

Collector Wind Farm – Community Consultative Committee (CCC) - Meeting Notes

Date	6 December 2023	Time	6.00pm – 7.45pm
Location - Bushranger Hotel, Collector			
Attendees			
Margaret Harvie (MH) Chairperson – PlanCom Consulting			
Terry Lovelock (TL)		Paison Sutjarit (PS) – RATCH-Australia Corporation (RAC)	
Andrew Chiswell (AC)		Melinda Loew (ML) - RATCH-Australia Corporation (RAC)	
Edward Geishofer (EG) - representative of the Collector Community Association		Note taker: Kaye Paterson	
Mayor Pam Kensit (PK) – Upper Lachlan Shire Council			

Apologies: Dean Horne (DH)

Item number	Subject	Actions
1	Welcome and apologies - Margaret Harvie (MH) Acknowledged traditional owners.	
2	Declaration of pecuniary or other interests - nil	
3.	<p>Report on Outstanding Actions from the last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding new members for the CCC – suggestion of Denise Duck? – <i>deferred to discussion at item 7</i> Landscaping report to CCC – <i>this was circulated previously. Copies were made available at the meeting so members could recall this document.</i> Request for a meeting with Council (Mayor and AC, BM (Brian Mor) & EG) to discuss governance of the s355 committee including: feedback on unsuccessful applications, timely payments, need for more transparency and clarity around decisions, more timely decision making around funding/ meetings of the funding committee – <i>the governance of the s355 committee is part of the discussion in item 6 of the agenda</i> 	
4.	No correspondence had been received since the last meeting	
5.	<p>RAC update</p> <p>Staff on site – 12 people employed but usually only 9-10 on site. These are Vestas staff.</p> <p>Energy production - Paison Sutjarit provided an update. Wind resource was lower than forecasted by 6-7% using 10 months data (Jan to October this year). This impacted generation by 7.74</p>	<p>ACTION – Request by the CCC members that RAC contact the Crookwell RFS to get latest update on fire conditions.</p>

	<p>GWh lower than the planned production. However the availability of Collector Wind Farm remained at 98.3%.</p> <p>The environmental site audit is completed every 3 years after the first audit being in 2019. The 2022 Audit report was completed in April 2023. The operational compliance management reports (environment, noise, bushfire etc) are on the RAC website and Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DHPI) website.</p> <p>Points raised in the audit included closing out of the retirement of biodiversity offset requirements and compliance. (All plans submitted to DHPI, and Crookwell RFS consulted on the bushfire management plan).</p> <p>PK - Suggested that fire conditions have changed and that will be important for RAC to contact George Shephard to follow up. Action recorded for this.</p>	
6.	<p>Collector Funds update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector Wind Farm Community Trust • s355 committee Fund <p>Melinda Loew presented a report on the progress of funding and this is attached with these meeting notes. (note that I will do as a PDF in the final)</p> <p>She explained how the funds were started prior to the Deed of Agreement which specifies a CPI formula to be applied. An Audit of all the funds applying the agreed CPI formula resulted in an adjustment for 2021 and 2022 funds. RAC applied an additional \$2,696.42 credit to the Community Trust fund and a similar amount (\$3808.79) credited to the s355 Enhancement Fund in 2023. Council have been notified of this.</p> <p>The Community Trust has completed its second round of grants. Seven applications were received and four of these were funded. Applications sought \$59,000 with \$38,281.91 available.</p> <p>Feedback was provided to all applicants to help them comply guidelines in their future applications.</p> <p>EG - Noted that those not able to be funded was due to the application of the guidelines.</p> <p>ML – None of the applications were outside of the 10km radius. The successful recipients of the grants for both funds are reported on the RAC website.</p> <p>PK – Discussed the need to develop a strategic project such as a community battery. She would like to have all of the Shire buildings fitted with solar panels to reduce the costs for community groups and toward the objective of all of the community buildings within the Upper Lachlan being sustainable. She is trying to encourage this and suggested that this type of strategic project could be coordinated by the community funds.</p> <p>The group discussed the need for the funds to coordinate, and what is permitted within the guidelines, including community projects involving council-owned assets.</p> <p>AC and EG - discussed historical application of the guideline, e.g., the oval is a council asset for the benefit to the community. Generally, funds are used for non-fixed assets (not council</p>	

	<p>business) but there was an MoU for the Trust funded Oval Committee ride-on lawnmower to be used on other local assets, as long as Council maintained the asset and it did not leave the community.</p> <p>PK - Suggested RAC money could be spent in a coordinated way on bigger picture things for the benefit of us all and our offspring.</p> <p>AC – Advised this type of idea has come up in the past with studies done on 'a community battery'. He suggests that it could possibly work if it was seen as strategic– using council and private roofs - program to generate and store renewable energy.</p> <p>PK -Suggested that we could look at roof spaces in the Collector area, do an asset review of roof spaces. Not concerned about where the solar panels go. What I really want to do is use the sun to stop using fossil fuels.</p> <p>AC – Suggested that if Council want to do this that they come to the Collector Community Association (CCA). The CCA have some experience, including the best expert only 60km down the road. It would be possible to use this person to help design a way to get a community battery in place to benefit the whole community. The community have been interested in and have been struggling to get this partnership approach with Council. He suggested that Council facilitation would be great and a touch point that people could go to in Council would be useful.</p>	
7.	<p>Discussion about the issues of governance of the s355 committee</p> <p>An action from the last meeting was to request a meeting with Council to discuss governance of the s355 committee. Including need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feedback on unsuccessful applications • More timely payments • Need for more transparency and clarity around decisions. • More timely decision making around funding/ meetings of the funding committee. <p>MH – Spoke to the concerns about the s355 committee that are also outlined in the CCC Annual Report that had been emailed, hard copies of this were provided at the meeting. This annual report is prepared for DHPI and will be uploaded to the DHPI website.</p> <p>The report speaks to the four points outlined above but perhaps the greatest frustration in the past was that the s355 committee wasn't distributing all its funds and there was a desire by this CCC to see surplus funds reinvested or redirected to the Trust committee.</p> <p>There was discussion about the current operations of the s355 committee and the improvements in the process for this committee 2023. There is perhaps still some frustration that there is a lack of feedback for unsuccessful applicants.</p> <p>EG - One of the fundamentals he considers to be important to enable coordination of the two community funds is ensuring the governance across the s355 and the Trust are consistent during the decision-making process.</p>	

<p>There was a suggestion that the problem is that Council has multiple s355 committees and while there is alignment across those committees this does not necessarily mean the s355 for Collector aligns with the Community Trust.</p> <p>ML – advised the s355 Deed of Agreement was written with the intent of allowing Council flexibility with surplus funds to determine whether to transfer for surplus funds to Trust money or invest it.</p> <p>PK – Indicated that this may well be the solution. She went further to say that in the past there was a lot of mistrust of the Community Trust but that has changed with more transparency.</p> <p>AC - Essentially both committees are for Collector and so they have the same objective. The problem from AC’s perspective is that the Community Trust is performing well due to good governance and comparatively the s355 committee has not been perceived as successful over this time.</p> <p>The s355 is in a better position to do major projects because it has most of the funds. It would be good to be able to bypass the s355 committee but the structure has been established as it is and it is difficult to recreate history.</p> <p>The objective in the short term is to manage the s355 properly and Council that needs to do that. The suggestion was that this should involve consistency with, or directly using the Community Trust guidelines that have worked well for the 2 or 3 years of operation. It would be ideal for the s355 to look to why the trust works so well including perhaps adopting it guidelines and governance. This includes the Community Trust committee members succession plan which they have been enacting since the beginning.</p> <p>PK – Indicated that there are 5 members on the s355 committee, Mayor, Council GM, RAC and 2 community representatives, but this may not be enough.</p> <p>MH – summarised discussion and the need for more transparency between the two groups. The need to be able to coordinate and see the actions of each other.</p> <p>EG – suggested that it is ideal that both Committees formally meet and that there be combined agreed guidelines covering both funding bodies.</p> <p>MH – Question is how is best to make this happen?</p> <p>The Community Trust is the junior in this situation and so it was suggested that the Council is the main driver. Council needs to initiate this meeting with the Community Trust.</p> <p>It was agreed that the committees would meet in advance of the next funding round – suggestion of March.</p> <p>RAC committed to support and participate in this process.</p> <p>AC – Suggested that what it important, at the core is the guidelines and consistency across the two groups? It is important that it is best practice, that there is consistency and clarity for the community.</p>	<p>ACTION: Agreed that PK will work with Council to initiate coordination meetings between the two funds committees prior to funding rounds with the first meeting being in March 2024</p>
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	<p>The suggestion was that if the governance of the s355 is consistent with the Trust Fund that when a big project comes up there will be systems to respond.</p> <p>EG – Spoke to the importance of consistent rules (guidelines) for both groups -community responsibility, their roles, quorums, declaration of interest. We should also look to have the same guidelines for applicants and funding objectives should be the same.</p> <p>ML – Suggested that a joint project would be effective in bringing both groups together to work on a common objective.</p> <p>AC - Projects need to be community driven. Need someone within the community taking charge and using the available resources from both funds. Further there is a concern that the s355 committee is ongoing with the same members and no succession planning.</p> <p>PK – Agreed to look at the membership of the s355 committee and look at making changes to membership tenure and composition. Community members tenure should be annual, but has in past been extended.</p> <p>MH – Summarised that while there were issues in the past (such as those expressed at the most recent meetings) the situation with the s355 committee has improved. There is some more trust in the s355 committee with the improvements this year from the last year.</p> <p>There is a lot of history with the establishment of these funding committees, and this has been the cause of much angst over many years. It is important that this discussion is had at this time with Council present.</p>	
7.	<p>Future of the CCC given diminished participation</p> <p>MH – Posed the question of whether the CCC committee has ongoing value or whether it has had its time given the wind farm is operational.</p> <p>One of the biggest drivers of this question is the difficulty in getting people to join the CCC, this has been the situation for the past two years.</p> <p>TL – Agreed that the CCC is no longer required.</p> <p>AC – Indicated that he would like the CCC to continue and suggested that it just continue with a smaller membership.</p> <p>MH – advised that in accordance with the DHPI guidelines it is required to have seven members.</p> <p>EG – Indicated that he votes to formally wrap up the CCC.</p> <p>ML – Indicated that if there were problems RAC would readily attend the CCA meetings to address this, and there are established channels for community to raise concerns via phone and email. She noted that no community complaints were received in the past year.</p> <p>MH - The lack of community members wanting to join the CCC is perhaps indication of the level of concern about the windfarm.</p> <p>There was a feeling among the CCC members that there was sufficient indication of willingness from Ratch and Council to</p>	<p>ACTION: MH to send email to all members of the CCC including those not at this meeting to confirm the decision to discontinue the CCC</p>

	<p>continue dialogue with the community and with the CCA and that the remaining issues around the administration of community funds can be addressed in other ways, rather than via this CCC.</p> <p>MH – The action would be that MH suggests to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DHPI) that the CCC be wound up based on the confidence of the community to have means to liaise with Ratch through other mechanisms and the community support for this decision.</p> <p>It is important that all CCC members generally agree including DH who is not present.</p> <p>MH will send an email to all members to confirm this decision before making any recommendation to the DHPI.</p>	
8.	<p>Annual report</p> <p>This was circulated and summarises the activities and key issues raised by the CCC over the past few years. It is a report by the Chairperson to the DHPI. It will be on the DHPI and on the RAC website.</p> <p>MH – indicated that the annual report is yet to be submitted to DHPI in part waiting for this meeting. The report will be revised to include the updated action of meetings between the two committees twice a year from now. This is a satisfactory resolution to some of the issues that have been raised by the CCC and reflected in the Annual report</p>	<p>ACTION: MH to update the Annual Report with action for the fund committees from this meeting</p>
9.	<p>Nominations for Community Fund Trust Advisory Committee vacancy.</p> <p>ML/PK agreed (pending advice) a joint EOI could be held to fill vacancies for both s355 and Trust committees.</p>	<p>ACTION: ML to confirm charter requirement for composition/term of s355 committee members.</p> <p>Council to confirm whether to conduct joint EOI for committee vacancies.</p>
10.	<p>Round the table with any further issues/ other business</p> <p>AC – indicated that tonight’s discussions had been very fruitful.</p>	

The logo consists of three green, teardrop-shaped elements arranged in a triangular pattern, pointing towards the center. The top element is vertical, while the two bottom elements are angled outwards.

Collector

Wind Farm

CCC Meeting - 6 December 2023
Community Funds Report

Calculation of Community Funds

Main contribution - \$200,000 p.a. (indexed from 2012), shared between

- S355 Community enhancement fund (Y1 - 80%, Y2 onwards - 90%)
- Community Trust (Y1 - 20%, Y2 onwards - 10%)

The Community Trust is supplemented by an additional \$40,000 p.a. (indexed from 2016)

Year	Main Contribution	S355 Committee Total	Community Trust (Main contribution)	Community Trust (Additional)	Community Trust Total
2021	\$ 235,820.90	\$ 188,656.72 (80%)	\$ 47,164.18 (20%)	\$ 43,183.90	\$ 90,348.08
2022	\$ 246,169.15	\$ 221,552.24 (90%)	\$ 24,616.92 (10%)	\$ 44,501.37	\$ 69,118.29
2023	\$ 264,079.60	\$ 237,671.64 (90%)	\$ 26,407.96 (10%)	\$ 47,904.85	\$ 74,312.81

Collector Community Trust

Indexation – the process set out in the Deed is different to the calculation that has been used to date. The initial spreadsheet was created before the Deed was executed and had not been updated to reflect the defined methodology and consequently there has been an adjustment to funds with is an **additional \$2696.42 including interest accredited** to the CTF account.

Available Funding Round 2	\$38,281.92
Sought Funding (7 Applications)	\$59,659.74
Approved Funding	\$31,327.00
Remaining Amount	\$6,954.92
Total Remaining Amount – including CPI formula adjustment	\$9,557.96
Total Remaining Amount with interest	\$9,651.34

Collector Community Trust 2023 Round 2

Seven applications for grants were assessed by the Collector Community Fund Trust Advisory Committee and recommended at a meeting on 9 October 2023.

Four local projects have been selected to receive funding in round two of the 2023 Collector Community Trust Fund grant process.

Organisation	Purpose	Requested Amount
Collector Memorial Hall Inc	Storage Improvements	\$7,095.00
Collector Oval Committee	Driveway and access improvements	\$4,422.00
Collector Public School	Performing Arts Program	\$17,500.00
Collector Public School	Transportation - swimming program	\$2,310.00
TOTAL		\$31,327.00

Community Enhancement Fund 2023 Round 2

This year seven projects in the Collector area benefited from a combined \$255,108.90 in funding from the Collector Wind Farm Community Fund for 2023/2024.

Organisation	Purpose	Amount
Collector Public School	Enhancing Aboriginal Culture	\$3,623.00
Collector Public School	“Our Land of Stories” Resources Kit	\$2,259.70
Collector Public School	Native Memorial Garden	\$2,250.00
Collector Bushranger’s Reserve Trust	Pump Track	\$146,410.00
Collector Community Association	Youth Program	\$7,474.60
Collector Community Association	Strategic Project Prioritisation Plan	\$88,000.00
Collector Oval Committee	Amenities Enhancement	\$5,091.60
TOTAL		\$255,108.90