

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

Date	9 February 2023	Time	6.30pm – 8.10pm
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Location - Bushranger Hotel, Collector

## Attendees

Margaret Harvie (MH) Chairperson – PlanCom Consulting

Brian Mor (BM)		Paison Sutjarit (PS) – RATCH – Australia
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Dean Horne (DH)		Mieka White (MW) - RATCH-Australia
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Andrew Chiswell (AC)		Note taker: Kaye Paterson
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Edward Geishofer (EG) - representative of the Collector Community Association

**Apologies:** John Hoskins (JH), Terry Lovelock (TL)

No attendees from Council present (Upper Lachlan Shire Council nominee being - Mayor Pam Kensit)

Item number	Subject	Actions
1	<b>Welcome and apologies</b> - Margaret Harvie (MH) Acknowledged traditional owners.	
2	<b>Declaration of pecuniary or other interests</b> - Edward Geishofer (EG) is a member of the Collector Community Wind Farm Trust	
3.	<p><b>Report on Outstanding Actions from the last meeting</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> MW will distribute a newsletter to Collector residents in April with information about the community funding and about the noise report.</p> <p>Report: There was not enough content and so this action was delayed and is currently planned for April 2023. The Noise report is easy to access on the website, just search 'noise report' - this reporting will be updated over time. The newsletter will be distributed via Australia post and the 1800 number will be promoted as part of this.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> MW to work with Council to convene a meeting between Council (s355 committee and/ or appropriate Council operations), and representative of the Trust and RATCH. The objective is to find ways to improve the future grant advertising and distribution process toward the creation of better outcomes for the community.</p> <p>Report: Ed advised that this meeting was completed and it did not meet the intent that they were trying to achieve due to a few reasons: this included that people were on Zoom calls and IT was not working very well. Discussion held over to this item on the agenda.</p>	

	<p><b>Actions that were agenda items for this meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question of how to improve the funding allocation process and the under allocation of the Council s355 committee funds to be an item on the agenda of the next CCC meeting – To be discussed</li> <li>• CCC members to alert any others potentially interested that there is a vacancy on the CCC</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Membership of the CCC</b></p> <p>The CCC is down one member. MW has been talking to Denise Duck about potentially joining the committee. CCC members to make people aware of the vacancy.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> MW to provide Denise’s contact details and MH will email to invite application.</p>
5.	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b> (see attached to these meeting notes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 May 2022 – Andrew Chiswell (AC)</li> <li>• 14 November 2022 – Brian Mor (BM)</li> </ul> <p>It was noted that these should have been distributed prior to the meeting and some members needed time to consider the contents. It was noted that both pieces of correspondence were focussed on the same topic of s 355 Committee funds.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Ratch update</b></p> <p><b>Energy production</b></p> <p>Paison Sutjarit provided an update. Graphs showing the contribution of Collector to the grid were shown, including figures for the previous week. These diagrams are attached. The power from Collector via the purchasers’ agreement is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% to Iberdrola who on sell to Council and other organisations</li> <li>• 20% to Aldi</li> <li>• 20% to the energy market</li> </ul> <p>The graph also showed the market price which changes every 5 minutes. Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) controls the energy market and tries to limit problems with the grid.</p> <p><b>Planting</b></p> <p>Planting is now complete, please see the attachment showing photos of the planting. The Landscaper did a great job considering the wet weather in 2022.</p> <p>A total of 35 properties have been planted. 76% of plantings were native trees and 24% were non-native trees. A total of 7.32 km of fencing was provided to protect the trees from livestock (which is a major problem). On rural properties 86% of the plants did not have to be replaced further to being planted and in Collector 95% did not have to be replaced.</p> <p>After 3 months it is the responsibility of the owners to look after the trees/scrubs. There is one further property to be completed which is part of a neighbour agreement.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> MW will email the landscaping report to the CCC.</p>

	<p>Two late requests were accepted 1 year after the cut- off date. An update on the planting situation will be on the website and in the Newsletter.</p> <p><b>No complaints in this period</b></p>	
7.	<p>Collector Funds update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collector Wind Farm Community Trust</li> <li>• S355 committee Fund</li> </ul> <p>Penny, James and Ed were on the Collector Community Trust Committee last year. The s355 committee is made up of 2 Council Reps, 2 community reps – Bob Carter and Katie Yeo and a RATCH rep which is currently (MW). Paul McDonald stepped in as the Ratch rep at late notice last year when MW was ill. Paul came to the meeting with less knowledge and ability to ask questions as part of the process.</p> <p>Denise Duck has replaced Penny whose time on the Trust was up. Penny Marshall did a fantastic job of bringing the Community Trust into an excellent state in terms of governance so that we can all feel confident it is being governed well.</p> <p>On this basis, there was a feeling that unallocated s355 funds can be put into the Community Trust. In 2021, there was approximately \$80,000 and \$20,000 unallocated funds in 2022. That makes approximately \$100,000 in total. There is the view that the funds should be deposited in a high interest savings account in the meantime, it is not known if this is occurring.</p> <p>The last meeting of the s355 committee included Alex Waldron who was the Head of Planning and is now acting General Manager, Pam Kensit (Mayor), Colleen Worthy (was GM) and Jane Ramsey (Alex’s PA). MW thought last year was better with more applications from the community hence more for the committee to discuss and allocate.</p> <p>MW spoke to advice on the situation with the current governance of the committees and the risks of making changes at this stage.</p> <p>AC felt that the first round of funding was terrible, and the second time was also bad. There has been no feedback on unsuccessful applications and the Oval Committee remains unfunded for 70% of the projects applied for (5 projects).</p> <p>EG suggested that the issue is about governance. The funds not being distributed is a result of the poor governance.</p> <p>AC said that this is a problem that needs to be resolved. There are community projects that should have been funded which have not been and we don’t know why they weren’t funded.</p>	

<p>Governance issues that lead to the large amount of unallocated funds for worthwhile projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11 months to make a payment in the first round.</li> <li>• 6/7 months behind in their scheduled time to sit.</li> </ul> <p>MW indicated that 3 projects were funded in the first year and last year there were 13 projects funded and only 3 or 4 rejected.</p> <p>AC indicated that while a possible reason given for not funding the Oval Committee was the need for a Hydrology Report or Master Plan, Council has not formally provided this feedback and in fact indicated that it is not required. If there are questions about an issue this should be communicated as part of the process otherwise they need to wait another twelve months. We need a chance to correct any mistakes for future funding rounds.</p> <p>MW advised that the Trust get the applications and can speak to applicants prior to meeting to decide on which applications that they recommend for funding. The s355 do not have that opportunity. They have an opportunity to read them before the meeting but do not speak with local applicants.</p> <p>DH - advised that the council do not have an obligation to do anything other than consider the information in front of them.</p> <p>Given the small number of applications it was considered by the CCC members to be feasible to provide feedback to unsuccessful applications.</p> <p>MW also raised the issue of Acquittals from the funds from the Trust and the s355 that need to be returned to Ratch.</p> <p>EG was concerned that community outcomes are not being met and are possibly being eroded but the key issue is Governance. The trust is an excellent model to base it on.</p> <p>EG suggested that changes in Council provide opportunity to have that conversation around improving the governance and improving how they work together.</p> <p>There is a need to focus on the fundamentals that drive the issues that are presenting.</p> <p>AC - Concerned that the CCC is not in a position to oversee or give directions in relation to funds. We can make recommendations. Council needs to drive the governance improvements to the s355 because of identified issues.</p> <p>EG suggested that the group needs to provide a plan of what it should look like, provide for them to think creatively.</p> <p>MW advised that this wind farm is one of six that exist in this council area but it is the only one with a trust deed.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> MW to request a meeting with Council including Mayor and AC, BM &amp; EG (approx. March 2023) to be included to discuss governance of the 355 committee. Items include need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• feedback on unsuccessful applications</li> <li>• More timely payments</li> <li>• Need for more transparency and clarity around decisions.</li> <li>• More timely decision making around funding/ meetings of the funding committee.</li> </ul>
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	<p>EG – returned to the question of what to do with the remaining \$100K and the possibility of having a conversation around that to make it work for the community. Believes that we should find a way to put it into a ‘Pool type account’. There may be a bigger project that the community wants to fund in the future.</p> <p>EG – suggested taking the discussion off line to identify 1 or 2 key issues that we want to discuss a the meeting with Council.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Round the table with any further issues</b></p> <p>EG – reiterated that he was hearing a little bit of dissatisfaction with the governance of the 355 committee funds.</p> <p>AC - Feedback from the funded projects completed so far have been very positive.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Next meeting to be as required but at least every 12 months</b></p>	

## Correspondence received

### 1. Andrew Chiswell - 23 May 2022

I'm writing it contribute to the discussion James McKay began at the last meeting with the view of adding several topics to the agenda.

Firstly, I'd like to support the notion of the CCC as a forum in which the parameters of the two funding committees can be aired and recommendations made that might improve the benefits to the Collector community. I believe the rules around the community funding should be dynamic, particularly in this early phase of the program. They should be evaluated to ensure they achieve what they are intended to, and improved if they can be.

The CCC is the obvious forum in which to evaluate the two funding programs and I support James' initiative in calling for improved administration of the funds.

I'd like to propose the following additional ideas for consideration at the next meeting.

1. ***That the Community Trust be authorised to apply for residual funds from the S355 Fund.***
  - a. I believe this would improve the long term benefits to the Collector community by more easily facilitating functions such as the following;
2. ***That the Community Trust be empowered to make loans for the benefit of the Collector community.***
  - a. The best example I can think of at the moment is interest free loans for community members wishing to install solar power. This is of direct benefit to the community members by reducing their living costs and is ethically the right thing to do. This is an opportunity that is currently not available to the community and if the funds are available they could be used in this way.
3. ***That the Community Trust be empowered to invest funds on behalf of the Collector community for the long term benefit of the Collector community.***
  - a. Collector knows what it is like to be deprived of funding. There is no reason to limit the benefits of the Collector Wind Farm to life span of the turbines. If there are surplus funds in the future it would be prudent to invest them for the indefinite benefit of the community.
4. ***That individuals be allowed to apply for financial support for enterprises that are beneficial to the Collector community.***
  - a. Funding of private enterprise is common, and we should not be shy to do so if a benefit to the community can be demonstrated. If an enterprise benefits the community, it should be considered for support whether private or public. Enterprise falls at the heart of any community and current arrangements fail to fully encourage enterprise within our community.

Clearly, the details for arrangements such as those listed above would have to be worked out, however I suggest them because I'd like to see the funds benefit the Collector community in the best way possible. Would you please add these points to the next meeting's agenda for discussion.

### 2. Brian Mor - 14 November 2022

*Following on from your email of the 7th October, I would like to propose standing up an urgent CCC meeting early next year (January or February) to address a risk around the governance of the Collector Wind Farm 355 committee (the 355) that has been brought to my attention.*

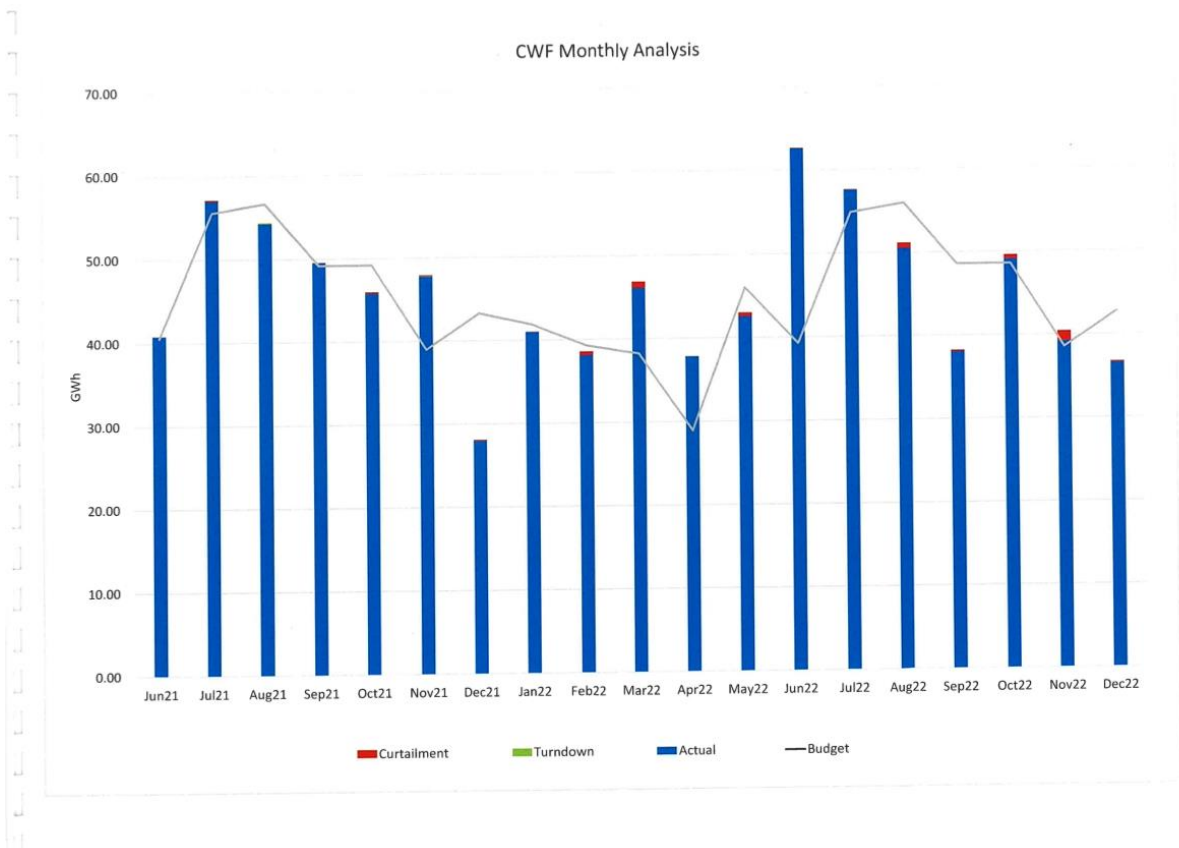
*As per discussions in our last CCC meeting, it was noted that the differences in how the Collector Windfarm Community Trust and the 355 were being governed could lead to issues within the community with regards to how outcomes from the 355 were perceived in terms of equity, transparency of process and decision making.*

Following the last 355 funding round, I believe that this risk may have been realised as an issue, specifically around how the 355 engaged with various organisations within the community and also with regards to the lack of supporting commentary from the 355 detailing why each application was or was not funded.

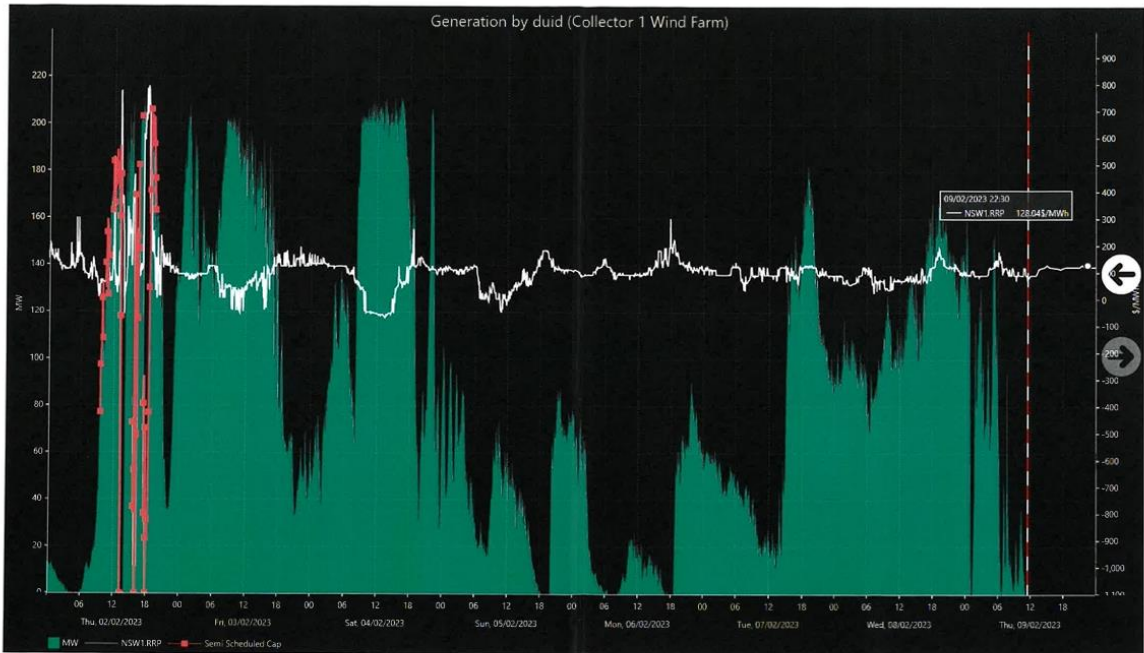
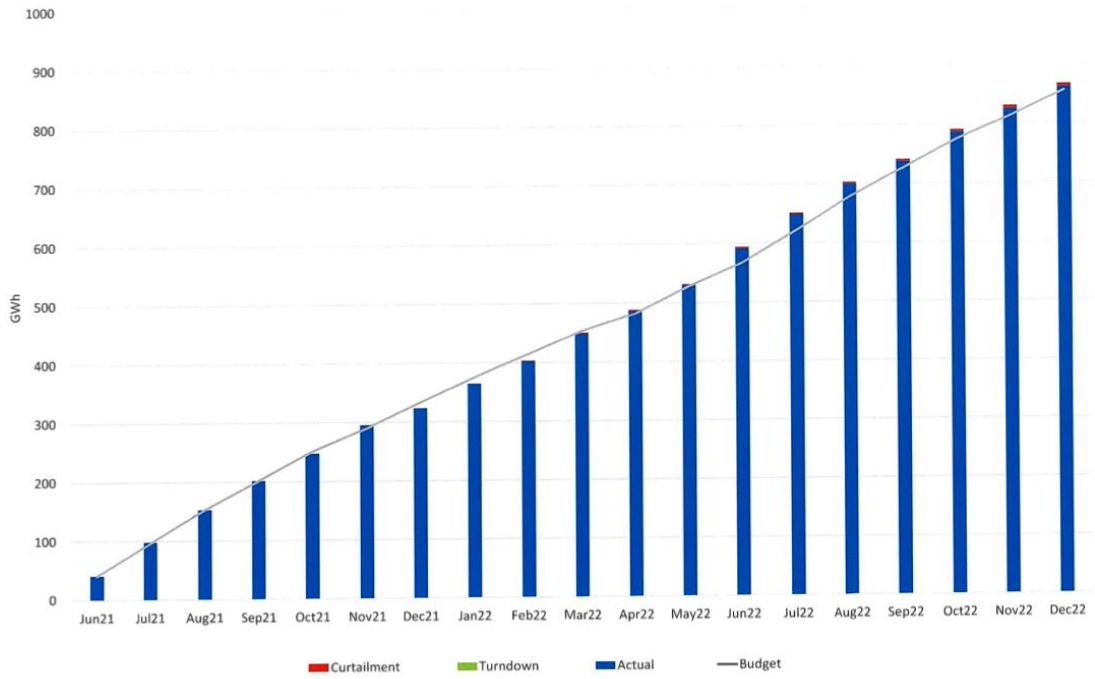
The stated intent of the 355 and the Trust is community enhancement. As such there is a risk that if these governance issues are not resolved, either by adoption of a Charter by the 355 or similar, it could be argued that the Collector community could actually be diminished.

Happy to chat further and thank you for your consideration,

### Charts and Planting update from Ratch



### CWF Cumulative Analysis







# Visual Mitigation Tree Planting



- 1) Planting Hours: 3270
- 2) Survival Rate at Completion of Establishment: Farms 86%, 95% in Town
- 4) Number Trees Planted : 4569
- 5) Properties Planted: 35
- 6) Native trees 76% Non Native 24%
- 7) 7.32km of fencing for stock protection.