



Hawkesdale Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Monday 4 December 2023
Meeting time and location 5.30pm at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall

1. Welcome

2. Present

Cr Damian Gleeson (Chair)
Maxine Keane, Community Representative
John Bos, Community Representative
Anne–Maree Huglin, HADDAC Representative
Bruce Mirtschin, Community Representative
Liana Blake, Community Representative
Debra Dumesny, GPG Community and Stakeholder Engagement Officer
Haridian Cabrera, GPG Community Stakeholder Engagement and Local Economic Development

Vicki Askew-Thornton, CEC Responsible Officer, Moyne Shire

3. Apologies

George Swarbrick, Community Representative

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of 4 September meeting

Moved by Maxine Keane, seconded by Debra Dumesny that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 23 October 2023 be accepted. **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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ BAM Plan – update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BAM plan is still under assessment by DTP and GPG have been in active consultation with DEECA. • To be undertaken once the site is operational: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brolga surveys: over two breeding seasons (two years) from July to December. • Southern Bent Wing Bat (SBWB) surveys: over two seven week periods, from February to March and October to November. • A further SBWB intensive monitoring program has been developed as instructed by Dr Lindy Lumsden (DEECA’s Arthur Rylah Research Institute).
GPG	<p>Ask the over-dimensional load contractor what traffic warning measures are set out in its procedure for escort vehicles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ After discussions with the transport company: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All signage requirements are compliant with Victorian regulations. ▪ All vehicles have dash cam that is reviewed regularly by the company. ▪ All vehicles involved in transport use channel 40 for communication – they also use another channel for internal communication. Both channels are always monitored – two radios. ✓ All bus companies have been contacted and have instructed their drivers to call the bus company and Debra if there is an instance when an oversize load is on the road at the same time as their bus. ✓ Safety concern raised on Saturday 28/10/2023 was addressed immediately. Signage was within regulations. Dash cam footage was reviewed, no breaches of regulations found ✓ Roadside grass – Moyne Shire Council and GPG both liaised with Vicroads to address the roadside grass and a slashing schedule.
GPG	<p>Provide information to the CEC on how many power outages occurred during stringing of the Ryan Corner transmission line and seek information on how many might be expected during stringing of the Hawkesdale transmission line.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Information packs have been sent to all properties that will be affected by power outages during the stringing of the Hawkesdale section of the transmission line. ✓ Stringing schedule is not in place ✓ Ryan Corner had 10 outage locations, each location had 3 outages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setup • Construction • Dismantle
Council	<p>Report back to the CEC when a response is received from the Minister to the letter from the Mayor regarding a further bird and bat survey. Completed: The response from the Minister was emailed to the CEC on 16 November. A copy is included as Attachment 1.</p> <p>Further discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cr Gleeson noted that Council has dealt with this matter and won't be discussing it again. - John asked what the Minister meant by the term 'discharged' in her letter of reply to the Mayor. - John asked GPG to provide a copy of any previous targeted bird and/or bat study or survey that showed Southern Bent-wing Bat and Brolga were present, particularly during the period between 2005-2010.

7. Correspondence Incoming

Date	Item	Attachment Number
30 October	Unconfirmed minutes emailed to CEC members	
Oct 11, Nov 2, 11, 23	HDWF construction updates from GPG	
26 Oct & 28 Nov	HDWF September and October newsletters from GPG	
26 November	Agenda items on notice from John Bos	2

8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

9. Reports:

9.1 Community Representatives

- Anne-Maree provided feedback from some community fund applicants that the process of the fund committee asking applicants for further information was misleading. GPG noted that as this was the first round, almost all applicants needed to be asked for more information to assist the fund committee to assess the applications.

GPG noted that feedback from the CEC about the fund is taken on board, and that in early 2024 it will meet to discuss ways to improve the application process. The two GPG members on the fund committee have voting rights.

Anne-Maree asked how the fund would consider potentially larger community projects in the future. GPG responded that it was open to future discussion about any proposed projects that would offer lasting benefits to the township.

- There will be one community fund for the Ryan Corner Wind Farm based on \$2,500 per turbine per annum and set up in the same way as the Hawkesdale fund with a separate community-based committee to be formed. The geographical scope of the Ryan Corner fund will be discussed and agreed by the fund committee once it is established.
- Maxine tendered her resignation from the CEC as she is relocating from Hawkesdale to Koroit, noting that one of the reasons was her concern about the wind farm's proximity to the township. Cr Gleeson and the Committee members extended sincere thanks to Maxine for her commitment and input into the CEC and wished her all the best. There is now a community representative vacancy on the CEC. If anyone from the Hawkesdale area is interesting in nominating, please ask them to contact Vicki for information and an application form. Any application received would need to be considered at a Council meeting.
- Liana noted that as a near neighbour she had not had any contact from GPG to discuss her concerns about the wind farm. GPG responded that all neighbours within 2 kms of a turbine had been contacted, and that a further round of neighbour liaison will commence in January and will include Liana.

9.2 GPG Project Update:

Due to time constraints, GPG's project update slides will be emailed to the CEC members when the unconfirmed minutes are distributed.

9.3 Council:

Nothing further to report.

10. General business

- Delivery of the remaining over-dimensional components should be completed by the end of January 2024.
- The date of the second round of the community fund has not yet been set.
- John asked if Council had received any payments or gifts from GPG.

11. Summary of actions from the meeting

GPG	Provide the CEC with a copy of the endorsed BAMP when it has been endorsed by the Minister for Planning.
GPG	Provide a copy of any previous targeted bird and/or bat study or survey that showed Southern Bent-wing Bat and Brolga were present, particularly during the period between 2005-2010.
Council	Has Council received any payments or gifts from GPG?

Next meeting – Monday 12 February 2024, 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

Attachment 1



The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP

Minister for Planning
Minister for the Suburbs

1 Spring Street
Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia

Ref: CMIN-1-23-5479

Cr Karen Foster
Mayor
Moyne Shire Council
PO Box 51
PORT FAIRY VICTORIA 3284
mgrainger@moyne.vic.gov.au

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 5 October 2023 regarding the Hawkesdale wind farm, requesting that I ask the developer of the wind farm to undertake a new bat and avifauna survey before the wind farm commences operation.

As highlighted in your correspondence, the proposal was amended in 2017, following a panel hearing. The panel's recommendation considered impacts to avifauna, including the appropriateness of the existing Bat and Avifauna Management (BAM) Plan. The panel did not recommend a new bat and avifauna survey as part of its recommendations.

I understand that Department of Transport and Planning officers have liaised with officers from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), who advised that the permit requirement to assess site utilisation by threatened birds and bats was discharged in 2012, and this confirmed that Brolga and Southern Bent-wing bat were present. DEECA has no expectation that this utilisation would be repeated.

The project proponent is currently revising the BAM Plan to make it consistent with current monitoring survey standards and this is informed by the targeted assessment previously undertaken. DEECA officers are comfortable with the resulting approach now being finalised in the BAM Plan.

I am satisfied with the approach and will not recommend that a further survey be undertaken before the wind farm becomes operational.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "S/K", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP
Minister for Planning

6/11/23



Attachment 2: Agenda items on notice from John Bos

Councilor Gleeson

26/11/2023

Agenda items requests for the December 2023 HWF CEC meeting.

Time for further discussion is requested at the December C.E.C. meeting regarding the outcome of the request for a further fauna study at the HWF. The reasons for the new study, particularly the dot points sent to Councilor Gleeson were not mentioned at all in the letter sent to Minister Kilkenny. The reasons for this and any follow up action needs to be addressed.

At the October C.E.C. meeting, GPG declined to supply contact information regarding the company responsible for the transport of oversized items to the HWF and indicated any concerns should be made to them rather than Vic Roads as the matter would be expedited immediately.

Unfortunately, this process does not work as a concern raised by me on 28/10/2023 was not addressed for two days. This is a safety concern outside the confines of the wind farm site and must involve the relevant authorities. Should there be an incident on the roads regarding these vehicles, GPG may be held legally at least partly responsible.

I would again request the contact details of the transporting operators and more specifically the escort operators.

The matter of who has been successful in receiving grants and reasons for these decisions appears to be a well kept secret. When will GPG make these decisions easily and readily available for the people and Hawkesdale and its surrounds.

Regards;

John Bos