use of local recruiting agencies and strategies giving preference to maximising opportunities for local employment	Complete
Provision of appropriate contractual arrangements with contractors to facilitate local employment opportunities	Complete
<b>Housing and accommodation</b>	
Complete a housing and accommodation plan for OCG approval prior to construction	Complete
Revise the workforce and housing plan should there be major impacts from the project on the local housing and accommodation market during construction	N/A
Local business and industry content plan	Complete, in compliance with AIP Plan requirements
<b>Health and community wellbeing plan</b>	
Complete a health and community wellbeing plan in conjunction with relevant emergency services providers as well as the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Services.	Complete
Emergency response plan	Complete
Construction management plan	Complete
Managing potential nuisance activities, including notifying residents and stakeholders of noise-generating activities, time restrictions on activities, dust suppression and maintaining and operating equipment, plant and machinery in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines	Complete, with ongoing engagement in the event that issues arise
Weed management plan	Complete
Mosquito management plan	Complete
<b>Social impact monitoring program</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• noise monitoring to ensure compliance with approved levels for noise</li> <li>• monitoring of EMI impacts on local communications services</li> </ul>	Complete

Commitment	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consultation with CASA, Airservices Australia and the Department of Defence to mitigate any safety impacts to aviation activities</li> <li>• consultation with emergency services providers</li> </ul>	
SIMR produced for a period of five years from the commencement of construction of the project	Fifth SIMR submitted in 2022

## 6.2 Monitoring results summary

Monitoring of the outcomes of CGWF impact management measures during 2021/2022 indicates that:

- AGL and its contractors have maintained positive relationships with community members and stakeholders including WDRC and SBRC;
- consultation mechanisms have enabled stakeholders to provide their feedback on the project's construction and impact management, and to receive updates on actions and/or project responses on matters of concern. CGWF has also involved community members in Community Fund decisions;
- an average of 22 and a peak of 32 construction personnel were employed. Of the 32 personnel, 10 were local residents and 22 were from outside the project region;
- a wholly resident workforce has been employed for the operations phase;
- ten local businesses within the South Burnett and Western Downs LGAs were involved in supply to CGWF during the reporting period, with expenditure of more than \$11,760,000 with businesses located in the South Burnett, Western Downs and Toowoomba LGAs;
- the completion of the construction and commissioning phase has seen approximately 19 rental dwellings released to the market since June 2021, including 12 during the first half of 2022;
- noise monitoring has demonstrated compliance with approval conditions which are designed to protect amenity and health;
- there have been no project-related issues affecting community health, safety and wellbeing; and
- AGL's Community Fund has contributed to a wide range of community projects to support quality of life in the project region.

## 6.3 SIMP for operations

A SIMP which will apply to the first two years of CGWF's operations is being developed, in consultation with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC, and will be completed prior to the commencement of full operations. The scope of the SIMP review includes:

- evaluating the effectiveness of the SIMP during construction, as has been detailed in five SIM reports since 2018;
- identifying any issues or actions carrying over from the construction period (e.g. the initiative

to improve mobile telephone coverage) which need ongoing actions;

- identifying any social impacts or issues that stakeholders anticipate in relation to operations; and
- developing strategies for the operational phase including a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and any mitigations required to address any potential impacts.

The SIMP will be provided for the approval of the OCG prior to the commencement of full operations.

Implementation of the SIMP for operations is planned to commence in January 2023 and conclude in December 2024.