

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

Meeting held by phone in the light of Covid-19 restrictions.

<b>Date</b>	8 July 2020	<b>Time</b>	6.30pm – 7.45pm
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## Attendees

Margaret Harvie (MH) Chairperson		
Martha Truelove (MT)	John Hoskins (JH)	James McKay (JM)
Brian Mor (BM)	Tony Walsh (TW)	
Neil Weston (NW), Ratch Australia	Ian Lawrence (IL), Ratch Australia	
Note taker: Kaye Paterson		

**Apologies:** Terry Lovelock, Edward Geishofer, Mayor John Stafford (Upper Lachlan Shire Council)

Item number	Discussion	Actions
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Margaret Harvie (MH) welcomed CCC members</li> <li>▪ Confirm attendance and apologies</li> </ul>	
2	<p>Declaration of pecuniary or other interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Martha Truelove (MT) has financial benefit due to proximity of her property to the wind farm.</li> </ul>	
3	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No correspondence</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Actions from previous meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Terms of reference – this was updated and sent to members following the last meeting</li> <li>▪ NW to talk to Council about progress of the formation of the Section 355 Committee to administer community funds for the windfarm- – part of agenda item 7</li> <li>▪ The offer for landscaping as visual screening to be an ongoing item for the Newsletter and agenda for this meeting.</li> </ul>	
5	<p>CCC Update</p> <p><b>What we are hearing in the community – what can we see?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ John Hoskins (JH) – John can see 27 towers with blades and 11 towers- this corresponds with the maps provided. John has not heard anything from the community. Low key due to Covid-19.</li> <li>▪ James McKay (JM) – James believes that he is hearing tower construction noise from his house on a Saturday morning, similar to a light plane, thumping pile machine or generator.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Response from NW</i> – he will follow up but advised that although they use large equipment, it is very quiet and unlikely that it would be heard from that distance. The noisiest part of the work should now be finished. He believes that the noise source is likely to be something else.</li> <li>▪ JM – Other issue that people are interested in is when the funds will begin to flow.</li> <li>▪ MT – No construction noise in her area. The turbines that are closest to her house are yet to go up.</li> <li>▪ BM – Not hearing any noise from the wind turbine construction. Brian mentioned that the turbines from Goulburn to Crookwell are looking quite majestic and he is looking forward to seeing more of the Collector Windfarm turbines.</li> <li>▪ Tony Walsh (TW) – All quiet in the community, Tony has been busy working, he advised that the pub is opened for food and drinks. Tony had been asked a question from a member of Collector community – They had heard that Ratch had provided money directly to the Uniting Church?</li> <li>▪ <i>Response from IL</i> – No direct contact between Ratch and the church. Ratch were approached by the Oval Committee for support for installation of floodlights. It transpired that the Uniting Church was conducting work at the same time and had hired a Cherry Picker to assist in completing renovations. The Oval committee wanted to use the Cherry Picker to install the flood lights (making it safer and easier). The Oval Committee received funds from RATCH to assist with this and the pro rata amount was paid to the Uniting Church for the use of the Cherry Picker.</li> </ul>	<p>ACTION - NW to follow up on the likely source of noise heard by James.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Collector project delivery:</b></p> <p>Progress update</p> <p>Construction activities – next 6 months</p> <p>Component transport and delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NW indicated that 28 turbines are now up with their blades installed and a 26 more are to go up. There had been a delay in getting nacelles (the component installed on top of the tower which houses the generators) from China, but they have now arrived in Newcastle port and will begin to be transported down to the site.</li> <li>▪ The schedule is to complete two turbines per week. There is a 13 week construction period that is expected to go to the end of September (dependent on weather conditions).</li> <li>▪ Schedule at this stage has all physical connections and associated approvals completed to enable connection of the site to the electricity grid, and hence energisation of the site to allow commissioning to commence.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transmission tower components expected to arrive on site next week, with 3 new transmission towers to be installed (with one existing to be removed). Likely that the tower with direct connection to the substation will be quite visible from the Hume Highway (the other towers essentially will have same visibility of the existing ones). Assuming all progresses as scheduled, anticipate that the substation connection will be completed by early October.</li> <li>▪ Electrical works on the wind farm are focused on connecting the turbines to the substation with underground electrical cabling; approximately half of the cables have been installed.</li> <li>▪ As well as the physical works, the project has to be formally registered as a generator to allow final connection to the grid and energisation of the site.</li> <li>▪ The upgrade to Lerida Road South has now been formally completed, and the Council signed off to that effect – it is now back under Council’s responsibility.</li> <li>▪ To date the construction site has had nil Covid-19 infections, and everyone is working hard to ensure that that is maintained with a wide range of mitigation measures in place to manage.</li> <li>▪ Overall, the current state of the project is positive and there are no obvious issues that would be likely to cause significant delays. However, there are some critical stages of work yet to be completed, and any of these could be delayed, hence delaying progress on the whole project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ JM - What is the actual commissioning date that we are looking at?</li> <li>▪ <i>Response from NW</i> – Practical completion is currently scheduled for late January 2021; following which the project would be in full operations mode</li> <li>▪ JH – John has noticed a structure on the back of the turbines?</li> <li>▪ <i>Response from NW</i> – This is a cooling radiator which is feature typical to the larger modern turbines.</li> <li>▪ MT – Wanted to know about the monitoring masts that have been installed.</li> <li>▪ <i>Response from NW</i> – There are a total of 5 wind monitoring masts that have been installed on site (3 on the western side, 2 on the eastern side), approx. 90m high. These collect wind data for correlation with the existing wind data set; and to provide data for assessment of the performance of the wind turbines (using their design power curve). Three of these masts (2 on the west, 1 on the east) are temporary, currently located on turbine foundations (T13 &amp; T14, T61), and will be removed prior to the turbines being installed. The other two masts are permanent and will remain in place for the life of the project for ongoing performance assessment.</li> </ul>	<p>ACTION – NW to put the map provided on the Web page and this is to be updated every few weeks to show progress.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ BM – No questions.</li> <li>▪ TW – No questions.</li> <li>▪ NW – Indicated that he was thinking of putting the progress map provided on the project website and then updating this every few weeks to show progress.</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>Collector Funds update</b></p> <p>Progress with establishing framework for the Trust and the advisory Committee</p> <p>S355 committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IL – Collector Funds update. Advisory Committee for the Trust is set up and is meeting every two weeks. The group has been going through the Trust Deed line by line and it is pretty close to being complete.</li> <li>▪ The next step will be the marketing material for potential applicants including application forms and timetable for how it will work.</li> <li>▪ Once the Trust Deed is finalised by the advisory committee it will be reviewed externally- at the latest by October/November.</li> <li>▪ If the Trust Deed is completed earlier then it will be reviewed sooner rather than later.</li> </ul> <p>Progress of the 355 Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Last week IL spoke with Council about the 355 Committee. Expressions of Interest will be called starting in November. They will advertise positions for the committee. Their aim is to get the Committee in place by January/February 2021.</li> <li>▪ Applications for funding will be open and the Committee will make recommendations for funding in May.</li> <li>▪ The Committee comprises Ratch, two community members and two Council representatives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions from the members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ JH – Asked about the representation for the Trust</li> <li>▪ IL – There were three positions and the three people nominated being TW, EG and Penelope Marshall. Penelope Marshall will be the chairperson for the first year. They will be three year terms and new people will come on and shadow the roles during the third year. People will only continue for more than three years if there are no other nominees. The notes of the meetings of this group are on the website.</li> <li>▪ JM – asked Tony if he was confident about the direction of the Trust.</li> <li>▪ TW – Believes that there is a good solid direction for the Trust that will help shape the S355 Committee – it has been a lot of work – the aim is that the Trust will do things that the 355 Committee cannot do.</li> </ul>	

8	<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scheduled activity</li> <li>- Landscape screening</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IL reported that a newsletter went out 3- 4 weeks ago and that this coincided with major activities. Of course it would have been ideal to do a face to face activity at this time. Ratch is planning for a direct information session later in the year, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.</li> <li>▪ The landscape architect has visited most properties requesting landscape treatment. There have been 11 requests for landscaping, with one being completed. The process is that residents have the opportunity to discuss options with the landscape architect and review plans. Once the resident agrees on the landscape treatment then they will be implemented.</li> </ul> <p>Last round for questions/ issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ JM – indicated that he might be making an application.</li> <li>▪ MT – indicated that there was a delay in delivery of the newsletter.</li> <li>▪ All others indicated no questions or issues.</li> </ul>	
9	<p>Next meeting – will be 6.30 pm Wednesday 7 October 2020</p> <p>Meeting closed 7.50pm.</p>	