



Hawkesdale Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Monday 19 April 2021
Meeting time and location 5pm at the Hawkesdale CFA Headquarters

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cr Gleeson welcome new Community Representative, Liana Blake to the Committee.

2. Present

Cr Damian Gleeson (Chair)
Cr James Purcell
Anne-Maree Huglin, HADDAC Community Representative
Maxine Keane, Community Representative
John Bos, Community Representative
Liana Blake, Community Representative
George Swarbrick, Community Representative
Guillermo Alonso Castro, GPG
Debra Dumesny, GPG
Nathan Micallef, GPG
Bruce Mirtschin, (guest - member of the community)

Vicki Askew-Thornton, CEC Responsible Officer, Moyne Shire

3. Apologies

Nil.

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by John Bos, seconded by Anne-Maree Huglin that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 15 March 2021 be accepted. **CARRIED**

6. Business arising from previous Minutes

- 6.1 Council will email the CEC more detailed information regarding declaring a conflict of interest. (Completed)
- 6.2 Council will arrange for 6 copies of the CEC's unconfirmed minutes to be placed at the Hawkesdale Post Office. (Completed)
- 6.3 GPG will notify the CEC members of the dates and times of its information sessions. (Completed)
- 6.4 Council to ask the Ryan Corner Wind Farm CEC if its meetings can start a half hour later. (Completed)

6.5 GPG will provide further information about its proposed community fund.

8. Correspondence Incoming

26 March – Email from GPG with details about its project information sessions and the temporary office in Hawkesdale.

14 April – Email from John Bos containing Questions on Notice (circulated to the CEC 19 April) **Attachment 2**

18 April – Email from Maxine Keane with letter from Wind Farm Living (circulated to the CEC 19 April) **Attachment 3**

8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

9. Reports:

9.1 Global Power Generation (GPG):

- Around 35 people attended project information sessions at Port Fairy, and around 12 people attended the Hawkesdale sessions. Project representatives in attendance included GPG, Ausnet, Vestas, Marshall Day, ERM, Envirosafe and the lead contractor, BMD. Marshall Day had a noise monitor set up and operating at the sessions.

Anne-Maree noted that Thursday nights are not ideal for community members to attend due to football and netball training.

- GPG is finalising the neighbour residences list.
- GPG tabled A3 wind farm maps and the obstacle lighting plan.
GPG will update the map to include the transmission line route.
- Maxine asked about the capacity of the 500kV transmission line to take more energy generation. GPG responded that the network has capacity.
Council will provide further information regarding the network capacity and the State Government's South West Renewable Energy Zone Plan, which has been provided to other CECs.

Each new generator requires a connection agreement from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) in order to connect to the network. The project has received a preliminary works agreement from AEMO, and in the coming months it is expected that AEMO will sign a Connection Agreement with Ausnet.

Maxine will email a list of questions about the transmission network to Council before the next meeting.

- Geotechnical surveys are currently being undertaken for the wind farm and the transmission line.
- GPG accepted that the recent article in The Standard may have given the impression that construction had commenced.

9.2 Community Members:

- Refer to **Attachment 2**:
RE Question 1:
GPG has apologised to the RCWF CEC and the relevant individual for the wording used. GPG took on notice the request for it to publicly apologise.
- RE Question 6 - Decommissioning:
GPG noted that the permit and landholder contracts would pass on to the next owner if the project was sold. The landholder contracts reflect the decommissioning condition in the permit.
A question was raised regarding which authority would be responsible for enforcing compliance with the decommissioning condition if another company had bought the project and then went bankrupt.
GPG noted that an Australian study undertaken regarding wind farm decommissioning indicates that the cost of decommissioning a turbine would be covered by revenue from the recycling of some of the turbine components.
- The Committee discussed how communication and engagement about the wind farm with the community could be improved.

9.3 Council:

- The consultant that Council has engaged to do background noise monitoring installed the noise loggers on 8 and 9 April. The monitoring will be done for a period of 28 days.
Council took on notice the following question:
Are the locations of the loggers the same as those used by Marshall Day, and if not, why?
- Community members asked about the flora and fauna studies that were undertaken for the project, particularly in relation to birds.
GPG will email a link to the Flora and Fauna report that has been approved by the Minister for Planning, with guidance on which section/s of the report relate to the methodology used for the avifauna surveys.

10. General business

- 10.1** Refer to Att 3 – Wind Farm Living letter.
Council response:
- Re-Alliance has been used as an intermediary because Council passed a motion in July 2019 to *'Assist in the facilitation of joint discussions between wind farm proponents, Global Power Generation, Woolnorth Wind Farms, and Wind Prospect in regard a more strategic approach to community funding and benefits from wind farms in the Moyne Shire.'*
 - At present, Council does not have an alliance with Re-Alliance.
 - Re-Alliance made a presentation to a Council workshop on 30 March.

- Re-Alliance's press release appeared in The Standard the following day. The Mayor Cr Meade was asked to be involved in the interview but declined.
- Re-Alliance may request to present to a future Council workshop.
- Re-Alliance proposes to undertake community consultation regarding the proposal.

GPG response:

- GPG attended meetings with Re-Alliance when it was developing the proposal.
- GPG has no association with Re-Alliance and does not support its community benefit proposal.
- GPG will administer its own community fund for local projects.

10.2 A discussion was held regarding the next meeting date, in light of the supreme court action relating to the permit, which is scheduled for the end of May.
Cr Gleeson reiterated that it was made clear at the first CEC meeting that any matters relating to the court action cannot be raised or discussed at CEC meetings.

10.3 Item 6.5:
GPG tabled **Attachment 1** – Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Plan.

- GPG is considering the radius of its Neighbour Deed program.
- GPG will soon commence meeting with local community organisations.

10.4 Moved by Anne-Maree Huglin, seconded by John Bos that the meeting timeslots be alternated with the Ryan Corner Wind Farm CEC. **CARRIED**

Next meeting – Monday 17 May 2021 at 7pm. Venue – CFA Headquarters Building, Hawkesdale.

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

Attachment 1



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & BENEFIT SHARING PLAN

Benefit Sharing Programs:

GPG are committed to investing in the local communities surrounding the wind farms through different programs:

✓ **Neighbour Benefit Program**

Construction and Operation Periods

Neighbour Deeds:

- Deeds that can be voluntarily entered by those neighbours whose households are within a 1km to 1.5km and 1.5km to 2km radius of any wind turbine in order to compensate them annually for the potential impacts of the project.
- GPG will consult with all neighbouring property owners to offer a Neighbour Deed.
- GPG has identified that there is a potential of 19 in Hawkesdale and 21 in Ryan Corner that are eligible for a Neighbour Deed.

✓ **Community Grants Program**

Operation Period

- GPG to administer Community Grants Program with yearly contributions available via application.
- Total Grants Fund will be determined by \$2,500 per operating turbine per year.
- GPG will set up community committee to set framework and provide recommendations on funding applications.

✓ **Other funding to be invested**

- Landscaping Screening Program.
- Other potential initiatives to be analysed.



2024-2025



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & BENEFIT SHARING PLAN

Communication and Information Initiatives:

- 100% dedicated Community Engagement Officer
- Drop in office (temporary office in Hawkesdale, until permanent offices are available at both sites)
- Community Engagement Committee
- Project Specific Website
- Monthly Community Newsletters
- Weekly Construction Reports
- Media Releases
- Local Print Media Ads
- Information Sessions and Project Presentations
- Participation with Stalls at Community Events
- One-on-one and Key Stakeholders Meetings

Att. 2:

1/ It has been pointed out to me that the GPG CEC representative indicated the residents around the proposed Ryans Corner Wind Farm can come to her office if they wanted to whinge about the Wind Farm development. Has gpg publically retracted or apologized for the statement? Is this type of comment prudent considering many, if not all residents around the project are worried about the implications of this proposed project on their well being, as well as economically?

There is a lot of interest in the Realliance association at the moment. From what I can see, it is to be a middle man in the dispersion of funds from the wind farm company through the shire and on to relevant groups wishing to partake in wind farms community funds. I believe Wind Prospect is donating/funding Realliance to some degree?

2/ Is Global Power putting any funding of any kind (whether it be donation, salary or commission etc.) towards this group?

3/ Is Moyne Shire putting any funding of any kind to this group?

4/ Is it true that Realliance is a charity?

5/ Is Global Power promoting this group?

It has been brought to my attention that if a future Wind Farm operator goes into liquidation and no purchaser is found, the cost of decommissioning may fall to the landowners on which the infrastructure is located.

6/ Should the above occur for the Hawkesdale Wind Farm, who is responsible for the cost of decommissioning the Wind Farm? Currently it costs over \$500,000 to decommission one turbine.

7/ Could the section of the agreement/s pertaining to this be made available to all Hawkesdale CEC representatives?

A recent article in the Standard Newspaper indicates in the heading: CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON WINDFARMS. Further into the article it indicates some early works at Hawkesdale have already begun while further on it goes on to say preliminary works are underway. Anyone reading this article up to this point would be led to believe construction is underway. This is not the case. A supreme court action limits any work on the site to preconstruction works only.

It is also very presumptuous to assume construction will commence given that the validity of the project is subject to a court case to be heard in late May 2021.

7/ Shouldn't Global Power wait until the court action is finalised to spruik its message or at the very least also indicate to the public as a whole that its intention to build is subject to the decision of the courts?

18th April 2021

Att. 3

Wind Farm Living
Moyne Shire
Victoria, Australia
community@windfarmliving.com

Dear Community Engagement Committee members,

RE: Wind Farm Living's request for the complete rejection of the Charity Group Re-Alliance.

Wind Farm Living is very suspicious of the Moyne Shire's level of association with Re-Alliance. In fact, we believe that the Moyne Shire has met with Re-Alliance before their Council Workshop appearance on the 30th of March this year, and that their "alliance" with this group is more sinister than Mayor Meade makes out in his letter of reply (see Ref. 1 attached).

Although Moyne Shire has stated clearly "No more wind farms in Moyne Shire", the motion put by Colin Ryan at the July 2019 Council Meeting (see Ref 2 attached), clearly lists wind farms without permits for inclusion into this slush fund of blood money to be drained from the communities impacted by wind farms.

For Re-Alliance to arrogantly release to the media their "alliance with the Moyne Shire", after it seems, only a brief presentation to the 30th of March Council Workshop, smells cray-fish fishy to us. What conversations/meetings/ handshake deals have been done during the time between July 2019 and March 2021, for Re-Alliance to state with confidence their joint relationship with the Moyne Shire?

Wind Farm living has the opinion that Re-Alliance is an opportunistic group of people inserting themselves as money management agents for wind companies. They claim charity status, when they are in the business of charging the companies \$10,000 per turbine for their propaganda services. They claim to promote community engagement, but they campaign against animal husbandry farming, and farmer's use of diesel fuel.

At the recent Hexham CEC meeting, a question was put to the Wind Prospect, "do you support Re-Alliance?" and the answer back was a simple "yes". Yet Moyne Shire did not include this question and answer in the minutes, but instead inserted a propaganda spiel promoting Re-Alliance. (see Ref 3 attached. Hexham CEC April 21 minutes. Item 9.2.1)

Wind farm companies are mistaken if they think they can buy their social license via this devious group. And the Moyne Shire is naïve to believe they can use these out-of-towners as a front to drain blood money from the outlying rural communities for their "politically vote pulling" Port Fairy slush fund.

Wind Farm Living seeks support from the CEC community members to completely reject this unauthorised group, and confirmation from the wind companies and the Moyne Shire, that they will refrain from all involvement with Re-Alliance, to ensure that this discredited organisation takes no further part in our community's affairs.

Wind Farm Living, Moyne Shire

community@windfarmliving.com



Attachments 1 – 3, Scroll Down.