



## Hawkesdale Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Monday 19 February 2024  
Meeting time and location 5.30pm at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Present

Cr Damian Gleeson (Chair)  
John Bos, Community Representative  
Anne–Maree Huglin, HADDAC Representative  
Bruce Mirtschin, Community Representative  
Liana Blake, Community Representative  
George Swarbrick, 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

Nil

### 4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

### 5. Confirmation of Minutes of 4 December 2023 meeting

Moved by John Bos, seconded by Anne–Maree Huglin that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 4 December 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"> <li>A final version of the BAM plan was submitted to DTP/DECCA on 9th February. We expect this version to be approved soon.</li> </ul>
GPG	Request for 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. <b>GPG response: GPG tabled a hard copy of the original BAMP – noting that the surveys requested are at the back of the document. (This BAMP will be</b>

	<p>superseded by the new BAMP once it is endorsed by the Minister for Planning) Anne-Maree took the hard copy for HADDAC.</p>
Council	<p>Has Council had received any payments or gifts from GPG?</p> <p><b>Council response:</b>  <b>In October 2020 Council's CEO wrote to energy companies and other major industries in Moyne Shire seeking sponsorship for Council's <i>Love Local</i> business support campaign. The campaign encouraged consumers to spend locally to support Moyne's small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. GPG provided sponsorship to the value of \$5,000 towards the campaign.</b></p> <p><b>Summary of further discussion:</b>          Anne-Maree asked what DEECA's main concerns were, causing the BAMP process to take so long.          GPG responded that developing the new BAMP has required lengthy discussions with DEECA regarding Southern Bent-wing Bat (SBWB) monitoring regimes, and strategies if there are SBWB mortalities.          DEECA may be informed by the learnings from the BAMP strategies for other wind farms that are operating in Moyne.          John asked GPG if there were further bat studies done after 2010, and if so, what was the duration of the studies?</p>

## 7. Correspondence Incoming

Date	Item	Attachment Number
5 December	Unconfirmed minutes emailed to CEC members	
Dec 15&21, Jan 25, Feb 1&9	HDWF construction updates from GPG	
28 January	Agenda items on notice from John Bos	1

## 8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

## 9. Reports:

### 9.1 Community Representatives

#### 9.1.1 GPG responses to questions on notice from John Bos:

- ✓ Why is GPG leaving Australia after they repeatedly said they were in for the long haul and are not in the habit of selling wind farm projects?
  - GPG is firmly committed to Australia as it is currently one of the key markets for its parent company's (Naturgy Energy Group) renewable energy growth strategy. The current strategic plan in place that covers the period between 2021 to 2025, includes a target of 2.2 GW of projects in Australia.
- ✓ There are whispers that contractors working on the Ryan Corner and Hawkesdale Farms are in financial trouble?
  - GPG Australia is not aware about any financial issues of its construction contractors on these projects. Our contractual relationship with all our contractors is solid and their scope of work is being performed according to the contracts signed with them.
- ✓ Has, or will the Vestas funding (deferred facility deal) be repaid before GPG leaves Australia?
  - The deferred payment facility for GPG Australia on Ryan Corner and Hawkesdale Wind Farms projects in Victoria, that was announced in 2021, is finished and paid back during 2023.
- ✓ Is GPG currently viable as per ASIC regulations?
  - Absolutely. GPG Australia (as the registered legal entity in Australia) is a solvent company.
- ✓ What is Red Energy's involvement with GPG?
  - GPG does not have any direct relationship with Red Energy but its parent company, Snowy Hydro, is the energy off-taker for Ryan Corner Wind Farm.

- ✓ Should a sale take place, what is the effect on GPG's current funding of both the Hawkesdale Township and surrounding area?
  - According to our corporate communications standards, GPG does not normally comment on news about our company that have not been published directly by GPG and/or by Naturgy Energy Group. Currently, GPG's parent company, Naturgy Energy Group, is under a process for the valuation of the fast-growing Australian portfolio that is anticipated to gauge interest from 3rd party investors for a potential divestment to increase/inject capital in the Australian operation for further growth. The benefit sharing commitments for the current projects under construction will remain as they are.
- ✓ Is the new owner/operator contractually required to commit to continued funding as it exists at the moment?
  - Please refer to response above.

GPG added that it was not a source of information for the stories that appeared in the media on this topic.

## 9.2 GPG Project Update:

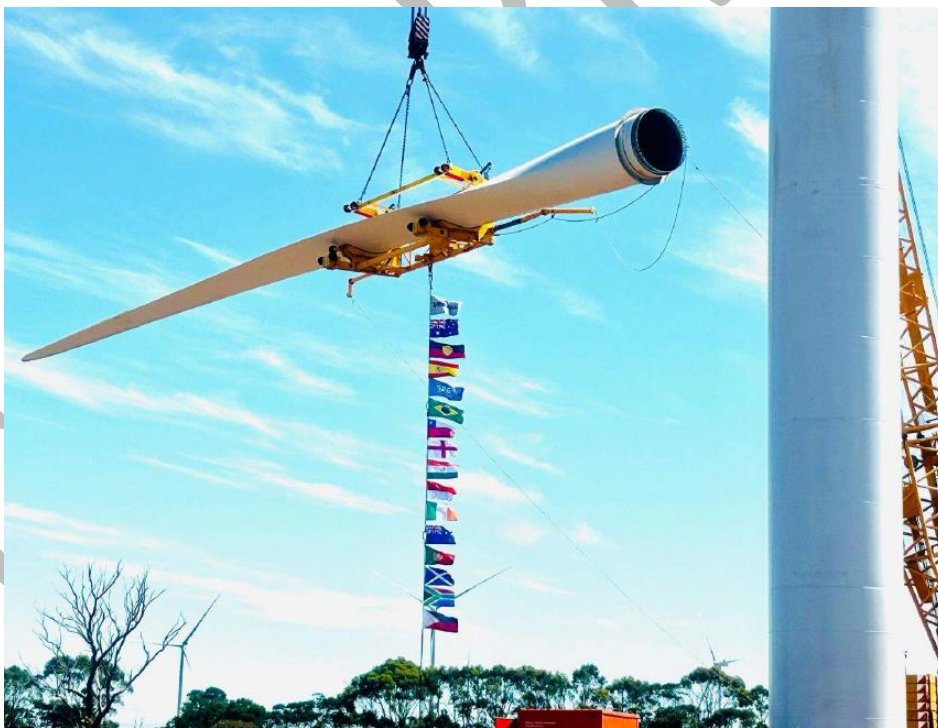
- ✓ All turbines are erected
- ✓ Components deliveries were completed during the school holidays
- ✓ A small civil team remains on site to conduct rehabilitation activities across the site and maintain the access tracks and hard stands
- ✓ The operation and maintenance building at the collector sub station is close to being completed
- ✓ The permanent met mast is fully erected
- ✓ Site compound is being dismantled and some offices are being removed
- ✓ The large crane is being removed from site

## 3. Project update – grid connection

GPG  
Naturgy Group

- ✓ Construction is continuing on the Hawkesdale section of the transmission line
- ✓ 25 of 58 pole foundations have been poured
- ✓ The poles and other components are being delivered
- ✓ Finalising property and construction management plans with landowners
- ✓ Substation fencing completed
- ✓ The transformer has been delivered

The transmission line easement runs adjacent to and parallel with the existing 500kV transmission line.



Final lift displaying flags for all nationalities involved in the construction.





- **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.**

**Further discussion:**

- The main crane is being dismantled and the 50+ components transported from the site over coming days. The loads will be avoiding school bus times.

## ✓ **Community engagement**

- January newsletter available
- Construction updates will move to fortnightly
- Quarterly update published in Warrnambool Standard

## ✓ **Benefit sharing**

- **Neighbour Benefit Program**
  - ✓ Neighbour contacts to recommence
- **Community Benefit Fund (Township Grant Program)**
  - ✓ 5 applications were successful and all grants have been paid
    - ✓ Hawkesdale Macarthur Football Netball Club – resurfacing the netball/tennis courts
    - ✓ Hawkesdale Cricket Club – concrete path near cricket nets
    - ✓ Hawkesdale Cemetery Trust – removal and trimming of cyprus trees
    - ✓ Hawkesdale racecourse reserve – mower
    - ✓ Hawkesdale Family Services Parents Committee – play equipment
  - ✓ Next meeting scheduled for February 20
  - ✓ Event with recipients
  - ✓ Review of processes
  - ✓ Committee to decide on schedule for 2024 grant process

### **Further discussion:**

- The program requires recipient organisations to expend the funds within 1 year.
- Recipient organisations are required to complete a formal grant acquittal process.
- A hypothetical strategic project, undertaken by a consultant and with broad long term community benefit was discussed. GPG noted that such proposals could be submitted, and the Fund Committee would assess all applications on their merit.
- GPG provides feedback from the CEC to the Fund Committee.



✓ **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, Canberra ACT 2601

**Further discussion:**

- GPG has received 4 complaints since the start of construction.
- Cr Gleeson commented that it was a good outcome to have the over dimensional deliveries finished before the start of the school year.

**9.3 Council:**

Council noted that the proponent for the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm is currently preparing management plans and is proposing that construction commence in the second half of this year. They have been liaising with GPG to discuss what worked well with the Hawkesdale Wind Farm construction process with a view to continuous improvement.

**10. General business**

Nil.

**11. Summary of actions from the meeting**

GPG	Were there further bat studies done after 2010, and if so, what was the duration of the studies?
-----	--

**Next meeting – Monday 25 March 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

---

## Attachment 1: Questions on notice from John Bos

Questions on notice for Hawkesdale C.E.C. meeting on 05/02/2024

Attention Councillor Gleeson

Why is GPG leaving Australia after they repeatedly said they were in for the long haul and are not in the habit of selling wind farm projects?

There are whispers that contractors working on the Ryans Corner and Hawkesdale Farms are in financial trouble?

Has, or will the Vestas funding (deferred facility deal) be repaid before GPG leaves Australia?

Is GPG currently viable as per ASIC regulations?

What is Red Energy's involvement with GPG?

Should a sale take place, what is the effect on GPG's current funding of both the Hawkesdale Township and surrounding area?

Is the new owner/operator contractually required to commit to continued funding as it exists at the moment?