

Coppabella Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

Meeting No 20 – Café on Queen, Binalong

6pm Thursday 11 July 2024

Present:

CCC Members: Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), John McGrath, Doug Painting, Paul Regan, Kim Turner, Libby Elliott, Noeleen Hazell

Proponent: Ben Carney, Alison Deale, Paul McMahon (Stakeholder Engagement Manager), Tania Gonzalez (Asset Manager Goldwind)

Observers: Bob Richardson, Adrian Sykes, Barbara Folkard

Invited Guests: Nil

The Meeting opened at 6:00 pm

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apology Medard Boutry taking over General Manager role - unwell

2. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

Nic Carmody – small printing job for proponent (newsletter).

3. Confirmation of minutes or previous Minutes

The minutes of Meeting No 19 held on 21 March 2024 – approved.

All outstanding items on action sheet have been completed.

4. Correspondence

Nil

5. Project Update – Ben Carney

Presentation – see attached.

Community engagement:

Sponsorship Binalong NSW Swimming Club and Binalong Brahmans

Speaking to neighbours of development regarding neighbour agreements.

LTESA (Long Term Energy Service Agreement) with NSW government.

Goldwind has been awarded and has entered into a LTESA. This LTESA provides revenue certainty for private investment in new renewable energy generation. Refer [Long-Term Energy Service Agreements | EnergyCo \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) for further information.

The LTESA obligates Goldwind to a number of social licence commitments both prior to Operation and during Operation.

Prior to Operation:

These include but are not limited to such items as community sponsorships (\$30-\$50k per year for local projects), local supply chain contract value, steel & component procurement and First Nations economic participation.

On operation:

A Community Enhancement Fund through a separate Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) - \$172,500 per year for Yass Valley and Hilltops Local Government Areas (LGA's) at \$2,500 per turbine. This VPA fund will work separately to a Supplementary Community Investment fund of \$100k/year and other LTESA commitments.

Project update:

Competitive tender process ongoing. 2/3 way through.

Funding – seeking investment funding. Strong interest. Progressing discussions.

Planning approvals – progressing compliance activities. Statcom approved 1 March.

Grid connection – impact assessment completed. Waiting for report. Waiting for formal acceptance. TransGrid currently retendering for grid works.

Offer to connect technical letters anticipated July 2024

[Post meeting note: Coppabella has received Offer To Connect (Letters 5.3.4 a&b).]

Land agreements – finalising access arrangements for connection to grid

Neighbour agreements

Timeline

Project Target Q4 2024 – October onwards. Subject to Goldwind internal approvals and investment funding.

Q4 2024 – Initial works

Notice to proceed

3 Year build program

Energy Yield & Layout

GW136/4.2MW being proposed to use on site

LiDAR assisted control (refer newsletter for further details).

Planning

Biodiversity Offset – remapping completed and agreed with BCD. Expect to finalise by end of Q3

Variation of condition of approvals – recognition of natural growth varying extent of vegetation footprint. Submitted in December. Waiting on updates from DPE. Expected to finalise Q3

Biodiversity Management Plan – submitted December 2023. Expected to finalise prior to WTG construction.

Whitefield's roadside management plan has been updated.

Environment Protection Licence drafted and to be lodged prior to NTP

Council conducted works along Whitefield's Road which has impacted plantings in December 2023

Construction & Operations phases

Dust suppression, heavy vehicles, logistics & cranes

Asset management team ensure support of construction team

Also work with engagement team to support community outcomes

Work with teams and community to address complaints

Transition between construction and operations. Manage issues

Set hours of working as per Development Consent. Anything outside would require minister approval.

Questions on presentation:

John McGrath: What is the acronym for speed control LiDAR

Ben Carney: On the newsletter provided (Light Detection & Ranging)

John McGrath: Connection schedule is taking a long time.

Ben Carney: We don't work that out that is in the hands of TransGrid.

John McGrath: Micro siting. Who checks compliance?

Ben Carney: All turbines are required to be within 100m of approved position. Our co-ordinates are fixed. If we step outside of the condition, we will not be given permission to generate.

John McGrath: TransGrid took 7 years.

John McGrath: What is a blade lifter?

Ben Carney: Transport vehicle that attaches blade to a hydraulic lifting device on a trailer. Has impact on reducing achievable bend radius and has potential to optimise design.

John McGrath: 3 Temporary met masts. 18-month lifespan – the removal is when?

Ben Carney: Prior to civils works at those turbine locations. No met mast at the moment, they have been down for a long time.

John McGrath: Strong wind resources for placing a windfarm on Coppabella. You wouldn't be doing it if it was not so close to the substation.

Ben Carney: It is a relative statement. Not going to establish wind turbines with weak wind resources. Coppabella has a strong wind resource relative to other locations. Point of connect into electrical grid seems to be your question – it will be connecting to the Yass sub-station via a dedicated 47km long transmission line.

John McGrath: Screening process – what do you mean?

Ben Carney: Stepping through detailed assessments of topography and finding the optimal way of establishment of turbine locations to minimise earthworks and steep gradient access roads.

Paul Regan: How many turbines have been micro-sited?

Ben Carney: Will confirm. But at present 5 or 6. Micro-siting is metres – within micro siting conditions of development consent.

Paul Regan: Maximum gradient for internal roads

Ben Carney: Preference is 18% no higher. Case by case treatment thereafter.

Paul Regan: Vegetation remapping. Can you explain more and is the information available to public?

Ben Carney: Will get back to you. Wet seasons have caused vegetation growth which has triggered remapping

Alison Deale: Original design also had tight boundaries.

Chair: Several Management Plans have been updated can these be made available to members on the website please.

Paul Regan: Resubmission on minor amendment on bores – why?

Ben Carney: Set out distance that had to be observed on a new bore.

Paul Regan: Any bores been drilled.

Ben Carney: One. Have 4 sites, looking at progressing one more.

John McGrath: Do you expect to get all water from bores within site

Ben Carney: Taken on notice

General Business – without notice

John McGrath

1. Circuit breakers at each turbine?

Ben Carney: Already answered, yes.

2. Can Goldwind disclose what substrate did the exploratory test hole boring on the Coppabella Range find please? That is will the excavations for the footings be easy to dig or will there be excessive blasting?

Ben Carney: Civil contractors have seen site. Been provided with preliminary Geotech findings.

3. How deep will the concrete footing of the Coppabella wind towers be please?

Ben Carney: It is a specialist question. Depends on foundation design.

4. Are these concrete footings further anchored to the strata below the concrete?

Ben Carney: Don't know will revert.

5. Is REO being sourced locally?

Ben Carney: 'Local' is as defined by LTESA as within Australia.

6. As has been discussed the wind driven turbines for Coppabella will be Goldwind GW136/4.2 MW Turbines, which are Permanent Magnetic Direct Drive PMDD and is saving the world as this replaces the turbine having a gear box? My question is that it seems that PMDD turbines are not as speed controllable as other turbines? Wind turbines lack the controllable rolling inertia of large turbines such as coal-fired or large hydro, thus, there's the increased possibility of different frequencies being generated by individual turbines across an installation such as Coppabella away from 50Hz? Correct?

Therefore, is part of the reasoning by AEMO to have Goldwind to fund a static condenser (SatCom) at the Yass TransGrid 330/132KV substation to act as frequency stabilisation? Or will

the frequency variation output from different wind generators be addressed before the supply reaches Yass?

Ben Carney: Taken on notice.

[Post meeting note: Design comprises a rotor and a multipole stator. Resultant alternating current waveform generation is rectified, then inverted to 50Hz and synchronised with the grid. It is connected with other WTG generation via 33 kV feeders to the substation then stepped up to higher voltage for export to the grid.]

7. As Goldwind has already stated that they will not sign a legal document that further trees along Whitefield's Road will not be destroyed what assurances has the community from Goldwind that will not happen?

Ben Carney: That relates to a legacy CCC record on trees. Medard Boutry has already answered that. The restrictions on tree clearing are stated in the Development Consent and further described in the approved Roadside Vegetation and Landscaping Management Plan (RVLMP)

Noeleen Hazell: How often does your company meet with DPIE?

Ben Carney: We are in regular contact with several Departments to progress this development.

Chair: There are several acronyms within the presentation that not all committee members may understand or aware of, can this be provided.

Ben Carney: I will attach a list of acronyms used to the presentation.

6. Next Meeting

Next meeting date Thursday 31 October 2024.

Meeting closed at 7:25pm