

Meeting title	Liverpool Range Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)		
Attendees			
Michael Silver OAM (Independent Chair)	Leeanne Ryan (Warrumbungle Shire Council)		
Dr Julia Imrie (Community Member)	Malcom McCaskill, Land Development Manager, Tilt Renewables		
Anne-Louise Capel (Involved Landowner)	Matt Stafford, Senior Environment and Development Planner, Tilt Renewables		
Ant Martin (Involved Landowner)	Martine Holberton, Community and Stakeholder Advisor, Tilt Renewables		
Greg Piper (Community Member)			
Observers			
Nil			
Apologies			
Cr Ron Campbell (Upper Hunter Shire Council)	Graeme Booker (Community Member)		
Linda Gant (Community Member)	James Beckett, Tilt Renewables		
Location	Video conference	Date & start time	14 September 2021 at 2.34 pm

Topic	Discussion
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all to the meeting in particular Malcolm McCaskill who has taken over the position held by James Beckett on the project team.
2. Acknowledgement of Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land from which those joining the meeting come 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. Anne-Louise Capel – pecuniary interest – host landholder 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 7 April 2021 had been approved on 1 May 2021.
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 the Chair write to DPIE and other relevant authorities regarding the need for a collaborative and supportive approach from government to road access issues (rather than an individual project approach) associated with the development of the wind farm industry in the Coolah area and the broader Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair reported that he had not at this point written to any agency regarding the issues raised by the CCC but had undertaken investigations as

to the agency responsible for matters of concern. He indicated that he had undertaken discussions with the Department of Planning and Environment (DPIE) regarding the formalisation and operational structure of the REZs. Mr Silver noted that the NSW Government had passed the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 in December 2021 which will facilitate the formalisation of the Regional Energy Zones (REZs).

The Central West will be the first to be declared and that will finalise boundaries of the REZ and subsequently, following due process, the New England REZ will then be declared. Recently the first actions to set up the New England REZ were initiated, with the establishment of the New England REZ Reference Group which held its inaugural meeting on April 24.

REZs have been identified to cover and co-ordinate renewable energy development. REZs are managed within the DPIE but the section of DPIE responsible reports to the Minister for Energy and Environment, Hon. Matt Kean not the Minister for Planning.

The new Act sets up the Energy Corporation of NSW that will oversee the progression of the REZs and provides the mechanisms for the commercial agreements relating to projects connecting into transmission lines.

Mr Mike Young, formally Executive Director - Energy, Industry & Compliance with DPIE, has recently been appointed the Executive Director - Planning & Communities at the Energy Corporation of NSW and will have carriage of the formalisation of the REZs. REZs are designed to identify and support energy generation within the zones, including the provision of additional support infrastructure.

Mr Silver said that it is important to understand that whilst the respective areas have been identified as REZs, they have not been formally declared under the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020.

The Chair advised that it is unlikely that REZs will be formally identified in the State's strategic Regional Plans noting that Regional Plans already acknowledge that REZs exist or there is an intent to create these REZs. Consequently, it is likely that strategic planning issues will be addressed in the strategic policy work being undertaken by the Energy Corporation rather than in Regional Plans.

- Ms Holberton advised that a 'Round Table of Industry' of the main proponents had been established to share knowledge on various developments, understand the status and progress of developments as well as examine different access routes in a multi-lateral manner. The group will also examine methods to minimise impacts of developments on communities.
- Anne- Louise Capel highlighted the housing and other social and economic issues that will confront the Coolah community. She indicated that there was a need for direction as to how construction workers will be accommodated to mitigate negative impacts on housing availability on the community. She also

	<p>noted the interest of the community to broaden its employment base with the hope that service industry development associated with the wind farm industry would locate in Coolah and not in a major regional centre such as Dubbo. It was critical that the development generate 'local' employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Piper sought clarification as to whether the proponent intended to establish workers camps near the development sites. Matt Stafford advised that this option had not been considered and it is unlikely that purpose-built accommodation will be provided. He noted the possible availability of the former aged care facility at Dunedoo as an option. The accommodation matter will require discussion with the construction contractor. Mr Stafford added that some assessment had been undertaken on housing alternatives, noting that there is a high proportion of unoccupied dwellings in the area, and this may provide an accommodation option. • Ms Capel advised that house owners want a guarantee of a tenant for an extended period given many of the unoccupied houses may require capital investment to make them suitable for occupation. She suggested the proponent may wish to provide the capital for the upgrade work with a lease for the duration of the construction period. • Based on the discussion at the meeting and previous issues highlighted by the CCC, the Chair advised he would now write to the Executive Director - Planning & Communities at the Energy Corporation of NSW. ACTION
<p>7. Correspondence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
<p>8. Proponent's Report</p>	<p><i>Martine Holberton and Matt Stafford presented the Proponent's Report (copy attached to minutes).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting noted the following matters would be covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company Update • Project Update • Progress of Technical Assessments • Consultation and Engagement • Benefit Sharing • Next Steps and Anticipated Timeframes <p>8.1 Company Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Holberton On the 3rd of August 2021, Tilt Renewables started its next chapter as part of the Powering Australian Renewables (PowAR) group. PowAR is the largest owner of wind and solar generation in Australia – and the largest renewable energy generator after Snowy Hydro. • Ms Holberton advised that the Liverpool Range Wind Farm project is a top priority for PowAR. <p>8.2 Project Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Stafford stepped the committee through the presentation slides. • Overview

- Mr Stafford noted the continuing challenges regarding COVID travel restrictions and the inability to conduct community meetings and other face to face engagements.
- He advised that the detailed wind farm layout had been provided to landholders and regulators for analysis.
- Key Activities
- Transmission line design – firmed up the potential location of poles/towers and infrastructure within the wind farm site, noting there is now enough detail to undertake preparation of the modification.
- Mr Stafford discussed the constructability of the transmission line through the wind farm site and layout alterations. He explained the northern design issue and the requirement to use eastern portion of Gundare Road (only the portion within the wind farm site), which is proposed to be accessed via Coolah Creek Road. He noted Cook Road and the western portion of Gundare Road (external to the wind farm site) cannot be used. Ms Capel sought clarification as to how access will be gained to Gundare Road – “through Esdaile’s?” Mr Stafford indicated a new access track would be established through the Minnamurra Pastoral Company property off Coolah Creek Road.
- He noted a short list of locations for Operations and Maintenance Facilities had been developed and there has been a reassessment of site access points with new locations along the Ulan Road.
- Mr Stafford advised that an indicative construction period of 161 weeks had been established. This is a 41 week increase on the original estimate. Much of this increase relates to the extent of the required public road upgrade works.
- He advised that all ground disturbance estimates for all potential infrastructure had been completed and this information was now feeding into other studies such as heritage.
- Mr Stafford noted the finalisation of several technical assessments.
- The preliminary hazard assessment for the potential battery (BESS) indicates that all hazards can be satisfactorily managed.
- The Economic Impact Assessment suggests direct and indirect benefits for the local community and broader region.
- The Water Availability Assessment indicates ground water is in plentiful supply in the area, further, potential bore locations have been identified. It was noted that a question from Linda Gant regarding release of the assessment report would be answered under other Agenda Items.
- The Chair asked what the future of the water supply bores would be beyond completion of the project. Mr Stafford advised that this had not been considered at this point, but the proponent was open to ideas. Ms Capel advised Council is always looking for water to support civil projects. Mr Stafford noted the bores are on private land and the owner may wish to utilise the bore.
- Julia Imrie asked, what is the daily average predicted water demand for the project, relative to the likely supply from the bores? Mr Stafford took the question on notice for response later in the meeting under Other Agenda Items.
- He noted ecology survey is almost finalised whilst the heritage surveys

have been completed. The draft Heritage Study will be distributed to the Registered Aboriginal Parties for 28 days for comment – additional information on scar trees and grinding grooves has been incorporated into the documentation. The ecology survey is expected to be completed within the next week.

- Mr Stafford detailed the key activities since the last meeting:
- Investigation of deviation along over-dimensional (OD) haulage route: potential use of Edderton Rd (west of Coolmore) to avoid physical constraints at Denman Rd/Golden Highway intersection. He advised DPIE is aware of this significant constraint. He also indicated that there would be further discussion with Muswellbrook Council regarding road access issues.
- Consultation has also occurred with key stakeholders – discussions with the Bureau of Meteorology regarding possible impacts on the Namoi weather radar (blackjack Mountain, Gunnedah).

8.3 Progress of Technical Assessments

- Mr Stafford then stepped the Committee through the status of Technical Assessments as set out in the tables on slides 8 and 9, noting all are in an advanced state.
- He made specific comment on some items within the tables:
 - Biodiversity is the most behind schedule – anticipate being in draft form by early-November.
 - Traffic Assessment – further discussions required with Muswellbrook Council.
- Dr Julia Imrie questioned progress on relocating the transmission line adjacent to the ‘Hands on Rock’ track entrance. She noted the original proposal will have a significant impact on the entrance to the area. Mr Safford advised that adjoining coal company had no interest in negotiating access to the land to relocate the transmission line as it required the land for its biodiversity offsets. Dr Imrie stated that moving the line to the east was not really a solution. She suggested the only way to overcome the issue is to put the line underground, however, there appears to be no genuine consideration, by the proponent, of placing the line underground. In response, Mr Stafford advised that placing the transmission line underground had been investigated, however on technical advice it was not a viable option that can be considered in this situation. Amongst the technical issues are the detection of faults and the dissipation of heat. Dr Imrie noted that in a situation in Victoria, the transmission line has been placed underground. She expressed concern that poles and wires on the transmission line easement may be compromised by underground mining and subsidence. Mr Stafford advised that assessment of the location of underground mining and the impacts of subsidence have been considered and are unlikely to affect the poles and wires. Dr Imrie also highlighted potential fire issues and noted the Orana REZ raises alternative routes for the transmission easement. Mr Stafford indicated that the project is being prepared on a strict timeframe based on the available advice – he accepted that

timeframes for the wind farm and transmission line construction may not align with the delivery of the REZ. Ms Capel noted that a funding allocation for the transmission line had been made but there was not funding at this stage for construction

8.4 Consultation and Engagement

- Martine Holberton provided an overview of consultation with Covid 19 restrictions limiting opportunities for the project team to visit Coolah.
- Ms Holberton outlined the revised methods for consultation, advising that a Tamworth based consultancy, with wind farm experience, will be engaged to undertake localised consultation. This would involve the use of virtual meetings, webinars to replace Town Hall meetings and provision of one-on-one meetings in a Covid safe manner. It is expected that a team of five people will be involved in the consultation process commencing during October. Members of the community will be encouraged to call the proponent if they have questions with the necessary link on the website, further QR codes will be provided on the website for accessing the webinars.
- Ms Holberton also advised that Fact Sheets and other consultation and information material will be made available through community and other public outlets such as the Library/Gallery. Ms Capel advised the library is currently closed, however suggested that several vacant shops may be available for display of material. She also suggested the Coolah Post Office may be able to assist.
- Ms Capel suggested that the newsletter needs to note the delay in consultation due to limitations on interstate travel. She also noted that the carbon footprint information should be incorporated in the consultation material, as there is a lot of misinformation online suggesting windfarms not good environmentally.
- Ms Holberton advised that an interactive project map will be made available on the proponent's website prior to the commencement of consultation.
- Ms Holberton also touched on other consultation activities with the industry round table, the Orana RDA and the Farmers Regen Mutual regarding carbon farming.
- Mr Piper suggested that a workshop on carbon farming could be considered. However, Ms Capel noted that with carbon farming often getting the baseline is prohibitive for smaller operations. A recent webinar indicated that farmers should start considering not selling their carbon credits but keep them to be carbon neutral.
- Ms Holberton then summarised the proposed future engagement process – refer Slide 11.
- Finally, she outlined the project timetable highlighting that the Modification Application is anticipated to be lodged during December 2021 and be placed on public exhibition in early 2022.

<p>9. Actions required</p>	<p>1. That the Chair write to the DPIE regarding the need for a collaborative and supportive approach from government to road access issues (rather than an individual project approach) associated with the development of the wind farm industry in the Coolah area and the broader Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone.</p>
<p>10. Other Agenda Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Gant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Will the Water Availability Assessment Report be made available to the community?</i> <p>Matt Stafford advised that the Water Availability Assessment Report could potentially form part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and made available when the EIS is placed on public exhibition.</p> • Dr Julia Imrie <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What is the daily average predicted water demand for the project, relative to the likely supply from the bores?</i> <p>Matt Stafford advised that the ideal yield rate from the bores was 5.5 litres per second. The Water Assessment Report identifies that groundwater bore yield rates in and around the wind farm site were likely to be much higher. Dr Imrie commented that this represents about 0.5 megalitres per day. She noted that the adjacent coal mining operation was extracting 30 to 40 times this volume.</p> • Greg Piper <p>Questions on the proposed modification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What will be the capacity of the turbines proposed in the modification?</i> <p>Matt Stafford advised that each turbine could potentially have a capacity of between 5.5 and 6 megawatts, subject to the type of turbine selected. At this stage there is no specific brand selected or preferred supplier. The overall potential capacity of the wind farm is approximately 1.3 gigawatts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What will be the overall size of the machines (blade length) and what impact does this have on the transport route?</i> <p>Matt Stafford advised that the assessment of the overall dimensional transport route has been based on an assumed blade length of 90 metres and transported as a single piece.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What will be the impact of an increased tip height on the turbines?</i> <p>Matt Stafford indicated that the increased rotor sweep area will require additional analysis in respect of potential strike/collision risk from birds/bats. He advised that the draft Biodiversity Study will inform on this risk issue. It will be publicly available during the EIS exhibition period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What are the implications for footing design due to increasing the size and capacity of turbines?</i> <p>Matt Stafford advised that all necessary geotechnical, engineering, and other design and environmental factors will be considered. This includes the increased demand for water and aggregate associated with larger footings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Complimented Tilt on the award it received for community consultation associated with its project in Victoria.</i> <p>Ms Holberton thanked Mr Piper for his comments. The Chair commented that if a similar standard of consultation is provided for this project, it would 'hit the right note' from the Coolah community's perspective.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advised that the Renewal Alliance Handbook had been released and was available online. <p>Ms Holberton acknowledged that the handbook had been released.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anne-Louise Capel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advising that work had been undertaken by an officer of Transport for NSW associated with successfully establishing nesting-boxes within living trees. <p>Mr Stafford noted the advice and would be pleased to receive detailed advice from Ms Capel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Michael Silver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>How will the Neighbour Agreement operate and is there a need to engage more broadly with the community on this proposal given the proposed modification to the proposal?</i> <p>Mr Stafford indicated that a neighbour agreement is in place and relates to one near neighbour. Neighbour agreements will not be subject to a distance (radius) consideration, given the limited number of near neighbours and the extended distances to turbines. Normally, neighbour agreements are driven by the degree of potential impacts. Consequently, neighbour agreements are tailored to address identified potential impacts to nearby non-associated residents.</p>
<p>11.General Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Malcolm McCaskill <p>The meeting noted that Mr Malcolm McCaskill had replaced Mr James Beckett on the project team. Mr McCaskill provided a brief overview of his career and involvement with the proponent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr McCaskill advised that he had commenced with Tilt in late July and had relocated to Melbourne from Queensland. He has a background in the energy sector for over a decade having worked most recently with APA Group. He indicated he was looking forward to progressing the Liverpool Range Wind Farm project and working with the local community. ● Correspondence on REZ to the DPIE <p>Mr Stafford enquired as to the approach that the Chair would take in respect of correspondence from the CCC to the DPIE regarding the issues confronting communities, local government and proponents from proposed developments associated with REZs as raised in the Action from this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Chair advised that the correspondence would be of a generic nature and would not relate to a specific project but rather highlight significant issues confronting developers, local government, and communities in managing and addressing development issues which are consequential to working within the identified REZ areas. In particular, he highlighted the local road upgrade matters and how these issues can be managed/addressed from a local government perspective, given much of this upgrade work is often in local government areas not directly associated with a proposed wind farm development. Mr Silver advised he would provide a draft of the letter to the Committee for its review prior to forwarding it to the DPIE.

12. Next Meeting	<p>Meeting closed: 4.24 pm. The Chair thanked all for their attendance.</p> <p>Next meeting: No date was confirmed, although it is anticipated this will be in late November or early December 2021.</p>
13. Meeting minutes approved	 <p>Michael J. Silver OAM Independent Chair 8 October 2021</p>