

## Hawkesdale Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Monday 24 July 2023  
 Meeting time and location 5.30pm at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Present

Cr James Purcell (Acting Chair)  
 Maxine Keane, Community Representative  
 John Bos, Community Representative  
 Anne–Maree Huglin, HADDAC Representative  
 George Swarbrick, Community Representative  
 Bruce Mirtschin, Community Representative  
 Debra Dumesny, GPG Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer  
 Haridian Cabrera, GPG Community Stakeholder Engagement and Local Economic Development  
 Daniel Cullen, Environment and Safety, GPG (Guest)

Vicki Askew-Thornton, CEC Responsible Officer, Moyne Shire

### 3. Apologies

Liana Blake, Community Representative  
 Cr Damian Gleeson

### 4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

### 5. Confirmation of Minutes of 3 July 2023 meeting

Moved by John Bos, seconded by Maxine Keane that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 3 July 2023 be accepted, with clarification included that GPG's project update slides were not discussed at the meeting, but provided after the meeting. **CARRIED**

### 6. Actions arising from the previous Minutes

| Responsible | Action   |
|-------------|--|
| GPG         | Provide the CEC with a copy of the endorsed BAMP when it has been endorsed by the Minister for Planning.<br><i>GPG has not yet received an endorsed BAMP from the Minister for Planning.</i> |

The complaint listed in the previous minutes was about a construction vehicle exiting from the main site entrance onto the Woolsthorpe-Heywood Rd travelling over the (then) 40km speed limit. GPG has since directed the traffic controllers to place speed restriction signage inside the main gate when required.

## 7. Correspondence Incoming

| Date      | Item                                       |
|-----------|--|
| 6 July    | Unconfirmed minutes emailed to CEC members |
| 4&13 July | HDWF construction updates from GPG         |
| 14 July   | HDWF June newsletter from GPG              |
| 17 July   | Questions on notice from John Bos          |
| 17 July   | Questions on notice from HADDAC            |

## 8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

## 9. Reports:

### 9.1 Community Representatives

#### A) Questions on notice from John Bos:

## 1. Bat and Avifauna Management Plan (BAMP)

- Submitted to DEECA last week
- Surveys conducted to date
  - 3 field surveys conducted in 2005 – 2006
  - 1 survey conducted in 2007
  - 2009 Pre-construction bird and bat surveys (Brolga survey referenced in the BAM plan)
  - 2010 bat surveys updating information
- Post-construction surveys
  - **Post construction utilisation surveys** will be undertaken upon commencement of operation, as well as Brolga **breeding season surveys**, at both wetlands on the wind farm and within 3.2km of the wind farm boundaries.
  - **Mortality surveys** will also be undertaken for at least 2 years post-construction. (Noting that this plan is still not yet endorsed and is subject to change)

2. What is the difference between the field surveys of 2005 – 2006 and the (simply) survey of 2007?

3. Why weren't more recent studies undertaken?

It has very recently come to light from other wind farm proposed sites that surveys are indicating birdlife does indeed affect the Hawkesdale area.

4. Why is GPG so reluctant to supply the community with the data of these studies so that they may be compared with data from other groups?

**Summary of further discussion:**

GPG has also provided a copy of the *Hawkesdale Wind Farm Pre-Construction Bird and Bat Surveys June 2010*. The document will be emailed to the CEC along with the unconfirmed minutes.

The Brolga surveys covered an area 10km from the site. GPG will check with their consultant whether any brolga sightings for that area have been uploaded to the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas since the last survey was completed.

John Bos will try to obtain a copy of an avifauna/brolga study done for another wind farm in the area which he referred to during the discussion.

John Bos moved, Maxine Keane seconded that the Committee submit the following recommendation to Council:

*Due to the considerable amount of time since the most recent Hawkesdale Wind Farm bird and bat survey was completed in June 2010, the Hawkesdale Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee asks that Council write to the Minister for Planning requesting that the Minister direct GPG to undertake a further bird and bat study for the Hawkesdale Wind Farm, prior to the wind farm becoming operational.*

**CARRIED**

5. Will GPG operate the Hawkesdale wind farm to permit conditions particularly regarding noise?

Yes. The operation of the Hawkesdale Wind Farm will fully comply with all obligations in Planning Permit No. 20060221-2 (**Planning Permit**), and any other applicable laws.

6. If the noise exceeds the prescribed limits particularly within the township, how will GPG know considering it has no noise monitoring equipment in this area?

Noise monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the conditions of the Planning Permit and any other applicable laws. Should specific complaints be received in relation to noise levels within the Hawkesdale township, these will be addressed in accordance with the Complaint Investigation and Response Plan (CIRP), endorsed by the Minister for Planning on 6 December 2022.

7. Will GPG act promptly to stop or prevent further adverse effects on the community?

As above, once operational, the Hawkesdale Wind Farm will comply with all relevant statutory obligations and those under the Planning Permit and the CIRP. Any complaints received will be managed in accordance these obligations.

8. What is GPG's definition of promptly?

The endorsed CIRP, which is publicly available, sets out the process for receiving, responding to and addressing complaints. In accordance with clause 2.4 of the CIRP, this includes dealing with complaints as efficiently as possible. Figure 2.1 on page 6 of the CIRP sets out the steps and expected timeframes for the complaints handling process.

9. If it is found that people are affected by noise nuisance, shadow flicker or any other adverse amenity circumstance involving the operation of the wind farm, and GPG believes they are operating within the permit conditions, what is the next step to stop the noise?

As above, any complaints will be managed and processed in accordance with the CIRP, the Planning Permit and any other applicable laws.

10. Moyne Shire was asked to do their own noise testing as there were doubts as to the veracity of the acousticians employed by GPG at another windfarm (Bald Hills). Will GPG (as well as council) supply the residents of Hawkesdale a copy of the noise data?

As above, all testing and reporting obligations in relation to the Hawkesdale Wind Farm will be complied with in accordance with the CIRP, the Planning Permit and any other applicable laws.

Moyne Shire Council is the appropriate body to respond to queries regarding the results of any separate noise testing that it may have undertaken.

11. Will GPG or the council place noise testing monitors near the township when the turbines are operating, rather than outside the township as has been done up to the present?

A post-construction monitoring program will identify the locations where noise monitoring is required to be undertaken and will be complied with.

12. Will GPG make the results of testing available to the community in a timely manner?

The reporting obligations under the Planning Permit will be complied with.

13. Should GPG disagree with residents about the noise levels when the wind farm is operational, what is the process going forward to stop noise nuisance?

The CIRP sets out a comprehensive process for addressing complaints in relation to the Hawkesdale Wind Farm. Any complaints will be dealt with in accordance with the Planning Permit and the CIRP.

Noise levels will be tested in accordance with the Planning Permit. If nuisance is alleged in circumstances where the Hawkesdale Wind Farm is demonstrated to comply with the noise limits in the Standards, evidence would be sought from the complainants to substantiate such an allegation. Clause 2.4.3 of the CIRP sets out the process by which unsubstantiated complaints are likely to be engaged with.

## Summary of further discussion:

The permit does not require real-time continuous noise monitoring. GPG was asked what the cost difference would be between monitoring in accordance with the permit and real-time monitoring.

The noise monitoring process is not simple and involves measuring noise emissions and wind speed, and consideration of the pre-construction background noise monitoring results during analysis.

GPG will treat any complaint received on a case-by-case basis, including consideration of any detailed information a complainant can provide such as a noise diary.

John asked if GPG would accept data from a person's own independent noise monitoring. Anne-Maree hopes there can be a collaborative approach to noise monitoring processes and sharing of data.

Council noted that the EPA is now the authority primarily responsible for wind farm noise. If Council receives a complaint, the complainant is directed to the operator and also encouraged to lodge their complaint with the EPA.

GPG will follow up on whether it could provide raw noise monitoring data to the public if requested.

14. GPG has indicated it has, or will approach residents within certain distances from the wind farm offering inducements. These may include, but are not limited to offers of home noise insulation, tree planting and regular periodic payments.

Answered at January 2023 meeting and recorded in minutes. The landscape screening program is a requirement of the permit and is actioned when operation commences. The neighbour deeds are a standard initiative as part of a Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Plan.

15. Which, if any of these inducements preclude residents from making a claim against the wind farm operator at a later date?

Answered at January 2023 meeting and recorded in minutes.

16. Is GPG willing to be open and frank about the formula it uses for the terms of any agreements it may make with nearby residents of the wind farm?

Confidential conversations with neighbours. The calculations are based on the distance of the residence from a turbine.

## Summary of further discussion:

GPG has contacted all residents within 2km of a turbine regarding voluntary neighbour deeds, and this consultation is still underway. If anyone thinks they have been missed in this process they are encouraged to contact Debra.

17. Council, in 2018, decided in a council vote to alienate a large area of land on the south east corner of Hawkesdale as a 'precautionary approach' to possible effects of the wind farm on the township.

Was GPG aware of this action by council, or involved in any way with this action?

No. Refer to March 2021 minutes. Any further questions should be referred to Moyne Council.

18. Given the amount of time required to discuss and answer Community questions, could the format of the meeting reflect this by placing community reports at point 8.1 with GPG and Council at 8.2 and 8.3 respectively.

No problem with this, discussed and agreed at last meeting

## B) Questions on notice from HADDAC:

19. Request a copy of a "Neighborhood Agreement"

Confidential document discussed with each neighbour.

20. What percent of people in Hawkesdale have taken up a Neighborhood Agreement?

We have had preliminary conversations with some neighbours. A decision was made to put the meetings with neighbours on hold during the legal process in line with the CEC meetings. We will recommence speaking with neighbours to the wind farm in the coming weeks.

21. Change of procedure of meeting schedule – Community first

Not a problem for GPG.

Anne-Maree clarified that HADDAC was only asking for a copy of the template for a neighbour deed.



22. If power point is already produced – could it be sent out to CEC members prior to meeting?

GPG prefers to discuss the content of the PowerPoint as it is presented. This allows for question time during the presentation.

23. Is it in writing that if persons makes a complaint or talks about the Windfarm in negative terms or are affected by the WF in any way are their rights forfeited by accepting and signing a Neighborhood Agreement? Can a copy of this be obtained?

Answered in January 23 meeting and in minutes.

24. Would GPG be interested in setting up one/several noise monitors in Hawkesdale?

A post-construction monitoring program will identify the locations where noise monitoring is required to be undertaken and will be complied with.

## 9.2 GPG Project Update:

### 2. Project update – wind farm



- ✓ 20 foundations poured, 4 at 700m<sup>3</sup>, the others are 475m<sup>3</sup>
- ✓ 20 foundations backfilled
- ✓ 17km or 51% of the interconnection cables have been laid
- ✓ The underground crossing connecting the north and south sides completed
- ✓ Upgrades to the Woolsthorpe Heywood /Warrnambool Peshurst Road intersection and other points along the route commenced:
  - Upgrades required for the over dimensional vehicles delivering the components.
  - Bus companies and Hawkesdale College have been notified.
  - Traffic management will give priority to buses and emergency vehicles in the traffic queue.
- ✓ Vestas have commenced construction and installation of their site compound.



## 2. Project update – grid connection



- ✓ Installation of the new 500kV and 132kV switch gear at Tarrone Terminal Station has been completed and secondary pre-commissioning tests are in progress.
- ✓ At Tarrone Terminal Station 132kV interplant connections and secondary cable installation work are in progress.
- ✓ 420MVA, 500kV/132kV Power transformer testing scheduled to commence July 3.
- ✓ Internal collector sub station bench civil works have commenced.







- 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.

#### Summary of further discussion:

John Bos noted there have been some staff vehicles travelling on public roads with their warning lights flashing. GPG has followed this up with construction staff and will look into placing a reminder sign inside the main gate.

## 4. Community engagement & communication



### ✓ Community engagement

- Weekly construction updates are being emailed and uploaded to the Hawkesdale wind farm web page
- June newsletter available
- 1 complaint has been received, investigated and resolved

### 3. Community engagement & communication GPG Naturgy Group

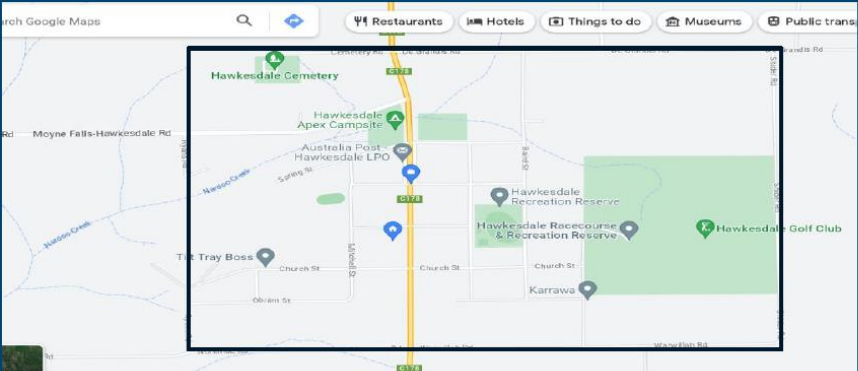
- ✓ **Benefit sharing**
  - Fundraising and prostate awareness event July 7 on site. More than \$30,000 raised for South West Health Care to purchase biopsy equipment.
  - Community Benefit Fund
    - ✓ Second meeting of the Community Benefit Fund committee held on June 20
    - ✓ Guidelines and application documentation to be finalised at next meeting
    - ✓ Schedule for applying to be confirmed

**Summary of further discussion:**

The Community Benefit Fund committee will oversee both the Hawkesdale township fund and the Hawkesdale district fund. Its next meeting will be held tomorrow night.

### 3. Community engagement & communication GPG Naturgy Group

- ✓ **Benefit sharing**
  - Community Benefit Fund
    - ✓ The township of Hawkesdale defined:



## 3. Community engagement & communication



### ✓ 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 for lodging a complaint 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 Trusts

Suite A, Level 3, 73 Northbourne Avenue,

#### 9.3 Council:

Nothing to report.

#### 10. General business

Nil.

**Next meeting – Monday 4 September 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