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## Hawkesdale Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Monday 23 January 2023  
Meeting time and location 7.30pm at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall

### 1. Welcome

Brendan Ryan, Site Manager for the Hawkesdale Wind Farm was welcomed to the meeting.

### 2. Present

Cr James Purcell (Chair)  
Cr Damian Gleeson  
Maxine Keane, Community Representative  
John Bos, Community Representative  
Anne–Maree Huglin, HADDAC Representative  
Bruce Mirtschin, Community Representative  
George Swarbrick, Community Representative  
Gemma Rodriguez, GPG Project Manager, Hawkesdale Wind Farm  
Debra Dumesny, GPG Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer  
Haridian Cabrera, GPG Community Stakeholder Engagement and Local Economic Development (Guest, via Zoom)  
Brendan Ryan, Hawkesdale Wind Farm Site Manager (Guest)  
Daniel Cullen, Environment and Safety, GPG (Guest)

Vicki Askew-Thornton, CEC Responsible Officer, Moyne Shire

### 3. Apologies

Liana Blake, Community Representative

### 4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

### 5. Confirmation of Minutes of 17 May 2021 meeting

Moved by John Bos, seconded by Anne–Maree Huglin that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 17-May 2021 be accepted. **CARRIED**

### 6. Business arising from the previous Minutes

- 6.1 GPG circulated a map of the wind farm including the updated transmission line route to the CEC.
- 6.2 Permission was not given to GPG to place the newsletter at the Post Office. Copies have and will be available from out the front of the GPG office at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall.

6.3 Question on notice: Has or will GPG contact the Hawkesdale P-12 College regarding concerns the College may have about whether the wind farm will have an impact on students with special needs?

Response: GPG has not contacted the College about this specific matter and has not found any literary evidence of such an impact.

GPG agreed to contact the College.

6.4 GPG has been advised it must liaise with the CFA via the District Commander who will in turn communicate with the local Brigade.

The endorsed Fire Management Plan (FMP) is Section 15 of the endorsed Environmental Management Plan:

<https://hawkesdalewindfarm.globalpower-generation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PA20060221-ENVIRONMENTAL-MANAGEMENT-PLAN-6.12.22.pdf>

GPG can email a copy to members of the public on request.

Some of the requirements of the FMP are:

- Site familiarisation exercises with emergency management agencies including the local CFA. (Note that 3 of these exercises have already been held at the Ryan Corner Wind Farm)
- Every fire truck will have a laminated A3 size site map showing all access points, water tank and turkeys nest locations.

## 7. Correspondence Incoming

Date	Item	Attachment Number
15 December 2022	From GPG regarding endorsed plans and commencement of construction	
17 January	3 questions on notice from John Bos	Refer to General Business
17 January	From GPG – HWF map showing water tank locations	1
17 January	From GPG – HWF construction works plan timeline	2

Council will post A3 colour copies of the site map to CEC members.

## 8. Correspondence Incoming

Nil.

## 9. Reports:

### 9.1 GPG Project Update

## 1. Team introduction



Gemma Rodriguez – Project director

Brendan Ryan – Site manager

Haridian Fuentes – Community and stakeholder engagement manager

Debra Dumesny -- Community and stakeholder engagement officer

## 2. Contractors



- ✓ Vestas – construction and commissioning of the wind turbines
- ✓ BMD Construction – civil construction of access tracks and turbine foundations
  - Consolidated Power Projects (CPP) – electrical cabling and collector sub station
- ✓ AusNet Services – design, construction and operation of the connection assets.

The contractors listed above will engage with other sub contractors for specific works which will include fencing, plumbing, concrete batch plant operation and other services.

## 3. Project specifications



- ✓ 23 V136-4.2MW Vestas turbines
- ✓ 96.6 MW installed capacity
- ✓ Tip height 180m
- ✓ 132 kV overhead transmission circuit to the existing 500kV Tarrone terminal station
- ✓ Enough power generated for 67,000 households
- ✓ 200 direct jobs during construction
- ✓ 6 permanent jobs during operation

- When the layout was amended, three turbines were removed by GPG due to predicted shadow flicker.  
John asked which three turbines were removed.
- Bruce asked if GPG considered removing the 3 turbines closest to the town. GPG responded that the studies and plans inform the final turbine number and locations.

Council will send information to the CEC regarding Amendment VC212 which was introduced by the Minister for Planning in October 2021.

## Work Hours



- Civil construction earthworks have now commenced to construct the access tracks and hardstands. Generally, the civil contractor will be working:
  - ✓ Monday to Friday                      7am to 6pm
  - ✓ Saturday                                      7am to 4pm (regular)
  - ✓ Sunday & Public holidays              7am to 4pm (occasional as required)
- Saturday afternoon (1pm to 4pm) and Sunday works will be restricted to “managed impact” and “low impact” works as defined by the EPA guidelines.
- The purpose of weekend work is to reduce the overall construction duration, and subsequently the duration of impact on the local community.

- John asked how often work would need to go until 10pm, and about how to lodge a complaint.  
GPG responded that at the Ryan Corner site, the noisiest works such as concrete pours are usually finishing by 6pm.  
During the civil works stage of construction such as tracks, hardstands and concrete pours, there will be no work on Sundays.

## 7. Project update – wind farm

- ✓ Civil works have commenced on the site
- ✓ Temporary site offices are in place, the permanent site offices and amenities will be operational by mid February
- ✓ CFA specific water tank is in place
- ✓ Notifications have been sent to emergency services and site familiarisations are being scheduled
- ✓ Temporary and permanent fencing has commenced – local contractor
- ✓ Plumbing to move stock water supplies is underway
- ✓ Access track to first turbine has commenced
- ✓ First turbine foundation scheduled for February
- ✓ The batch plant pad scheduled for completion mid February, the batch plant to be set up during March

- Maxine asked about school bus avoidance on approved routes. GPG responded that the endorsed TMP contains details.  
Council will send the relevant extract of the TMP to the CEC.  
Maxine asked if a bus company could contact GPG if a school bus broke down. GPG responded that a solution to this could be included in the communications plan – GPG to follow up.
- The TMP requires pre and post-construction road dilapidation reports and stipulates a strict road inspection and repair regime during construction.

**GPG**  
Naturgy Group

## 7. Project update – grid connection

- ✓ Foundations for the new 500kV switch gear at Tarrone Terminal Station are complete. 500kV switchgear installation is in progress.
- ✓ Works on the 132kV switchyard at the Tarrone Terminal Station are progressing with foundations almost complete. Transformer yard earthing is complete, and new fencing has been installed.
- ✓ The application for the planning permit for native vegetation removal for the transmission line has been submitted to the Department of Transport and Planning for assessment.
- ✓ The final geotech surveys for the transmission line are in progress.

**GPG**  
Naturgy Group

## 8. Permits and plans

Planning Permit No.:20060221-2 amendment endorsed  
October 2022

- ✓ Development plans
- ✓ Environmental Management Plan (EMP) including sub plans
- ✓ Traffic Management Plan (TMP)
- ✓ Complaints Investigation and Response Plan (CIRP)
- ✓ Native vegetation management plan
- ✓ On site landscape plan

All endorsed plans and permits are available at  
[Relevant Documentation | Hawkesdale Wind Farm \(globalpower-generation.com.au\)](https://www.globalpower-generation.com.au)

- John asked if the effects of the wind farm to the seasonal wetland area to the east of the township and immediately adjacent to the wind farm site was evaluated by GPG. Could GPG respond as to why they won't conduct a study given that wildlife more than likely will be affected?  
GPG responded that this was taken into account in the development of the Bat and Avifauna Management Plan (BAMP) which has been submitted to the Department for approval.

GPG will provide a summary of the study methodology to the CEC, and copies of the BAMP will be provided to the CEC once it is endorsed by the Minister.

## 9. Community engagement & communication

**GPG**  
Naturgy Group

✓ **Community engagement**

- ✓ CEC meetings
- ✓ Newsletter
- ✓ Construction updates weekly and quarterly
- ✓ Web page
- ✓ 3D simulation video
- ✓ Media releases
- ✓ Smoking ceremony
- ✓ Open days
- ✓ Community group and stakeholder meetings

- GPG has met with a range of community groups. John suggested that organisations such as the infant welfare centre should be included. GPG will check its list of community groups with HADDAC.

## 9. Community engagement & communication

**GPG**  
Naturgy Group

✓ **Benefit sharing**

- ✓ Community benefit funds
  - Hawkesdale township – from construction
  - Broader district – 1 year after operation
- ✓ Neighbour benefit sharing program
- ✓ Sponsorship of events, sporting clubs, etc
- ✓ Donations
- ✓ Landscape screening program

- GPG will request to attend a HADDAC meeting to discuss the community benefit funds. The criteria, scope and other details are yet to be finalised. A local committee will be formed by GPG to oversee the funds.

- Bruce suggested that GPG consider paying money towards the power bills of Hawkesdale residents.
- The landscape screening program is required by the permit and is offered to residents within 4km of the site.
- Council will summarise what other approved wind farms have in place regarding community funds.
- The community funds will be placed on the agenda for the next CEC meeting.

## ✓ Other initiatives

- ✓ Education programs
- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Site visits
- ✓ Traditional owners' collaboration

## ✓ Complaints investigation and response plan (CIRP)

The CIRP was endorsed on December 6 2022 and can be found on our web site at <https://hawkesdalewindfarm.globalpower-generation.com.au/> following the link The Project>Relevant documentation.

All relevant documentation and forms are found on the web site under Contact Us.

Complaints can be made in the following ways:

Phone: 1800 457 181 or 0428 867 646  
 E-mail: [debra.dumesny@globalpower-generation.com.au](mailto:debra.dumesny@globalpower-generation.com.au)  
[hawkesdalewindfarm@globalpower-generation.com.au](mailto:hawkesdalewindfarm@globalpower-generation.com.au)  
 Mail: Hawkesdale Asset Trust  
 Suite A, Level 3, 73 Northbourne Avenue,  
 Canberra ACT 2601

- Council noted that people can access its Wind Farm Complaints form via the Council website:  
<https://www.moyne.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Forms-documents-policies-and-reports/Frequently-requested-forms/Wind-Farm-Complaint-Registration>

### 9.2 Community Members:

Nothing further to raise.



### 9.3 Council:

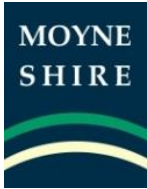
- 9.3.1 In accordance with the CEC Charter, Cr Purcell will be Chairperson for the next 12 months.

### 10. General business

- 10.1 Questions on notice from John Bos:  
**1/** I believe GPG has, or will approach neighbours of the windfarm to offer inducements to facilitate the building of the wind farm. These neighbours either have already complained or may complain in the future about aspects of the wind farm operation.  
 Could GPG articulate whether the acceptance of these inducements is preclusive to the neighbour later making a complaint about aspects of the operation of the wind farm, whether that be in the building or operational stage? And if the township accepts funding will that prevent people from making complaints?  
 GPG responded that anybody has the right to complain about the wind farm. Neighbour agreements are confidential.
- 2/** I refer to a previous CEC meeting where the question was raised as to who is responsible for the cost of decommissioning the windfarm at the end of its life cycle, specifically if costs cannot be obtained by the operator at that time. Could GPG give their understanding on this matter?  
 GPG responded that the host landholder agreements contain safeguards in the event that the company isn't around. It would be the landholders responsibility but the company would pay the cost.
- 10.2 John asked if the CEC meetings could be recorded.  
 Recording of meetings was not supported.
- 10.3 Future meetings will be held every 6 weeks, starting at 5.30pm.  
 2023 schedule proposed: 27 February, 17 April, 29 May, 3 July, 14 August, 25 September, 6 November.

### 11. Summary of actions from the meeting

Responsible	Action
GPG	Which three turbines were removed from the previous layout?
GPG	Follow up if a process could be included in the communications plan for when a school bus breaks down.
GPG	Provide a summary of the methodology used for the studies that informed the BAMP.
Council	Post A3 colour copies of the site map to Community Representatives.
Council	Send information to the CEC regarding Amendment VC212 which was introduced by the Minister for Planning in October 2021.
Council	Send information regarding school bus/heavy construction vehicles to the CEC.



# Minutes

Council	Summarise what other approved wind farms have in place regarding community funds.
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**Next meeting – Monday 27 February 2023, 5.30pm at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall – Supper Room**

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**

CONFIRMED