

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

Date	10 February 2021	Time	6.30pm – 8.10pm – Bushranger Hotel, Collector
------	------------------	------	---

Attendees

Margaret Harvie (MH) Chairperson – PlanCom Consulting

Martha Truelove (MT)		Neil Weston (NW) – RATCH-Australia
Tony Walsh (TW)		Ian Lawrence (IL) – RATCH-Australia
John Hoskins (JH)		Paul McDonald (RATCH-Australia)- Operations site manager
Edward Geishofer (EG)		Paison ‘Paul’ Satjarit (RATCH-Australia)
		Note taker: Kaye Paterson

Apologies: Terry Lovelock (TL), Brian Mor (BM), Mayor John Stafford (JS) –representing ULSC, James McKay (JMck)

Item number	Subject	Actions
1	Welcome and apologies Margaret Harvie (MH) Acknowledged traditional owners and welcomed CCC members and new representatives from Ratch Australia.	
2	Declaration of pecuniary or other interests <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	Correspondence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil received 	
4	Introduction to Collector Wind Farm Operations Site Manager (RATCH–Australia) operations contact –Paul McDonald Round the room introductions. This is likely Neil’s last meeting – he began with Collector Wind Farm back in 2012. The committee expressed their gratitude to Neil, thanked him for his work in liaising with the community and for being part of the CCC and wished him well in future endeavours. The meeting heard that the email address being used to contact Terry Lovelock (TL) was the Collector Community Association	

	<p>one which he no longer uses so it is unlikely that he has received the latest communication about CCC meetings. MH apologised that she was not aware of this until now and will correct immediately.</p> <p>The committee suggested that MH contact TL and seek his intentions to continue on the CCC and based on this the matter would then be brought back to the CCC for their discussion.</p> <p>Paul McDonald (PM) gave a brief overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RATCH has engaged Vestas long-term to manage operations of the farm. The day to day site supervisor will be Eduardo Dos Santos • Vestas will have a team of around full-time 8 staff based on site during normal business hours. • Vestas are responsible for managing the operations of a number of wind farms in the region, and hence Collector will be managed as part of that regional technical team. • PM is based in North Queensland and he oversees two other RATCH assets. • PM will be on site semi regularly especially in the early stages of hand over to the Vestas and Ratch operations team. • PM will work with Vestas in the delivery their scheduled servicing program and the operation of the farm; ensuring compliance with development approval conditions and National Electricity Market rules. <p>Questions to Paul:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TW - Where are the employees from? PM indicated that they are sourced locally wherever possible – Goulburn/Canberra area. Some employees are already working on wind farms in the area. Collector staff will be looking after Collector and Cullerin Range Wind Farm sites. • TW- What type of Jobs and number of staff? PM – some apprenticeships will be available – mostly electricians and fitters. Vestas manages recruitment directly and any available roles are advertised on their website. NW added that if anyone knew of interested parties who wanted to apply for roles then he would gladly share this information. • MT- Will there be shift workers? PM – The wind farm is staffed during normal business hours Monday to Friday. There is an on-call roster to respond during the night and on weekends. There is also oversight from Melbourne and offshore, where the wind farm is monitored 24 hours per day 7 days per week, and staff can log into the farm and do any fact finding and general resets. Information is sent to the 	<p>Action: (MH) to contact (TL) to ask him whether he wants to continue to participate in the CCC (and to apologise for having wrong email)</p>
--	---	--

	<p>site team who will respond the next morning if there is action required on site. The wind farm generally operates itself, each wind turbine has a controller that manages its individual operations, and there is an overall wind farm controller that coordinates all turbines and the energy that they export to the grid. The operations crew will undertake regular inspections / servicing / maintenance and only manually intervene where specific action is required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MT - If workers are coming from Canberra are they still restricted from travelling on Lerida Road South? <p>(clarified by email after the meeting) NW confirmed that the restriction applied to construction traffic only. Once the wind farm is fully operational, defined by a formal declaration to the Dept of Planning, staff will be able to use public roads to access the site. Heavy / oversize vehicles will still be required to enter the site at the northern end of Lerida Road South, after turning left from the Hume Highway and exit by turning left from Lerida Road onto Hume Highway, then turning round in Gunning if heading east.</p>	
5	<p>CCC Members Update</p> <p>TW – Indicated that there are still people who do not like the windfarm. He was with Ratch team at the Community Fund community information sessions two weekends ago and is surprised to hear the lack of understanding about the community funds given the extent of information that has been provided. TW continues to direct enquiries to the website. A number of people at the sessions talked about a swimming pool as an option for the available funding. MT suggested that they could apply for this through the council?</p> <p>TW indicated the Crookwell pool cost around \$7million, compared to the total contribution to the community funds over 25 years of around \$6million. TW questioned Council’s motivation to assist.</p> <p>EG indicated that people have started to ask questions about potential trees and landscaping and he has referred them to Ratch. He believes that people are looking beyond the wind turbines and at the financial benefits.</p> <p>MH asked if the CCC feel that people are well aware of the possibility for landscaping? EG did not think that it was widely known from his chats.</p> <p>IL confirmed that people can still apply 6 months after the wind farm’s formal start of full operations and that information is provided in all newsletters and available on website</p> <p>NW observed that the official start of full operations was likely to be March, so residents within 5km will have until September to start a conversation about landscaping.</p>	<p>Action – IL to provide words about the landscaping for TW to put on Facebook</p>

	<p>TW requested words from IL to add to the Facebook site to remind people about the trees and landscaping options.</p> <p>MT – Her property is currently being planted with 300 trees.</p> <p>NW reminded the group that each property is unique and assessed by the landscaper then discussion and agreement on what is ‘reasonable’. There is an appeal process if they cannot agree but RATCH has so far been able to agree ‘reasonable’ plans for all situations. It may be in some situations that the land owner does part of the work, for example.</p> <p>John Hoskin (JH) - His neighbour has issues with his television reception. IL indicated that so far there have been 5 reports of issues with television reception with 4 of these are from along Breadalbane Road.</p> <p>NW referred to a baseline survey completed before construction started. The same expert who completed the original survey came out last week to look at the places reporting poor TV reception.</p> <p>IL confirmed that where the wind farm is causing interference, Ratch will pay for a solution. More information will be added to the website inviting people to indicate if they are having issues. Ratch is also waiting for the formal report from the recent visits.</p>	
6	<p>Collector Funds update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collector Wind Farm Community Trust • S355 committee <p>Application is now open for the Trust. It has been promoted via</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an update that was distributed to households in January. • Drop in event 29 and 30 January <p>Applications are via an online form on the website and there are guidelines that should be read in advance.</p> <p>Council’s recruitment for S355 committee members closed a couple of weeks ago. 7 of the 8 applicants were within 10 km of the wind farm. Ratch indicated that they would prefer to have local people. The report with the final nominees goes to council next Thursday (18th Feb), and Council will share the outcome with Ratch. Advertising for this fund will begin 15 February and it will be open through to 16 April 2021. The plan is that the committee will meet in May to recommend funding to be ratified in June with grants paid in July.</p> <p>MH asked Ratch to remind us re the make-up of this committee?</p> <p>IL indicated 2 from council (typically a councillor and a senior officer), 2 community representatives and 1 from Ratch</p>	

	<p>MH asked how the sequence works with Council funding and the Trust funding?</p> <p>IL- Scheduling is up to trust committee to decide. At present there are two rounds of applications planned– one in February and one in August. The S355 fund only has a single round of funding.</p> <p>The Trust advisory committee has flexibility to revise the schedule so that it works as well as possible.</p> <p>JH asked whether the funds left over from the S355 will go to the Trust?</p> <p>NW indicated that funds will not automatically be transferred. Unspent contributions would be retained in the fund and available in the next round.</p> <p>MT asked whether the Trust can put in an application to the S355 to obtain any remaining funds? TW feels that the Trust can do this</p> <p>JH was keen to ensure Collector Wind farm information reaches all letter boxes. Feels that the information needs to be distributed through Collector business. NW will drop off more at the Pub and the Café</p>	<p>Action- NW will next week drop off the information distributed about the Community Trust Fund to the Pub and the Some Café next week.</p>
7	<p>Project update from NW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last turbine was put up January 2021 • Currently 18 turbines operating and trying to get to the next step of 36 turbines • Commissioning follows a staged process which involves demonstrating to the network operators they can safely connect and operate without disrupting the network • The hope is to have 36 turbines spinning by the end of the week. • Following the final testing period there should be permission to operate all 54. • Likely end of March to reach commercial operations date. This is the point of formally handing over and signing off the construction contract. The project is formally handed over to the operating team of Paul and Vestas. • The civil crews are coming back next week to work through the close out list. One of the key elements of that work will be to remove the construction compound and rehabilitation of the ground around that site and other land used for storage etc. The final rehab of these areas will be ongoing over the following 6 months or so. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A key operating compliance obligation will be undertaking noise monitoring to assess compliance of the operating wind farm with the specified noise limits. The noise monitoring program is defined within the Operational Noise Management Plan (ONMP) which needs to be approved by the Department of Planning. • PM will update on the progress of this at the next meeting. The ONMP includes a 5-month schedule and a program of works that incorporates the use of the same monitoring locations as for the pre-construction noise assessment (including a specific location for the village of Collector). The same consultants will be used and after completion of the report this information will become publicly available via the project website. Ratch expects to be able to comply with the noise conditions/levels. • EG asked for confirmation that the Operational Noise Management Plan must it be completed within this time? • NW – Yes, the report needs to be submitted to the Dept of Planning within 5 months. This was originally defined as 3 months in the Planning approval – an extension to 5 months was approved by the Department to give more time to complete and do the work. PM advised it takes 6 weeks to capture enough data, they need different winds speeds and different wind directions. Following the six weeks is the analysis period which is about 6 weeks and then a detailed report which covers each wind turbine and the noise data that is captured. • There was indication that people are keen to know this information and this might be the topic of the next meeting. It was noted that it is quite a technical document. • PM will be happy to answer any questions about the report when the time comes. MH indicated that based on the schedule this document will likely be available after the May meeting, so may need to be considered at the meeting to follow the next one. • JH asked about the noise monitoring/ baseline - is it on the windfarm land? NW indicated that there was background noise monitoring before beginning the wind farm development and that was on locations outside the wind farm. Ratch will aim to use the same locations again to keep the data consistent. • TW asked who is buying the power? NW indicated that there are 2 buyers with Power Purchase Agreements at agreed prices. 	
--	---	--

	<p>Supermarket chain – Aldi purchased 20%</p> <p>Infigen has purchased 60%. – Previously a listed renewable energy company they now have their own retail arm to sell power to consumers. They were recently taken over by Iberdrola which is a global business based in Spain.</p> <p>The remaining 20% we will be sold into the electricity spot market.</p> <p>JH- What period are the contracts?</p> <p>PM – Infigen contract runs until 2030, ALDI contract until 2031</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH introduced the question of the ongoing role of the CCC – how often might it meet when the wind farm becomes operational? • TW asked about what the Conditions of Consent say in this regard. MH clarified that the CCC operation is part of the conditions as ongoing but the frequency that it meets is up to the CCC members to determine with some guidance provided in the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Community Consultative Committee Guidelines. • It was agreed to revisit this question at the next meeting in May. TW suggested that it is also dependent on representation on the s355 committee. 	Action – discussion on the CCC and extension of intervals between meetings.
8	<p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IL indicated that there had been an issue with receiving notifications from the 1800 number and thanked TW who pointed this out. There was only one missed call from Collector during this time. People have still been able to get in touch with the Ratch team via other advertised methods. • Communication about landscape screening continues as previously discussed. • TW suggested having a commissioning party/celebration for the community. Perhaps tours of the wind farms. RATCH agreed to revisit after wind farm is operational 	
9	Any Other Business	
10	Next meeting - 12 May 2021 at the Bushranger Hotel - 6.30pm.	