

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

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 20 August 2019	<b>Time</b>	6.30pm – 8.30pm – Collector Hall, Collector
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## Attendees

Margaret Harvie (MH) Chairperson		
Brian Mor (BM)	John Hoskins (JH)	James McKay (JMCK)
Martha Truelove (MT)	Gary Poile (GP)	Tony Walsh (TW)
Mayor John Stafford (JS) – representing ULSC	Edward Geishofer (EG)	
Neil Weston (NW) Ratch Australia	Ian Lawrence (IL) Ratch Australia	Pieter Taljaard (PT) – Ratch representative on site.
Tony Grieve (TG), Site Manager, Vestas	Matt Willis (MW), Civilex	Note taker: Kaye Paterson

**Apologies:** Terry Lovelock

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>▪ Introductions around the room for the benefit of new member Edward Geishofer and other guests from the wind farm’s construction team.</li> </ul>	
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Margaret updated the committee on the reformation/ readvertising of positions on the CCC. This resulted in applications from two new members – a third application came in after the applications had been submitted to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE).</li> <li>▪ All applications have been forwarded to DPIE</li> <li>▪ We are waiting on formal notification from DPIE on the final approved membership. DPIE have indicated that with more recent CCCs they do not appoint wind farm hosts as members of the CCC. They indicated that there is no issue with their attendance at meetings.</li> <li>▪ Two proposed new CCC members are Ed Geishofer (as a resident representative) and Terry Lovelock (as a representative of Collector Community Association Inc).</li> <li>▪ MH thanked all for their contribution and for their willingness to continue</li> <li>▪ JMCK enquired whether DPIE had views on length of term for CC members. MH confirmed that there is no guidance on this point</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GP confirmed that he will be withdrawing from the CCC in light of the feedback from DPIE and the reformation process of the CCC.</li> </ul>	
3	<p>Standing declaration of pecuniary or other interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gary Poile (GP) will be a wind turbine host</li> <li>▪ Martha Truelove (MT) gets financial benefit due to proximity of her property to the wind farm.</li> </ul>	
4	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No Correspondence</li> </ul>	
5	<p>CCC Update - Round the table with what we are hearing in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ James McKay (JMck)- Not hearing anything</li> <li>▪ MT - Not hearing anything</li> <li>▪ Edward Geishofer (EG) - Collector people are wondering about the strategy for the distribution of funds that will be coming to Collector. In particular people are talking about the need for infrastructure upgrade i.e. foot paths, lighting &amp; drainage.</li> <li>▪ GP - Suggests that Collector needs to come together to work out priorities for both funds (that is both the Collector Community Trust and the 355 committee funds). Funding needs to be coordinated and groups encouraged to come together e.g. The 3 churches need to talk to each other. There are also issues such as the fact that the churches funds have been (over time as these churches have become smaller in membership) consolidated to parish accounts that might be located in Goulburn or Canberra – this makes the funding not technically within the 10km zone.</li> <li>▪ Mayor John Stafford (JS) – nothing to report</li> <li>▪ Tony Walsh (TW) - Indicated that the community is interested in the allocation of funding. Tony was also interested in the process undertaken to recruit new members and what means of advertising led to the applications received. IL explained the means used to advertise the positions but also that no data was collected as to where applicants learned of the recruitment</li> <li>▪ TW also indicted that he was held up for 5 minutes or so on Lerida Road South by the Stop sign for traffic control.</li> <li>▪ MT – Indicated that she had been held up for around 20 minutes at the stop sign, with traffic control not staffed at the time due to the construction site lunch break.</li> <li>▪ BM - Indicated that he has not been held up by the stop sign on Lerida Road on his two trips through the area and considered the improvements to Lerida Rd to be safe and effective</li> <li>▪ The construction team (TG &amp; MW) agreed that the extended delays at traffic control on Lerida Road South were not acceptable, and the team would review to ensure improvement.</li> </ul>	<p>Ratch will report back to the CCC with a solution to the traffic control situation.</p>

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Construction project delivery:

- Construction status
  - Construction activities – next 6 months
  - Details e.g. staffing, employment, business, issues
- Construction started on 24 May 2019.
  - Tony Grieve, Site Manager, advised that the upgrade of the first 2km of Lerida road South was completed 3 weeks ago. Traffic control will remain on Lerida road for some time yet until the full length of the road upgrade is complete. This will be completed by late Nov 2019 if not earlier.
  - The on-site compound is almost complete including the security and the connection to the internet. The full team is on site and this comprises 45/50 people.
  - The current focus is on having the site access track complete up to the sub-station location to provide access for Transgrid to commence work. He envisaged that in the next three to four weeks Transgrid will have a presence on site.
  - The next task for the road in the next 3-4 weeks will be laying gravel.
  - Excavations for turbine foundations will begin shortly.
  - The next three months will be mainly civil construction work on access tracks, hardstands, and excavation of foundations, with build-up of electrical work to follow.
  - The first foundation pour is scheduled for December 2019 but it is hoped that this can be brought forward.
  - The concrete batching plant has been approved, with clearing works to commence shortly.
  - There was a question about the shut down over Christmas – there will be a Christmas break of 2 weeks but the timing of this is not yet known. The Lerida Road South upgrade will be completed well before this time.
  - Pieter Taljaard represents Ratch on site.
  - A 24 hour contact line has been in place since before construction started. It is publicised on all newsletters and on the project website. Number is 1800 280 013.
  - A dedicated email address ([collector@ratchaustralia.com](mailto:collector@ratchaustralia.com)) is also available
  - Matt Willis (MW), Civilex (civil engineering contractor) provides the host landholders with a weekly update via email. Regular updates outlining forthcoming activity are also posted to the project website
  - EG suggested that this information might also be usefully provided to CCC members - perhaps in a visual / map format.
  - MW indicated that traffic control is focused on 2 km at a time so that the impact is contained, and then moves to the next 2 kms.
  - Workforce will continue to increase over the next 3 months and will be up to 120-150 at construction peak.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TW questioned whether there are opportunities for local people to get work.</li> <li>▪ TG indicated that Collector residents had been employed directly already</li> <li>▪ MW indicated that they are currently looking to employ a couple of general labourers. This information was uploaded onto the local Facebook page during the meeting, to facilitate any local interest.</li> <li>▪ It was also noted that Divalls has upskilled some of their local employees to enable them to operate plant and equipment.</li> <li>▪ NW suggested that if people are interested in employment opportunities they should send an email indicating this to Ratch. All contact received whether directly, via email or via contact form on website is passed onto Vestas and its team of contractors</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>Collector Funds update:</b></p> <p>IL reported that Ratch are progressing establishment of the Collector Community Trust.</p> <p>While this is being progressed, funds are available for ad hoc sponsorships/donations during construction. Groups should contact Ratch directly</p> <p>Details of the fund agreement is on the Collector Website</p> <p>There are two funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The section 355 Committee for the Council fund comprises representative from Ratch, Community and Council</li> <li>• Collector Community Trust – Trust membership is Ratch plus three community representatives (includes a committee chair role)</li> </ul> <p>Following engagement carried out in 2018, community preference was for the community representatives to be elected by the community. IL asked the CCC for ideas around how to fulfil this requirement in a fair and transparent way.</p> <p>Suggestions were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• align with Council election next September 2020 – it was felt that this is too late.</li> <li>• Use the Australian Electoral Commission to administer an election process.</li> </ul> <p>Ratch would prefer the Collector Trust to be set-up in advance of the 355 committee and well before the end of next year with January 2021 being the planned commissioning date</p> <p>JMcK suggested that the Trust make an application to the 355 committee for the balance of the funds. This will streamline administration and benefit of the immediate community. One body would mean a simple process rather than having additional people involved. Uniquely the Trust has the ability to invest/preserve funds.</p> <p>GP indicated that the time frame for providing funding is important to organisations seeking this funding.</p>	Action- IL will report back on plans to fulfill the requirement for members of the trust to be elected

	<p>JMcK believes that the Trust should be the ultimate disperser of funds to local projects.</p> <p>GP disagreed in that there has been a build-up of projects in Collector that need funding. He feels that once the 355 is advertised there will be several projects that will take up the first available funds. The message about the availability of these funds is well known in the community.</p> <p>JS advised his experience of the Taralga Wind Farm committee. It comprises JS as the Mayor, the General Manager, the wind farm representative and two other community representatives. The Committee always looks to what everyone feels is the best for the community, council do not dictate the outcome.</p> <p>JMcK feels the community should make these decisions rather than the council as the community of interest for the wind farm spans three different local government areas.</p>	
8	<p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IL indicated that the next newsletter is due to go out next week. As previously raised by the CCC, affected residents' opportunities for landscape screening treatments will be a standing item for the newsletter.</li> </ul>	
9	<p>Next meeting – 27 November 2019.</p> <p>This will be a site visit to commence at 5.00pm sharp and will be followed by a meeting in the site office.</p>	

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