



**RATCH-Australia Corporation**

**MT EMERALD WIND FARM – COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
AGENDA/ MEETING MINUTES**

|       |   |      |             |
|-------|---|------|-------------|
| Date  | 19/11/2020  | Time | 4:00 – 5:10 |
| Venue | Walkamin Community and Sports Club Hall 1<br>Kurrajong Road, Walkamin |      |             |

| Attendees          |               |                |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Paul McDonald      | Bronwyn Dwyer | David Reynolds |
| John Parmenter     | John Hardy    | Don Lennox     |
| Apologies          |               |                |
| Terry Johannesen   | Steve Lavis   | Jim Carey      |
| Ross Iraci         | Gerry Turpin  | Sam Musumeci   |
| Lee Schwerdtferger |               |                |

| No. | Item / Discussion/ Action   | Responsibility | Due date |
|-----|---|----------------|----------|
| 1   | <b>Welcome, Introductions and apologies</b>   |                |          |
| 2   | <b>Pecuniary interests, minutes from last meeting</b><br>No pecuniary interests<br>Previous meeting 19/12/19 – Confirmed: BD,<br>Second: JH   | Note           |          |
| 3   | <b>Purpose of Group</b> – Communication and Representation  | Chair          |          |
| 4   | <b>Roles, Rules, Responsibilities</b>   | Chair          |          |
| 5   | <b>Project Update</b><br><i>Construction progress</i><br>- No further construction activities<br>- Approaching the end of the defects liability period for the construction contract<br><br><i>Operational Progress</i><br>- Over 850GWh of electricity has been generated since starting to generate<br>- Vestas continuing their maintenance and servicing of the turbines<br>- Blade repair work is nearing completion<br><br><i>Environmental activities</i><br>- Translocation management - No translocation specific work has occurred this year. Up until the bushfires the translocation sites had been growing well. Unfortunately some sites were damaged during the fires. | PM             |          |

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|     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General – 4 Elements Consulting continue to perform management of threatened plants, pests, weeds, bird and bat, offset site and other site upkeep.</li> <li>- Bird and bat management               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Year 1 study completed – 3 Spectacled Flying Fox strikes and 0 Bare-rumped sheath tail</li> <li>o Year 1 report was reviewed by the management plan author (Biosis) who were satisfied with the process and results.</li> <li>o Low wind speed curtailment installed on all turbines in Year 1 at 3m/s cut in speed. Cut-in wind speed settings will be increased to 4.5m/s on 50% of turbines in the second year of monitoring. Increase is currently in progress.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Bushfire – the site was affected by two bushfire events in August and September, affecting over 80% of the site. No damage to any wind farm infrastructure.</li> <li>- EPBC Audit – MEWF was audited by the Dept. of Environment on its compliance with the EPBC Approval conditions. Overwhelmingly positive feedback was received.</li> </ul> <p><i>Noise Monitoring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stage 1 report was completed and shared with the committee. It is also available on the website.</li> <li>- Stage 1 monitoring was peer reviewed by third party acoustic specialist.</li> <li>- Both agreed that the stage 1 measurements were deemed to be compliant with the approval conditions</li> <li>- To be verified by a second stage of monitoring – due to occur in early months of 2021.</li> <li>- In last meeting the committee expressed concern over the selection of monitoring sites. RAC raised this with the consultants who were satisfied that the locations were appropriate for measuring wind farm noise.</li> </ul> <p><i>Grid Constraints</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MEWF’s generation has continued to be constrained by AEMO and Powerlink</li> <li>- Significant constraints occurred up to March 2019 until a intertrip system was installed to manage a particular scenario in the system. This also aligned with the automation of megawatt limits.</li> <li>- Constraints increased in severity in July-October due to outages on transmission lines and</li> </ul> |                |          |

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|     | <p>maintenance on synchronous generators in Central QLD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MEWF has implemented new control system settings which are designed to improve the system operation.</li> <li>- New constraint equations have been implemented which improve our ability to generate.</li> <li>- Turbines will still occasionally be seen stopped, but hopefully this is mainly due to bird and bat curtailment.</li> </ul>   |                |          |
| 6   | <p><b>Community meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No meetings or presentations due to Covid.</li> <li>- Open days will hopefully resume in 2021.</li> <li>- MEWF hosted fundraising hike with the FNQ Crimestoppers. Very positive feedback.</li> </ul>   | Note           |          |
| 7   | <p><b>Community Benefit Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4 rounds of funding completed to date - \$403K distributed</li> <li>- Over 50 applications successful</li> </ul> <p>Applications can be submitted year round. Submissions are reviewed at 31 January and 31 July of each year.</p>  | Note           |          |
| 8   | <p><b>Group Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuation of CCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o MEWF required under State approval to maintain community engagement strategy for 1 year after commencement (complete).</li> <li>o Group consensus reached that the CCC would cease in its formal capacity.</li> <li>o PM expressed that the group could continue to call/email with any queries that they have or receive</li> <li>o Group suggested that annual informal catch ups would be worthwhile. PM agreed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | Note           |          |
| 10  | <p><b>Information Sharing/ Information requests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nil</li> </ul>   |                |          |
| 11  | <p><b>Next meeting – timing and location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No further meetings.</li> </ul>   | PM             |          |