



MEETING MINUTES

Meeting title	Liverpool Range Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)		
Attendees			
Michael Silver OAM (Independent Chair)	Martine Holberton, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Tilt Renewables		
Greg Piper (Community Member)	Matt Stafford, Project Manager, Tilt Renewables		
Linda Gant (Community Member)	Anne-Louise Capel, Community and Land Co-ordinator, Tilt Renewables		
Ant Martin (Involved Landowner)			
Observers			
Jane Hegarty	Kathryn Rindfleish		
Lee Doyle			
Apologies			
Graeme Booker (Community Member)	Leeanne Ryan (Warrumbungle Shire Council)		
Dr Julia Imrie (Community Member)	Cr Ron Campbell (Upper Hunter Shire Council)		
Location	Liverpool Range Wind Farm Office, 50 Binnia Street Coolah	Date & start time	5 October 2023 at 1.15 pm

Topic	Discussion
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Mr Silver welcomed the observers attending the meeting. It was agreed by the Committee that the observers could engage with discussion during the meeting without seeking endorsement of the Chair.
2. Acknowledgement of Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is being held and their continuing connection to land, water, and culture, paying respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.
3. Declarations of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Michael Silver – pecuniary interest – expenses of Independent Chair borne by Proponent.Ant Martin – pecuniary interest - host landholder
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">It was noted that the minutes of the CCC meeting held on 2 May 2023 had been approved on 26 May 2023.
5. Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nil
6. Actions	<p>6.1 That Tilt arrange for the concrete and aggregates contractor to address a future meeting of the CCC, prior to the commencement of construction work, regarding location and operation of the proposed quarries.</p> <p>Response: Deferred pending confirmation of construction program. DEFERRED</p> <p>6.2 That Tilt follow up on the status of the Goods and Services register relative to the current project.</p> <p>Response: Martine Holberton explained the operation and purpose of Goods and Services Register.</p> <p>Jane Hegarty enquired as to the level of oversight the Proponent has on sub-</p>

	<p>contractors. Ms Holberton explained the works agreement with sub-contractors and mechanisms used to support small business and especially local contractors.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p> <p>6.3 That Tilt investigate, through local Landcare groups, whether it could support and encourage initiatives by landowners to plant tree corridors and linkages (particularly box gum).</p> <p>Response: <i>Ms Holberton noted advice on this matter is contained in the Proponent's Report. She advised that discussion will occur in the next week with Local Land Services (LLS) – [Hunter/Central West] to understand the agency's preferred approach to vegetation embellishment. She also noted that land hosts have requested tree plantings on their properties. Matt Stafford suggested this has the potential to address aspects of irreversible impacts. Ms Holberton further advised that salvaging hollows and installing nesting boxes is a priority.</i></p> <p>Ms Hegarty highlighted the potential for small grants to support vegetation improvement overseen by LLS. Mr Stafford indicated this would need to be discussed with LLS – Linda Gant suggested that Landcare is slowly being absorbed into LLS. She suggested a better outcome may be achieved by directly engaging with locals on tree planting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COMPLETED</p>
7. Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Planning & Environment: The Chair indicated that advice had been received from the Department of Planning & Environment regarding new Community Consultative Committee Guidelines released by the Department at the end of June. Subsequently he had participated in an online presentation on the amendments. Mr Silver highlighted the significant amendments for members information. <p>Mr Silver advised that further CCCs would now only be established for projects post approval. He also indicated that a stronger focus on declarations of interests would occur with all CCC members required to complete new declarations within six months or the next CCC meeting.</p> <p>https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-02/community-consultative-committee-guideline.pdf</p>
8. Proponent's Report	<p><i>Matt Stafford led the presentation of the Proponent's Report and was supported by Martine Holberton (copy attached to minutes).</i></p> <p>8.1 Project Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Stafford provided an extensive and detailed project update. • Mr Stafford drew particular attention to proposed Temporary Workforce Accommodation (TWA) arrangements, Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 approvals, public road and intersection treatments, quarries and water, Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) matters and biodiversity offsets, noting these would be addressed in detail as part of the presentation. • Mr Stafford noted that considerable assessment has been undertaken on the road network impacted by the proposal. The Bill Foley bridge over Croppa Creek will need to be strengthened (likely through the use of a carbon fibre tape treatment). The Chair enquired as to the status of any

- roadworks between Newcastle and the project – Mr Stafford indicated this no longer a responsibility of the Proponent (except for the Golden Highway/Vinegaroy Road intersection which the Proponent will need to upgrade).
- Mr Stafford indicated that the Proponent is keen to undertake upgrade works on Vinegaroy Road as soon as possible. Ms Hegarty suggested there may be options for the road contractor to undertake additional roadworks in the area.
- A Public Environmental Report is required under the EPBC Act and is being prepared which will include a suite of impact assessments and potential mitigation measures related to Matters of National Environmental Significance (MINES).
 - Mr Stafford advised that a quarry site off Rotherwood Road (in Upper Hunter LGA) had been identified which has shown superior results from bore hole testing.
 - Investigative drilling for water at multiple locations has given positive results. Focus is on the southern section of the project site with construction to start in this area.
 - Mr Stafford indicated two potential sites for temporary workforce accommodation had been identified.
 - Mr Stafford advised that Tilt is currently working through the Central West REZ Access Tender, however, is awaiting further information from EnergyCo regarding a tender lodgement date and guidelines.
 - In terms of biodiversity, Mr Stafford indicated that several potential properties, agreements, and existing credits have been secured regarding offsets. He noted an offset area near Barraba had been identified. In terms of serious and irreversible impacts, examination of various measures is occurring with discussions with government agencies in the next two weeks.

8.2 Temporary Workforce Accommodation

- Mr Stafford explained in detail the proposed TWA proposal. He noted that 550 plus beds would be required and two sites had been short listed for consideration.
 - Site 1 (Coolah): 3 km east of Coolah along Vinegaroy Road, within LRWF Site Boundary
 - Site 2 (Cassilis): south of township opposite Bowling Club, on land owned by Upper Hunter Shire Council.
- Jane Hegarty commented that the Cassilis site had been acquired by Council as land for a Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) for Cassilis. She questioned the use of the land for a TWA.
- Mr Stafford acknowledged that over five hundred workers could overwhelm the community but suggested there will be some integration and benefits. He indicated the TWA will form part of an amendment to the current Modification 1 Application for the project. He indicated that the TWA would be for the project only and would be retained until the end of construction (4-year period) before being removed and the site remediated.
- General discussion proceeded on the limited housing available in the

- community and potential options to alleviate this issue and potentially leave a beneficial legacy post the project.
- Discussion also ensued regarding the potential provision of sewerage in Cassilis and whether the effluent management system to be installed for the TWA could be adapted as an STP for Cassilis. Linda Gant noted that the annual sewerage rate to be applied was a concern for Cassilis residents. Ms Hegarty questioned whether Upper Hunter Shire Council could provide the finance for such a project. The Chair suggested that it was a matter for the Upper Hunter Shire Council and the Proponent to progress any legacy arrangements because of the TWA.
 - Mr Safford highlighted the upcoming community consultation drop-in sessions to be conducted for the TWA and quarry as follows:
 - Tuesday 24 & Thursday 26 October, Coolah Shopfront, 50 Binnia Street, Coolah: 10am – 7pm
 - Wednesday 25 October, Cassilis Bowling Club, Cassilis Road, Cassilis: 10am – 7pm
 - Mr Stafford added that there would be a ‘bucket-load’ of Tilt representatives, quarry specialists and a TWA specialist present at these sessions to explain all aspects of the Modification 1 Application.
 - Ms Gant asked, “What happens if the community rails against the TWA in Cassilis?”
 - Ms Holberton responded that not all response to date has been negative – there have been some positive comments.
 - Ms Hegarty commented that it will not be beneficial to the community. She noted that whilst it is a 24/7 operation, vehicle movements will not pass through Cassilis township with worker movements to be on specific roads outside the town. Ms Hegarty added that there is community concern over the cumulative impact of vehicle movements on local roads and the Golden Highway as the implications for local business movements because of the TWA location.
 - Ms Holberton acknowledged there could be local impacts and that a shuttle bus service to transfer workers to the construction sites was an option that warrants further investigation.

8.3 Temporary Project-Specific Quarry

- Mr Stafford advised that a suitable quarry site had been identified within LRWF site boundary off Rotherwood Road - 10 kilometres north of Cassilis township, on an associated landholder’s land. He indicated that there are some biodiversity issues with box gum woodland derived native grassland present. Sampling has indicated it is an excellent quarry resource that will support all gravel, rock, and sand requirements for the project.
- Greg Piper enquired whether this would be the sole quarry for the project. Mr Stafford responded, most likely yes – noting that the quarry is project specific and any use beyond completion of the windfarm would require the lodgement of another development application and approval. As construction progresses northwards there is a high likelihood that suitable rock materials will be sourced opportunistically, reducing the reliance on the quarry off Rotherwood Road.

- Mr Stafford added that the quarry will be twenty-five metres deep with a 12.5 metre access ledge and will be within a hill, like a pool, and not visible off site. Access will be from Rotherwood Road.
- Ms Gant expressed concern regarding conflicts between haulage of aggregate and school bus timetables. Mr Stafford advised this would be addressed in the Traffic Management Plan to avoid conflict between school buses and haulage vehicles.

8.4 Targeted Community Consultation

- Ms Holberton further detailed the drop-in sessions in Coolah and Cassilis where interested community members can view photomontages, fact sheets, and speak with Project team members. The session will also provide detail on the proposed TWA and quarry.
- Ms Holberton also noted that EnergyCo is holding consultation sessions in Coolah on 10 and 17 October.

8.5 Central West-Orana REZ Update

- The Committee noted the latest developments in the Central West-Orana REZ Transmissions Project as detailed in Slide 10. It noted the adoption of the 330 kv LRWF transmission line alignment.
- The Committee also noted the map on Slide 12 that provides an overall picture of identified renewable energy locations in the REZ.

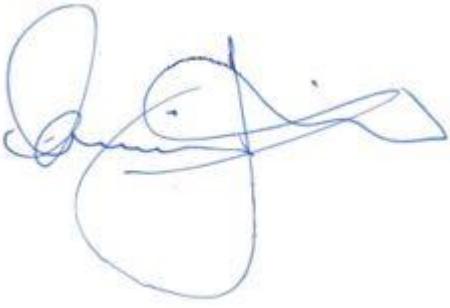
8.6 Communication Update

- Mr Stafford advised that the Response to Submissions and Amendments Report has been submitted to DPE, providing necessary updates and with information about the Final Modified Project.
- Ms Holberton noted that information sheets have been updated with advertising and engagement sessions and working group meetings scheduled.
- Mr Piper questioned the clarity of the photomontages of the turbines on the hills, noting that they are faint. Mr Stafford advised that these photomontages provide the most realistic visualisation – however the Department of Planning & Environment has requested that some photomontages, to be displayed, be artificially enhanced so that the turbines are shown with more contrast. Mr Stafford stressed that these photomontages will not be how the landscape will look, in reality as the turbines are coated in a less contrasting off-white paint. These photomontages will be labelled as enhanced.
- Ms Holberton advised that the consultation with First Nations stakeholders had been ramped up. She noted that 80% of the Project was on Kamilaroi country with the Walhallow Local Aboriginal Land Council (Caroona) now engaged as a key stakeholder. Tilt Renewables met with Walhallow LALC on 5 September 2023, and will schedule regular meetings moving forward – next one being December.

8.7 Benefit Sharing Update

- Ms Holberton provided an overview of the Proponent's current commitments:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$1.2M per year during the construction period ▪ \$1.2M for the first 5 years of operations (including Voluntary Planning Agreement [VPA] commitments) ▪ \$800,000 per year (VPA) over the remaining operational lifetime of the Project (30 years) • Ms Holberton advised that Tilt is hoping to hold co-design workshops with the Coolah and Cassilis communities to flesh out priority areas of need that would benefit from immediate funding from funds allocated during the construction phase. She emphasised Tilt's desire for broad community benefit, especially for small or impacted communities. • Mr Piper enquired how Tilt is working with the respective local government authorities. Ms Holberton provided an update on recent engagement with both WSC and UHSC, and suggested that contributions need to be based on long term strategic plans that clearly demonstrate benefit to the community. • Mr Piper noted Warrumbungle Shire Council's desire to apply a 1.5% levy based on capital cost as a contribution and requested the Proponent's position in respect of this proposal. Mr Stafford responded that the National Wind Energy Guidelines will be released shortly suggesting these draft guidelines will provide some direction. Mr Piper questioned how the community can have input into these guidelines. Mr Stafford understood that they will be released for public comment before being finalised. • Lee Doyle sought advice as to when the co-design workshops are likely to occur. Ms Holberton indicated this will be during 2024. • Explanation and discussion proceeded on the EnergyCo Community Investment Plan Framework and how funds may be applied. • Ms Holberton advised that Tilt Renewables continues to provide funding and sponsorships to the local community and outline various projects in Cassilis and Coolah that have been supported recently. She also outlined potential environmental initiatives to be undertaken in the future in conjunction with Central West Local Land Services.
9. Other Agenda Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brushtail Rock Wallaby – Ms Gant questioned why this animal was not highlighted in the Biodiversity Assessed Report. She noted it was not critically endangered but was under threat. She also suggested other fauna should have been assessed. Ms Gant advised she was not impressed with the procedures as everything should be looked at to protect the biodiversity of all species. Ms Hegarty supported her comments suggesting that the assessment needs to take account of the overall ecosystem. In response, Mr Stafford advised that the Department of Planning & Environment provide direction on what is to be reported on through the Biodiversity Assessment Methodology. • Road Construction – Mr Piper questioned how the community will be kept informed when road construction commences to understand the impact and disruptions. Mr Stafford advised the Traffic Management Plan will outline the processes to be followed. Ms Holberton indicated regular updates on road works will be advertised and other electronic notification processes utilised. She indicated text messaging will be used to inform directly impact members of the community of disruptions and provide updates on progress of works.

	Ms Gant said not all members of the community use text messaging – Ms Holberton indicated road construction updates will also be available at the Post Offices.
10. Actions Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
11. General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
12. Next Meeting	<p>Meeting closed: 4.25pm. The Chair thanked all for their attendance.</p> <p>Next meeting: Early 2024 - Chair to advise on a future date.</p>
13. Meeting minutes approved	 <p>Michael J. Silver OAM Independent Chair 31 October 2023</p>