

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

Meeting held at Collector Wind Farm and preceded by a tour of the site.

Date	28 Oct 2020	Time	6pm – 7.15pm
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Attendees

Margaret Harvie (MH) Chairperson		
Martha Truelove (MT)	John Hoskins (JH)	Terry Lovelock (TL)
Brian Mor (BM)	Tony Walsh (TW)	Mayor John Stafford (JS)
Ed Geishofer (EG) – via phone	Ian Lawrence (IL), RATCH-Australia	Neil Weston (NW), RATCH-Australia
Also in attendance: Colleen Worthy (General Manager, ULSC)		

Apologies/Absences: James McKay

Item number	Detail	Actions
	The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm with a guided tour of the site by Ratch personnel and most members of the CCC were able to join in that tour.	
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Margaret Harvie (MH) did Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed CCC members. In particular she introduced Colleen Worthy, Upper Lachlan Shire Council’s General Manager, attending as a guest with the formal CCC representative Mayor John Stafford (JS). ▪ MH invited Terry Lovelock (TL) to raise an issue as he needed to leave the meeting early to attend another event. ▪ TL noted that he is no longer in the role of Chair of the Collector Community Association (CCA) and so his position as representing the CCA on this CCC might be taken by Ed Geishofer in the future. ▪ TL made the point that people serve on a number of different committees locally and that questions were raised at a recent CCA meeting about possible conflict of interest. ▪ The point was made that it is a small community and as a result people tend to wear multiple hats. MH acknowledged the importance that people are aware of the various roles that people play but this does not necessarily exclude them from participating. ▪ MH noted that the committee was required by NSW Government guidelines to have seven community members and that it was only last year that the the positions were advertised with very few new people coming forward. 	MH – Future Meeting Minutes to reflect CCC members’ roles on other committees related to the wind farm

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was resolved to note in future meeting minutes the CCC members' who also hold roles on the Collector Wind Farm Community Trust advisory committee. 	
2	<p>Declaration of pecuniary or other interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Martha Truelove (MT) receives financial benefit due to proximity of her property to the wind farm. ▪ Ed Geishofer (EG) and Tony Walsh (TW) are members of the Collector Wind Farm Community Trust advisory committee, from which they derive no financial benefit. 	
3	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No correspondence 	
4	<p>Discussion arising from site visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TL further reported that several people on Breadalbane Road had mentioned to him that since meteorological masts were installed, TV reception at their properties had deteriorated. ▪ NW said there was no equipment in the masts capable of causing interference. NW further explained that a comprehensive baseline study into TV signal strength was conducted prior to construction starting. A similar survey will be conducted post-construction to assess any changes that may be caused by the wind farm. ▪ NW noted that this is addressed in the planning consent conditions – and encouraged residents to contact RATCH-Australia direct so that concerns can be investigated and problems rectified if they are caused by the wind farm. ▪ JH asked whether turbines can interfere with TV signals. IL said that in general terms it was less likely to occur with a digital signal than analogue and requires blades to be turning for the signal to be disrupted and for the turbines to be located between the transmitter and the receiving property. RATCH has responded to one enquiry from a Currawang resident on this subject and sought advice from the company that conducted the initial study about potential impacts on reception. The company's detailed response to the question was passed onto the resident. It explained that stationary turbines were highly unlikely to affect signal and identified the strongest available signal to this receiver. 	
5	<p>CCC members' update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TW reported that the latest newsletter had been posted to the community Facebook page with no negative feedback received. ▪ JH enquired about fire risk procedure once construction was complete. NW noted that fire risk from an operating wind farm was much lower than during construction. He also confirmed the measures that will be in place, including the procurement of a fire trailer for use around the site during 'higher-risk' operation and maintenance (O &M) activities, review and update of the existing fire management plan by the operations and maintenance 	

	<p>contractor, and continued observance with RFS instructions re fire bans, etc. The O&M team as they get established will also liaise with the RFS – a process that had already started with Fire and Rescue on site on the day of the CCC meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JH asked how many staff would be on-site during operation. NW said it was likely to be around 10 with at least six present during working hours. ▪ BM, MT and JS raised no further questions or issues but expressed their appreciation for the site tour. ▪ EG said he had received questions about the landscaping treatments available to screen views of turbines and also questions about how to apply to the community fund. He said he was comfortable to direct requests to the project website where there is more detailed information. 	
6	<p>Collector funds update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IL reported that thanks to the advisory committee’s thorough work, the Collector Wind Farm Community Trust deed had been published on the project website, along with the advisory committee rules and guidance for applicants. ▪ Outstanding items for further work include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the application form, which will be hosted on the project website as an online form, ▪ a leaflet to be issued December/January, and ▪ consideration of a launch event in early 2021. ▪ The sums to be donated to each fund are backdated to 2013, when development approval was granted. The \$240,000 agreed has risen to \$270,867.08, accounting for CPI. This means in the first year of operation the S355 fund will receive \$182,868.21 and the Collector Wind Farm Community Trust \$87,998.87. ▪ The agreement with ULSC stipulates that the start date for funding relates to the formal date of completion of the wind farm. As has been discussed previously, successful testing of the wind farm (and the final completion date) depends on external factors (including wind strength). It is impossible at this time to specify a precise date. ▪ Therefore, to give certainty to potential applicants, RATCH proposes to nominate 31 January 2021 as the start date. This would allow 1 to 28 February 2021 to be the first application period for the Collector Wind Farm Community Trust portion of the funds. ▪ JS confirmed that the relevant officer at ULSC was aware of this intended date and had raised no concerns. ▪ TW mentioned the need for RATCH to create a social media profile to post updates directly to local social media forums. IL confirmed that this would be considered. 	<p>IL to continue to update the CC on the plans to promote the Trust fund.</p>

7	<p>Project update</p> <p>NW updated the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Energisation of substation is expected late Oct/early Nov. ▪ This enables commissioning of the wind farm to start, expected to continue through November. ▪ More than 30 turbines are now mechanically ready to generate ▪ Met masts are still on site gathering data. Once removed, the last three turbines will be installed. The installation of these last three turbines is expected to start in late November, continuing into December. ▪ A series of tests will follow, to demonstrate that the wind farm can safely connect to the network. ▪ To pass each test, the wind farm will be required to generate at different levels, meaning we are reliant on there being sufficient wind to achieve these levels. ▪ Current forecast is that wind farm will be fully operational in February or March. ▪ Meanwhile Divall's have returned to site to carry out the final reinstatement work. ▪ Once construction is completed and the wind is operational NW will no longer be involved and responsibility for the project at RATCH will pass to a Ratch site manager. IL will continue with this project. ▪ There had been a question from the community (to one of the CCC members) about a recent power outage and the connection of this with the wind farm. NW assured the group that the wind farm had not been responsible for this outage and there are no planned future outages associated with commissioning of the wind farm. 	
8	<p>Community Engagement update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IL reported that a newsletter went out last week by post, email and has been uploaded to website. Unlikely to be another one of these this year but website will continue to be updated. ▪ 16 requests have now been made for landscape works. One has been implemented and we expect another four to be actioned shortly. Ratch are awaiting various information either from the residents or the Landscape architect in the case of the other requests. 	
9	<p>Next meeting – will be 6.30pm Wednesday 10 February 2021</p> <p>Meeting closed 7.15pm.</p>	