

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

Date	25 August 2021	Time	6.30pm – 8.00pm – Online via Zoom
------	----------------	------	-----------------------------------

## Attendees

Margaret Harvie (MH) Chairperson – PlanCom Consulting

Edward Geishofer (EG)		
Brian Mor (BM)		Pieter Taljaard (PT) - RATCH-Australia
Dean Horne (DH)		Mieka White (MW) - RATCH-Australia
Andrew Chiswell (AC)		
		Note taker: Kaye Paterson

**Apologies:** Martha Truelove (MT), John Hoskins (JH), Terry Lovelock (TL), Mayor John Stafford (JS) – representing ULSC

Item number	Subject	Actions
1	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>Margaret Harvie (MH) Acknowledged traditional owners and welcomed new CCC member Andrew Chiswell (pending formal appointment by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment)</p> <p>Indicated that Martha was an apology due to a family matter and Terry is not able to access Zoom.</p> <p>Introductions around the room for the benefit of Andrew.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declaration of pecuniary or other interests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew indicated that he does have interest to declare in that his son and daughter in law own the Some Café and he is currently the Treasurer of the Collector Community Association (CCA) and President of the Oval Committee.</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil received</li> </ul>	

4	<p><b>Report on Actions from the last meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NW to contact TL and JH outside of this meeting re discussions on their landscaping situation. <b>Action:</b> Neil Weston has contacted Terry and John.</li> <li>MW to advertise the CCC vacancy in the next newsletter. <b>Action:</b> Complete and Andrew Chiswell responded and is pending appointment by DPIE.</li> <li>JH / DH to liaise with the Facebook site moderators to facilitate information from MW about community meetings and community fund. <b>Action:</b> There have been no meetings held. Dean posted information on the Collector/Currawang Facebook site and it can also be found on RATCH's webpage and in the newsletter. Dean will post on behalf of Ratch on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 further notices about the Community Benefit Trust Closing 31 August 2021 as a final reminder to all.</li> <li>NW to advise TL if there will be a noise logger on his property <b>Action:</b> A noise monitor has been placed on TL's property.</li> <li>MW to make the link to the Operational Noise Management Plan available to the CCC <b>Action:</b> the link was provided in the previous meeting notes but the link to the document on the DPIE website is <a href="https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=RFI-16746715%2120210412T223642.728%20GMT">https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/prweb/PRRestService/mp/01/getContent?AttachRef=RFI-16746715%2120210412T223642.728%20GMT</a> or the Collector Wind Farm <a href="https://www.collectorwindfarm.com.au/operational-management-plans">https://www.collectorwindfarm.com.au/operational-management-plans</a></li> <li>MW to request a copy of the plan for the Collector Bushranger Reserve Trust that had previous funding. <b>Action:</b> Mieka has received a number of plans but Mieka is chasing Julius for the correct one. The report from the surveyors of the Bushranger Reserve has not been received yet.</li> <li>MW to report back on outcome of the meeting with the Council 355 funds committee. <b>Action:</b> report as part of his meeting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action</b> - DH to post notice on the Collector/ Currawang Facebook site about the Community Benefit Fund on behalf of RATCH</p>
5.	<p><b>RATCH-Australia team update:</b> Mieka White</p> <p>Neil Weston continues to make sure everything has been finalised onsite but does not have a day-to-day role for the project.</p> <p>Peiter and Mieka are the contacts going forward for the community.</p> <p>During lockdown Peiter should be the first point of call for concerns related to the site. At present with the lockdown only service technicians are on site. Other site workers, including Peiter are working from home. Contractors will be back in Spring. There</p>	

	<p>is no construction currently. There is some checking on noise monitors.</p> <p>The turbines are working well and performing in terms of wind generation. There were some minor problems with particular turbine/s.</p> <p>AC - Asked about progress on the monitoring of Bird and Bat strikes. Are there any early indications?</p> <p>PT - Indicated that there have been a couple of visitations to investigate.</p> <p>MW - advised that this is part of a 2-year program and management plan and details are available on the website. Inspection last month related to monitoring of 16 turbines.</p>	
6.	<p>CCC Members Update - Round the table with what we are hearing in the community or any issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BM - the Collector/Currawang web pages has had issues raised about Noise. Questions like - Who is hearing the noise from the Wind farm? MW – asked if it would it be OK if screen shots of the conversations could be provided to her - would this breach any confidentiality? DH will provide.</li> <li>• DH - since lockdown no real contact with anyone so has not heard much.</li> <li>• EG - a few people have asked Ed how to get in contact with RATCH in relation to plantings and he has directed people to the website. He also asked what happens if the trees/ plantings as result of the landscaping die, who maintains them or is there a replacement fund? MW - indicated that all enquires to come to <a href="mailto:enquires@ratchaustralia.com">enquires@ratchaustralia.com</a> These will be referred to RATCH's local landscaper – (Nick Huggins). Plantings have had a 98% survival rate thus far. Nick advises how to grow and maintain the trees and works with residents to plan what works for their properties. He works with them over a period of 3 months from the time of planting with instructions on how to care for them. Essentially this means that there is a 3 month guarantee from the time of planting. He is behind with planting due to the soil being too wet. He is continuing with site inspections at present. The deadline to requesting landscape screening is 20th November 2021. EG indicated that he is happy with his plants. He has also seen some commentary on the Collector/Currawang site. The wind turbine noise is noticeable when it's very cold and the wind is blowing in a particular direction.</li> <li>• AC - is not a big social media user and so he has not heard a lot. The Collector Community Association is developing a Collector Village Website. It will be a time before it is launched. He suggested that RATCH might be interested in providing information through the Village Website.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> DH to give Mieka information about the community comment on the Face Book site.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew to forward MW the link to the community website. Hoping to launch the site in September. It is a simple website, and no funding is required from RATCH to get it up and running, but down the track perhaps there might be some needs. The site is focusing on information about Community groups and businesses. The cost for businesses to advertise using the website is \$80.00 per year.</li> </ul>	<p>Action: AC to provide more information to MW about the Collector Village website</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Operation Noise Management Plan - Pieter Taljaard</b></p> <p>Presentation from Ratch on progress of noise monitoring as per the plan that is available on the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise monitors have been operating for 4 weeks. One turbine was down for a period waiting on a part – this affected the monitoring.</li> <li>• The monitoring has started again and has been going for two weeks with 4 weeks to go. (6 weeks in total).</li> <li>• MW indicated that RATCH wants to hear from people about noise issues now, but action will not be able to be taken until the results of the noise monitoring are known and submitted to the DPIE to confirm that the wind farm is compliant with the DA. People can email <a href="mailto:enquires@ratchaustralia.com">enquires@ratchaustralia.com</a> with any concerns or questions.</li> <li>• AC - asked about planned mitigation measures.</li> <li>• PT - indicated that Collector village is well outside the area likely to exceed the 35 decibels requirement. If for some reason there are noise issues that come as result of monitoring RATCH will assess on a case-by-case basis. The results of the monitoring will be made public after they are submitted to the Department. This will be around the end of October/November at the latest.</li> </ul>	
<p>8.</p>	<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><b>Trust</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EG is on the Community Trust Advisory Committee.</li> <li>• As part of this round two applications have been received so far and there is \$50,000 left for this year.</li> <li>• In early September Penelope Marshall, Ed Geishofer and James McKay will get together and advise who will receive the money. Reminder that this team did an extraordinary amount work last year in getting their governance completed with 16 meetings.</li> </ul> <p><b>S 355 Committee fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$200,000 of the funding is with this committee. There is money remaining in this fund with some of the monies unallocated.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council meeting was held on 06/07/2021 and this was very productive. The committee is made up of the Mayor, the General Manager of Upper Lachlan Shire Council, Mieka White and elected members - Katie Yeo and Bob Carter.</li> <li>• The Council team are busy, and the minutes are not yet released but the allocation is going to council tomorrow morning for ratification. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Memorial Hall received \$30,000 for insulation</li> <li>• The Oval Committee received \$65,000 The money will be used for a new BBQ area and shade cloth for the children's area.</li> <li>• Breadalbane Pony Club were given \$15,000.00</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is \$95,000.00 remaining in the Council funds and Council will not do another round this year. Council's preference is to keep it and use it in the future.</li> <li>• RATCH prefers that the funds be expended each year.</li> <li>• BM understands that the Community Trust could apply for money to go from the s355 to the Community Trust and it could hold it for accumulation of funds for a big project.</li> <li>• MW suggest that the CCC is aware of the underspending of the Council funds.</li> <li>• MH suggest that issues related to the funding from the Council or trust fund be referred to those fund management groups for consideration of transfer of funds.</li> <li>• BM suggests that we come back to this as an agenda item for the next CCC Meeting to report on the progress from the two funds.</li> <li>• MH - reminded the group that there are representatives on the trust funds that this group has entrusted with decision making around these funds.</li> <li>• EG - wants to have it as an agenda item at the next meeting to have that conversation then.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> Issue of under allocation of Council funds to be an item on the agenda of the next meeting</p>
9.	<p>Collector project delivery and Operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PT indicated that everything has been going well since the operational phase commenced 18 June. Operations compliance activities continue (eg noise monitoring, BBAMP)</li> <li>• The results of the noise monitoring will be completed by November and will be publicly available and shared with the CCC members. The RATCH team or noise specialist can be available to explain the results as might be required.</li> <li>• The Bird and Bat Monitoring will continue monthly until June 2023. So far there have been good results from the surveys.</li> </ul>	

10	<p>Community Engagement - <b>Status and Landscape screening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reminder that people can apply for landscape screening at their residence or place of business that has a view of the Collector Wind Farm up until the 21 November 2021. Please ask any residents who are interested in applying to email <a href="mailto:enquires@ratcaustralia.com">enquires@ratcaustralia.com</a></li> </ul>	
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AC - Feels the s355 and the Community Trust they might look to the CCC for guidance or opinions.</li> <li>DH – Feedback from others and his own experience in asking a question from <a href="mailto:enquiries@ratcaustralia.com">enquiries@ratcaustralia.com</a> and you get a response quickly.</li> <li>MW – An opening of the Wind Farm as previously planned is not possible. RATCH is looking at potentially February/March 2022 with a smaller select few including the CCC, Council, MP’s and other key stakeholders - around 50 people. Mieka will advise closer to the date.</li> <li>Discussion about the potential format of the noise report and need for a meeting associated with it release. PJ suggested that there would be graphical representation, but he has not seen what the final report would look like.</li> <li>BM is happy for the report to be circulated and then if we need to talk about it, we can.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> based on the results of the noise monitoring there is the potential to have a meeting/ briefing for the CCC in November/ December</p>
10	<p>Next meeting - late 2021 or early 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A meeting can be called before the next planned meeting if the CCC requests. i.e., in relation to the noise report.</li> <li>Members were generally happy to have the meeting early in the new year unless there is a more immediate need.</li> </ul>	