

Ryan Corner Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Monday 17 May 2021
Meeting time and location 5pm at the Port Fairy Community Services Centre

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cr Foster welcomed Camino Cabanillas to the CEC. Camino is the Construction Manager for the Hawkesdale and Ryan Corner Wind Farms.

2. Present

Cr Karen Foster
Brian Riordan, Community Representative
John Donohue, Community Representative
Jacinta Coffey, Community Representative
Kristi Else, Community Representative
Clinton Krause, Community Representative
Ruth Magnusson, Community Representative
Camino Cabanillas, GPG
Debra Dumesny, GPG
Nathan Micallef, GPG
Guillermo Alonso Castro, Technical Manager, GPG (Guest)

Vicki Askew-Thornton, CEC Responsible Officer, Moyne Shire

3. Apologies

Cr Jordan Lockett

4. Declarations of Interest

Cr Foster declared a perceived conflict of interest, that she was previously married to a participating landholder, but no longer has a connection to that family.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Kristi Else, seconded by Nathan Micallef that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 19 April 2021 be accepted. **CARRIED**

6. Business arising from the previous Minutes

- 6.1 GPG will email Council a map extending out to 5km from nearest turbine, which Council will then print and post to the CEC community representatives. (Completed)
- 6.2 GPG will follow up with Brian Riordan regarding residences that may have been missed on the map. (Completed)

6.3 Council will consider adding a list of the community representatives' names to its website, in the 'Committees of Council' section.
Update: Council will need to make this request of all community representatives on its CECs.

6.4 Request for GPG to email the project newsletters to neighbours. (Newsletters were emailed to neighbours who have subscribed to GPGs email list)

Further discussion:

- There are over 100 email addresses currently on GPGs database, and more are being added as people subscribe.
- Community representatives noted that hard copies should also be mailed out no matter what the cost is, as some neighbours do not use email.
- It was suggested that GPG place a detailed monthly project update in the Warrnambool Standard.

6.5 Council will post any updated maps to Brian and John. (Completed)

6.6 Council requested that GPG provide a dot-point project update prior to CEC meetings. (Completed)

7. Correspondence Incoming

- 29 April – Projects newsletter from GPG.
- 14 May – Questions for GPG from Jacinta Coffey. (Refer to section 10.1)
- 17 May – Project update from GPG. (Refer to section 9.1)

8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

9. Reports:

9.1 Global Power Generation (GPG):

- The planning permit amendment has been submitted and is awaiting approval.
- Traffic Management Plan, feedback received. Discussions continuing.
- Public road detailed design submitted to the Council, feedback received. Discussions continuing.
- For Ryan Corner quarry waiting on final approval.
- GPG continues to work on locating all residences within 5km of the wind farm boundary.

Summary of further discussion:

- Kristi Else asked if the project update can be emailed to the CEC earlier.
- The permit amendment application will be publicly notified. The management plans will accompany the amendment, and some of the plans may still be in draft format.

- The Traffic Management Plan is being reviewed by Council and Regional Roads Victoria.

9.2 Community Members:

Nothing further to raise.

9.3 Council:

- Council will soon be undertaking a review of its CEC model. All CEC members will be given the opportunity to have input.

10. General business

10.1 Questions on notice from Jacinta Coffey:

Clause 50 of the Ryan Corner permit states the following requirement for decommissioning:

DECOMMISSIONING

50. The wind energy facility operator must, without delay, notify the Minister for Planning in writing as soon as all of the wind turbines have permanently ceased to generate electricity. Within 12 months of this date, the wind energy facility operator must undertake the following to the satisfaction of the Minister for Planning within such timeframe as may be specified by the Minister:
- remove all above ground non-operational equipment;
 - remove and clean up any residual spills;
 - clean up and restore all storage, construction and other areas associated with the use, development and decommissioning of the wind energy facility, if not otherwise useful to the on-going management of the land;
 - restore all access tracks and other areas affected by the project closure or decommissioning, if not otherwise useful to the on-going management of the land;
 - submit a decommissioning traffic management plan to the Minister for Planning and, when approved by the Minister for Planning, implement that plan; and
 - f) submit a post-decommissioning revegetation management plan to the Minister for Planning and, when approved by the Minister for Planning, implement that plan.

Also, Andrew Dyer, the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner, in his 2019 report, noted that,

“At the end of the project’s operating life, the clear expectation of all stakeholders is that the wind or solar farm will be decommissioned and all turbines, arrays and other infrastructure will be removed from the property, with the property returned to its original condition..”

<https://www.nwfc.gov.au/observations-and-recommendations/chapter-1-host-landowner-negotiations>

Questions.

1. What is the estimated cost of decommissioning after 25 years of operation of the wind farm?
2. If the operator at the time of decommissioning, is insolvent or is an off-shore company that cannot be pursued in the courts and ultimately defaults on the lease agreement, who is responsible for the decommissioning works.?
3. What evidence can you provide to for your answer for number 1 & 2 above.
4. If GPG’s sells the wind farm lease within the next 25 years, what guarantees can you provide the host that the host will not be left with the decommissioning liability?

GPG response:

The decommissioning condition in the permit is regarded by GPG as the minimum requirement. The permit and the host landholder agreements are clear that the cost of decommissioning must be covered by the proponent.

GPG will provide some pictures of some of its decommissioned wind farms in other countries.

Council is the responsible authority for ensuring the permit holder complies with the permit.

- 10.2** In response to a question about neighbour agreements, GPG confirmed that the agreements do not prevent a neighbour from making a complaint about the wind farm.
- 10.3** GPG took on notice a request from Ruth Magnusson to provide information at the next meeting about what GPG can do to reduce bird-strikes once the wind farm is operating.
- 10.4** The Committee decided that the RCWF CEC meetings be held at 6-weekly intervals for the time being.

Next meeting – Monday 5 July 2021 at 5.30pm, at Yambuk

Confirmed this / /

Chair

Minutes are to be registered in Moyne Shire’s electronic document management system by the committee reporting officer immediately following the Minutes’ confirmation and signing