



## **Powering Australian Renewables Fund**

### **Coopers Gap Wind Farm Social Impact Management Report 2020-2021**

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*Photo credit: AGL*

## 1. Introduction

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The Coopers Gap Wind Farm Project (CGWF) is located at Cooranga North, approximately 50 kilometres (km) west of Kingaroy, 60 km northeast of Dalby and 250 km northwest of Brisbane. CGWF is located within the South Burnett and Western Downs Regional local government areas (LGAs).

When fully operational, CGWF will be one of the largest wind farms in Australia, with 123 wind turbines and a total installed capacity of up to 453 megawatts (MW). At full operation, CGWF will produce around 1,510,000 Megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable energy, equivalent to the requirements of approximately 264,000 average Australian homes. CGWF is connected to the Western Downs to Halys 275 kV transmission line which is owned and operated by Powerlink, and began generating electricity into the National Electricity Market on 24 June 2019.

AGL Energy Limited (AGL), as agent for Powering Australian Renewables Fund (known as PowAR), is managing CGWF's construction, which is being delivered by a joint venture comprising General Electric and Civil & Allied Technical Construction (GE/CATCON).

CGWF is being developed in accordance with:

- its Material Change of Use (MCU) Development Approval, issued on 24 May 2017 by the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP); and
- Imposed Conditions provided by the Coordinator-General on 1 March 2017 as part of the project's approval as a 'coordinated project' under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act (1971) (SDPWO Act).

### 1.1 Project status

Preparation of the CGWF site commenced in September 2017 and construction commenced in January 2018. The first set of ten turbines commenced operation in July 2019, with successive sets of turbines being brought online as their construction was completed.

Construction of all turbines was completed in April 2020. Commissioning and reliability testing has taken longer than was expected, involving the need to replace one of the turbines and change out generators in 50 of the turbines. Works are also underway to finalise access roads and associated stormwater drainage, along with rehabilitation and revegetation works.

As reported in the CGWF Social Impact Management Report (SIMR) for 2019/20, practical completion and commissioning of the wind farm was expected to be complete in September 2020. Completion is now expected in December 2021, when GE/CATCON will demobilise from the site.

AGL will remain as agent for PowAR during the operational phase of the wind farm, with General Electrical (GE) as the Operate & Maintain (O&M) contractor. Full operation of CGWF is targeted for the end of 2021.

### 1.2 Purpose of this report

The Coordinator-General's Evaluation report for the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required the proponent to produce Social Impact Management Reports (SIMR) to '*ensure the delivery*

*of social and economic benefits and demonstrate how the proponent had addressed any community and stakeholder issues’.*

This is the fourth annual SIMR, and reports on the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 in accordance with the requirements of the Coordinator-General’s Imposed Condition 1, which states:

*” (a) The proponent must provide an annual Social Impact Management Report (SIMR) for approval by the Coordinator-General for a period of five years on each anniversary of the commencement of construction.*

*(b) The SIMR must describe the strategies and actions implemented and the outcomes achieved:*

*(i) to inform, engage, consult, collaborate and negotiate with stakeholders and the community and to demonstrate that stakeholder and community concerns have been considered in making decisions to avoid, mitigate and manage social impacts (refer to Section 2);*

*(ii) to provide, local and regional employment, training and development opportunities and to mitigate and manage any project related impacts on the local labour markets (refer to Section 3);*

*(iii) to mitigate and manage project related impacts on the local and regional housing markets (refer to Section 4);*

*(iv) to mitigate and manage project related impacts on community health, safety and wellbeing (refer to Section 5).*

*The proponent must make the reports publicly available on its website promptly following approval by the Coordinator General<sup>1</sup>”.*

The fifth and final SIMR is required in August 2022 and will report on the completion of the construction and commissioning phase, and commencement of the operational phase.

This report was prepared by Elliott Whiteing Pty. Ltd. during May-August 2021 based on information provided by AGL and GE/Catcon.

### 1.3 Report structure

From Section 1, the report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement: reporting on the project’s engagement activities and how concerns have been considered in project planning and decision-making;
- Section 3 Local and Regional Employment, Training and Development: reporting on the project’s employment and training strategies;
- Section 4 Housing and Accommodation: reporting on CGWF’s housing and accommodation use, housing availability and affordability;
- Section 5 Community Health, Safety and Wellbeing: reporting on project commitments and management strategies which address safety and wellbeing; and
- Section 6: Conclusion, which includes a summary of monitoring results and priority actions for 2021/22, and the process for SIMP revision for CGWF’s operation.

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<sup>1</sup> CG Evaluation Report, Condition 1

## 1.4 Key actions for 2020/21

The CGWF SIMR 2019/20 forecast key actions for the reporting period. Actions implemented during 2020/21 included:

- implementation of the current Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan during the completion of the project (construction and commissioning) phase;
- confirming the likely ramp-down of accommodation demands to WDRC, SBRC, real estate agents and short-term accommodation providers;
- maintaining the CGWF Community Fund, including engagement with community members and SBRC and WDRC on funding priorities;
- a continued focus on recruiting local people and people who will move to local communities;
- a continued focus on CGWF's workforce health and wellbeing;
- implementation of training strategies for operational personnel;
- review of the Emergency Response Plan and Emergency Response Procedures; and
- cooperation with police and emergency services personnel, as required and agreed with the Queensland Police Service (QPS) and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES).

Prolongation of the commissioning phase resulted in the deferral of actions that are required prior to full operation. Actions which were deferred and will be completed prior to full operation include:

- implementation of AGL's Workforce Code of Conduct for operations;
- development of a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the operations phase, as part of a revised Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) for operations, including consultation with Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC) and South Burnett Regional Council (SBRC) regarding SIMP revision;
- engagement with local and regional emergency service representatives, including their involvement in reviewing emergency response plans for operations; and
- communication with WDRC and SBRC regarding emergency and disaster management.

## 2. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

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This section summarises the actions undertaken to engage with stakeholders and the community, and demonstrates that the project team has considered stakeholder concerns in its decision-making processes.

### 2.1 Desired outcomes and priority actions

The desired outcomes from community and stakeholder engagement over the life of CGWF include:

- building community trust and pride in the CGWF, through stakeholder engagement;
- providing a range of engagement opportunities tailored to different stakeholder needs and preferences;

- providing regular project information (including notification of key activities, timeframes, potential impacts and benefits) to interested and affected stakeholders;
- providing community consultation opportunities at different project stages and milestones; and
- proactive identification and response to community issues and concerns, including effective and efficient response to complaints.

Priority actions for 2020/21 are discussed in Section 2.2 and included:

- implementation of the current Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan during the completion of the project (construction and commissioning) phase;
- development of a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the operations phase, as part of a revised SIMP for operations, with completion due before full operations commence; and
- engagement with local and regional emergency services representatives; and
- communication with WDRC and SBRC.

The following subsections describe progress during the reporting period.

## 2.2 Engagement activities

AGL has continued to implement its Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project during 2020/21. Key activities are discussed below.

### Landholders

AGL has established productive and cooperative working relationships with asset hosts (landholders who are hosting CGWF infrastructure) and neighbours to the wind farm. AGL's mechanisms for engagement with landholders include:

- encouraging direct contact by phone and email between landholders and AGL's Senior Project Manager Representative;
- implementation of tailored Landholder Access Management Plans with asset hosts;
- liaison via phone and face to face meetings with neighbouring and nearby landholders, as needed e.g. with respect to noise complaints;
- landholder representation on the Coopers Gap Community Consultative Committee (CGCCC);
- a landholders' dinner in Bell during March 2021, attend by 19 landholders and seven CGWF representatives; and
- general communication methods e.g. access to CGCCC minutes and the availability of AGL's stakeholder engagement personnel to discuss any questions or concerns.

Key areas of interest for landholders including asset hosts and neighbours during this reporting period included:

- the progress of construction and commissioning activities;
- noise issues (see Section 2.4); and

- reinstatement of property impacted during construction in accordance with individual agreements with landholders, e.g. gate maintenance and rehabilitation.

### Indigenous community members

PARF (now known as PowAR) and AGL developed Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs) in 2018 in consultation with each of relevant Aboriginal Parties for the area, including the Wulli Wulli People #2, the Barunggam People and Western Wakka Wakka People (Team McLeod and Team Beattie). Local Traditional Owner representatives were engaged in Aboriginal cultural heritage surveys, which were completed in 2018. Cultural heritage issues have been managed in accordance with the CHMPs, and there has been no other active engagement with Traditional Owner groups during the reporting period.

AGL has identified an opportunity to engage with the Bunya Peoples Aboriginal Rangers program to explore potential for information sharing and/or an environmental education program, which will be pursued during 2021/22.

### Coopers Gap Community Consultative Committee (CGCCC)

The CGCCC was established in May 2012 and has met regularly over the past nine years. Three CCC meetings were held during the reporting period, (20 August 2020, 28 January 2021 and 29 April 2021).

In consultation between the CGWF team and the CGCCC, it was agreed that the CCC would move to six monthly meetings after the first three months of operations, at which point the membership of the CCC may also be reviewed.

CGCCC presentations and meeting minutes are published online at: <https://www.agl.com.au/about-agl/how-we-source-energy/coopers-gap-wind-farm>.

Key areas of community and stakeholder interest identified by CGCCC members during this period have included:

- progress with AGL investigations to facilitate improved mobile phone coverage in the local area;
- noise issues, monitoring and remediation work to reduce noise issues;
- SBRC progress on the proposed viewing platform; and
- involvement of community members in Community Fund governance including assessment of applications to the fund.

CGCCC members' inputs and discussion points, and responses to members' inputs, are summarised in Table 1.

**Table 1: CGCCC inputs and AGL responses**

Issue	Members' inputs /discussion points	Responses
<b>Meeting No. 35: 20 August 2020</b>		
Mobile phone reception	Discussion of previous request to investigate mobile boosting options as an alternative to a mobile phone tower.	AGL advised that approval for a mobile phone tower in Cooranga North had been secured. Construction could begin around June 2022. In the meantime, AGL has had preliminary discussions with a regional provider regarding other options such as small scale boosters. A workshop with landholders was proposed to discuss this idea (subsequently not pursued due to progress with the Telstra feasibility study).
Tourism - Viewing platform	Update on the progress of the proposed viewing platform.	CCC members had requested SBRC consideration of a viewing platform for residents and tourists to view the wind farm.  SBRC representative advised that the Council did not have a budget for construction or ongoing servicing of a viewing platform. CCC members expressed disagreement with Council's position.
Community Fund	Update provided on proposed structure for committee involvement in governance of the Community Fund.	AGL had canvassed several structures such as incorporated organisations, propriety limited by guarantee or outsourcing to local government to administer the fund.  The committee's view was that the structure should be kept simple as per the current committee structure, with nominations for a Community Fund Panel for involvement in administration of the fund to be put forward at the next meeting. Promotion of the Community Fund since local newspapers had shut down was also forecast for discussion at the next meeting.
Project/construction update	Update provided on changing out of generators.	AGL advised that there had been quality issues with some generators that were currently being changed out.
Noise	Three landholders were very dissatisfied with the amount of noise being experienced, and with the online platform for lodging complaints.	AGL advised that defects with yaw brake pads were causing noise issues and a program to change out yaw brake pads was planned to rectify the issue by the end of the year. AGL had placed noise monitoring equipment on properties where noise issues had been raised, and landholders were encouraged to contact AGL if any noise issues were experienced. AGL's Senior Project Manager representative details were to be provided to landholders and a commitment was made to ring landholders in the affected area to check in on noise issues and address any complaints quickly.

Issue	Members' inputs /discussion points	Responses
Maintenance	Members were interested in the tender process for maintenance work, and in the program for general maintenance such as restoring the function of gates that had experienced wear and tear during construction.	AGL advised that the current contractors would be used for the next twelve months, and thereafter new tenders would be sought, and sourced locally where possible. A program for general maintenance was under way.
<b>Meeting No. 36: 28 January 2021</b>		
Tourism - Viewing platform	The CCC wrote to SBRC advising of their disagreement with Council's position on the viewing platform.	SBRC had advised that they were open to meeting with CCC members on this issue.
Mobile phone reception	Requested update on dealings with service providers regarding boosters.	AGL was developing a contract with Telstra and further details were pending. Telstra were planning an onsite feasibility study and survey before the agreement could be concluded.
Community Fund Panel/CCC	Discussion of Community Fund governance.	It was agreed that CCC members will be involved in review of Community Fund applications and decision making, with AGL to provide governance advice.  Promotion of the Community Fund was being undertaken through local publications.
Project/construction update	CCC members' inputs addressed noise issues as below.	An update on the replacement of generators and yaw brake pads was provided.
Noise issues	Three landholders were experiencing noise issues.	AGL's Senior Project Manager representative was in contact with landholders experiencing noise issues and managing the responses to noise issues. Noise monitoring and a noise study were in progress.
Biodiversity/fire ants	Question regarding fire ant controls with respect to generators and yaw brake pads.  The potential for biosecurity concerns with regard to the Telstra survey was also raised.	All replacement parts are quarantined and inspections undertaken at the port before parts are unloaded.  Biosecurity concerns were noted and liaison with landholders would take place prior to entry.
<b>Meeting No. 37: 29 April 2021</b>		
Tourism - Viewing platform	CCC representatives met with SBRC representatives on site to discuss potential for a viewing platform e.g. on the corner of Niagara and Bilboa Road. It was noted that SBRC identified this location for a viewing platform as it provides a safe area to pull over, good turning circle for a caravan and has a good view of numerous turbines.	AGL re-affirmed that this matter is separate from AGL and remains a matter between the CCC and SBRC.

Issue	Members' inputs /discussion points	Responses
Community Fund /CCC	<p>Noted that AGL funding will increase from \$60,000 p.a. to \$100,000 p.a. in 2021/22, increasing governance requirements.</p> <p>Discussion identified the need for more formalised governance to ensure transparency about how the Community Fund will operate, including panel membership and grant criteria.</p> <p>Grant criteria could be published and possibly circulated in a project newsletter.</p>	<p>Two CCC members agreed to assist with the assessment of applications and grant disbursement as part of the Community Fund Panel.</p> <p>Further representation on the panel will be sought from the Kumbia region to ensure fair disbursement across the project region.</p> <p>AGL will provide the CCC with further advice regarding the governance structure of the Community Fund.</p>
Project/construction update	Received project update update.	<p>The generator change-out was complete, and the yaw brake changeout project was to be completed in May 2021.</p> <p>The Niagara Road upgrade was also due for completion in May 2021.</p> <p>The planned deconstruction of a tower structure was advised, and potential noise impacts resulting from this were explained.</p>
Mobile phone reception	Received update.	An agreement has been signed with Telstra to survey the site to determine the appropriateness of a preferred location for a mobile phone tower in Cooranga North. On-site feasibility studies were commencing in May 2021. Telstra advised that construction of the tower may take 12-18 months.
Noise	Received update on noise monitoring, and noted noise issues are still occurring.	AGL advised that noise remains an issue for some neighbours. AGL has been working closely with these neighbours and believes the yaw brake change-out will alleviate some concerns. Noise monitoring was underway.
Television reception	Interruption to television reception has been reported by a neighbouring landholder.	AGL has contacted the landholder and arranged for an independent assessment of potential interference. Completion of the assessment is pending to determine whether the issue is attributable to the wind farm and requires mitigation (e.g. a reception booster).
Grazing access	Placement of a safety fence has impacted on a landholder's grazing area.	AGL will contact the landholder to resolve this issue. This issue was managed with the landholder and resulted in construction of a new fence to maintain the owners' access for cattle and machinery movements.

### Community members

The CGCCC is the primary vehicle for engagement with community members, with community members welcome to attend all meetings. Community members also have access to AGL's Online Community Engagement tools to raise issues or questions regarding CGWF.

CGWF has conducted four site tours during 2020/21, including for groups of Dalby and Gympie residents, the Queensland Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Assistant Minister for Hydrogen Development and the 50% Renewable Energy Target by 2030, and the Queensland Government Member for Callide.

AGL has not produced newsletters or media releases of direct relevance to CGWF during the reporting period, but plans to publish a newsletter in Q4 2021. This will update the community about CGWF's commissioning, promote the Community Fund, and provide contact details for CGWF personnel for any enquiries, including access to the complaints management mechanism.

An Operations Open Day may be held when commissioning is complete, subject to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

The CGWF project team attend and support a range of local community events (however many events were delayed during COVID-19 restrictions during 2020/21) and work closely with the CGCCC to provide funding support for local projects via the Community Fund. AGL has engaged 28 community groups in the Community Fund process during the reporting period, with 24 grant applications funded over two rounds (see Section 5.6).

Key issues raised by community members during interactions with CGWF team members during the reporting period included:

- interest in the project's progress;
- interest in and appreciation for AGL's Community Fund; and
- mobile reception and progress with the mobile phone tower.

### Local Governments

Consultation with the SBRC and WDRC over the reporting period has included:

- representation of both Councils on the CGCCC;
- meetings with WDRC to discuss the project's progress; and
- discussions and correspondence regarding the rates CGWF will pay SBRC and WDRC, with the two Councils in general alignment on rates policies.

The two Councils have been made aware of the expected date for completion of the construction and commissioning phase.

Councils' ongoing interests include:

- economic development opportunities, such as revival of private manufacturing facilities in the Western Downs LGA which could supply wind farms, and tourism opportunities in South Burnett LGA;
- local employment; and
- how the Community Fund will contribute to community wellbeing.

With full operation delayed until the end of 2021, development of the SIMP for the operational period is pending. AGL will consult with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC as part of developing the SIMP for operations.

### State Government

The CGWF project team provides progress updates to the Office of the Coordinator-General on request.

Regular briefings are also provided to the National Wind Farm Commissioner.

The Queensland Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen, the Assistant Minister for Hydrogen Development and the 50% Renewable Energy Target by 2030 and the Queensland Government Member for Callide received project updates during their site tours.

Other issues are discussed with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on an as-needed basis.

### Health and emergency services

During the reporting period, a wind turbine tower structure was deconstructed, which involved demolition and required blasting. GE/CATCON consulted with QPS and worked with QFES to plan for these works and confirm and implement measures to protect the safety of CGWF personnel and community members.

Liaison with health services has not been required during the reporting period.

### Business and industry

GE/CATCON continues to welcome expressions of interest and capability statements to [coopersgapWF@catcon.com.au](mailto:coopersgapWF@catcon.com.au). With construction activities completed, there have been no contracts awarded through ICN during the reporting period

AGL is a member of the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE), assisting to raise the profile of PowAR and AGL in the region and facilitate project engagement with local industry and employment suppliers. This includes sponsorship for TSBE networking events.

CGWF is currently engaging 12 local businesses who supply the project, which has supported local employment opportunities and developed local companies' capacity to respond to the requirements of working on large scale projects.

### Aviation stakeholders

GE/CATCON provided regular updates to the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) as meteorological masts and wind turbines were erected. A final update on the location of the wind farm's infrastructure will be provided to CASA prior to completion of commissioning. Interactions with CASA are not expected to be required during CGWF operations.

### Housing and accommodation providers

Rental agreements for local housing used by project personnel include provision for six weeks' notice of the end of the tenancy. Real estate agents and short-term accommodation providers have been made aware of the projected date for commissioning and cessation of use of housing and accommodation.

## 2.3 Outcomes of stakeholder engagement

As discussed in preceding subsections, AGL communicates with stakeholders via a range of means. Figure 1 presents a breakdown of the key issues raised during stakeholder interactions via emails, letters, phone discussions and face-to face meetings. A total of 631 stakeholder interactions of this nature were recorded during 2020/21. Figure 1 shows the key issues raised, as discussed below.

### Community investment

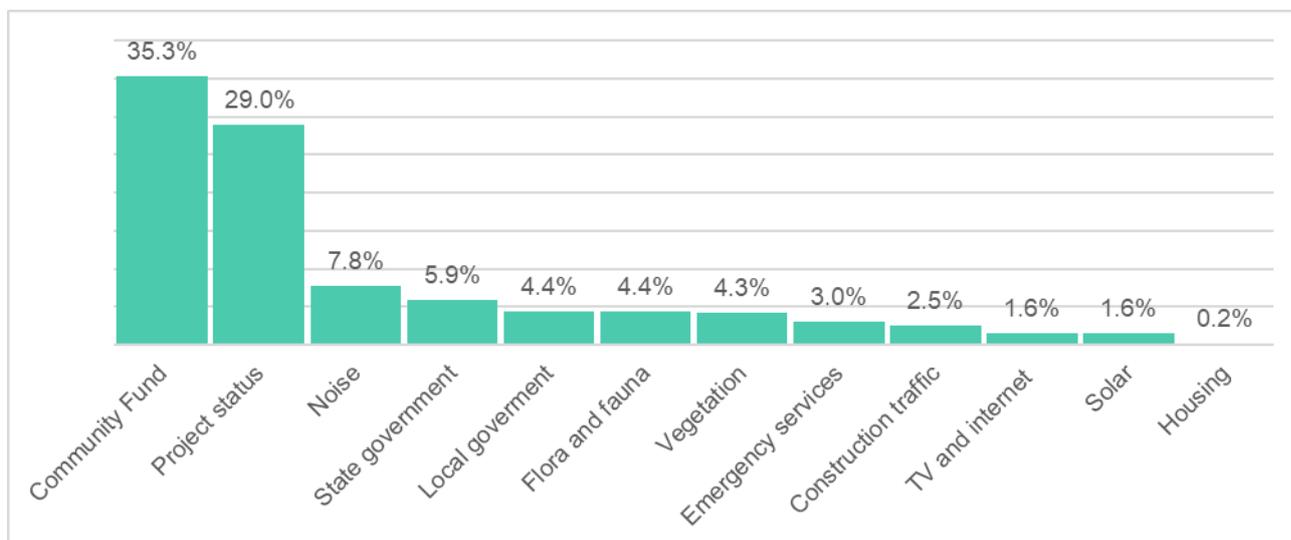
The Community Fund was the key subject of 35.3 percent of stakeholder interactions, i.e. how to apply, eligibility for funding, progress with applications and outcomes of the grant rounds.

AGL’s Community Fund provides funding for a wide range of community groups and services as discussed in Section 5.6. During the reporting period AGL delivered two rounds of Community Fund investment (September 2020 and March 2021), supporting a range of community, sporting, education, civic, emergency services, cultural and business organisations in the project region.

### Project status

The status of construction activities and forecast date for the project’s completion and operation have been of ongoing interest to landholders, Councils and other stakeholders and were the key topic for 29.0 percent percent of interactions. In particular, stakeholders have been interested in when specific works such as the generator changeout program will be finished, and when commissioning will be complete. As described in Section 2.2, AGL has communicated project progress through the CGCCC, Council meetings and individual meetings with stakeholders to ensure interested stakeholders are kept informed.

**Figure 1: Stakeholder Issues 2020/21**



### Noise

Noise complaints were received from three neighbouring landholders, and a fourth neighbour was identified as experiencing noise issues. AGL provided noise monitoring at four properties which indicated that CGWF’s noise levels are within noise criteria and comply with the project’s

environmental approval. Stakeholder interactions involving noise represented 7.8 percent of the total during 2020/21, with multiple interactions required with each landholder. Final noise monitoring studies will be performed by GE at three and nine months after practical completion.

### **State government**

Interactions with State agencies ranged from formal reporting mechanisms, consultation with departments on specific requirements, interactions with the Wind Farm Commissioner, liaison regarding site visits, and provision of project updates. This accounted for 5.9 percent on the total interactions.

### **Local government**

Interactions with local governments (SBRC and WDRC) related primarily to the Niagara Road upgrade, project updates on e.g. the generator change-out and turbine deconstruction, and arrangements regarding payment of rates to Councils.

### **Flora and fauna**

Issues related to flora and fauna represented 4.4 percent of interactions. This was primarily in relation to concerns regarding cattle movements, watering of cattle and unintended mixing of cattle when fences were down. Queries regarding bird strikes were also received.

### **Vegetation**

Issues related to vegetation represented 4.3 percent of issues raised, and related primarily to seeding, weed spraying, use of spelled paddocks, and rehabilitation of land disturbed by the project. Progressive rehabilitation is in progress and is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

### **Emergency services**

Emergency service issues represented 3.0 percent of stakeholder interactions, relating primarily to consultation with the QPS and QFES regarding the turbine deconstruction.

### **Construction traffic**

Issues regarding construction traffic related to the project's use of Niagara Road (as the main access road to CGWF) and represented 2.5 percent of interactions. AGL and SBRC have cooperated to plan and deliver an upgrade of Niagara Road, with final works nearing completion in May 2021, providing a safer road connection for local residents and visitors.

### **TV reception and internet**

Issues and enquiries about television reception and internet connectivity related to the possibility of interference from the windfarm and represented 1.6 percent of interactions. In response to enquiries, AGL commissioned a local specialist to assess the potential for interference to television reception, however the potentially affected landholder has been living away from the property so the assessment is pending. The potential for interference to internet connectivity was also raised. This was assessed, and the interference was traced to a change in National Broadband Network (NBN) delivery.

## Solar program

The Coopers Gap Solar Program was offered to non-participating landholders within a 2 km radius of a participating landholder's property during 2018 and 2019. Enquiries regarding the solar program represented 1.6 percent of interactions in the reporting period, however the program was completed in 2019.

## Housing

One enquiry was received from a property owner regarding the project's interest in renting their property, representing 0.2 percent of issues raised.

## 2.4 Complaints management

PowAR is committed to maximising community and stakeholder satisfaction through effective and efficient response to complaints. AGL, as PowAR's agent, actively promotes CGWF's complaints process and project feedback mechanisms, and publishes the project's Complaints Management Policy on the AGL website.

The project received complaints from three landholders during the reporting period regarding noise from turbine operation, and a fourth landholder was identified as experiencing noise issues. One complaint was quickly resolved and the landholder declined noise monitoring. Resolution of the other complaints involved multiple interactions between AGL and the landholders, and noise monitoring at four properties. Analysis of the noise monitoring data indicated that the wind farm is compliant with the project's Approval, which was advised to the relevant landholders.

AGL also received feedback that some residents didn't have internet access with which to access the complaints mechanism. AGL responded by promoting the availability of the Senior Project Manager representative by phone, email and for face-to-face meetings to address complaints.

A fifth landholder has identified disruptions to television reception which will be assessed by a local specialist when the landholder is available, whilst another queried whether the wind farm was interfering with their internet access. The change in internet access was investigated and was traced to a change in NBN delivery.

## 2.5 Monitoring results

The desired outcomes for community engagement and the status of those outcomes are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2: Monitoring results - Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
Building community trust and pride in the CGWF	Landholder, CGCCC and Council feedback regarding CGWF engagement	Consultation records, CCC minutes	AGL and its contractors have maintained positive relationships with community members and stakeholders including WDRC and SBRC.

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
			<p>Two landholders remain dissatisfied with the audibility of noise from wind turbines.</p> <p>AGL will request specific feedback from the CGCCC and Councils on community engagement measures as part of developing the SIMP for operations.</p>
	Community attendance and participation in project milestone events	Project event statistics	There were no CGWF community events held in the reporting period. The project team attended and supported a range of local and regional community events where these were not constrained by COVID-19 restrictions.
Regular project information to interested and affected stakeholders	Timely and clear information (including notification of key activities, timeframes, potential impacts and benefits) provided in project communications	Project records including CGCCC minutes	<p>AGL publishes its update presentations to the CCC and CCC meeting minutes on its website for community review. Community members are also welcome to attend CGCCC meetings.</p> <p>Landholders who may have been affected by noise from the deconstruction of a turbine tower were advised ahead of the works occurring, with no resulting complaints. There have been no other activities affecting community members which would require specific information provision.</p>
Providing community consultation opportunities at different project stages and milestones	<p>Consultation opportunities are scheduled for each project stage and at relevant milestones.</p> <p>Opportunities are well promoted to interested and affected stakeholders</p>	<p>Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan</p> <p>Communications collateral</p>	<p>AGL has maintained the CGCCC throughout the construction period and will continue to do so during operations by agreement with CGCCC members.</p> <p>A newsletter is planned to advise community members of the project's commissioning and promote the Community Fund. An Open Day may also be held when commissioning is complete.</p>
Proactive identification and response to community issues and concerns, including effective and efficient response to complaints.	Regular monitoring of project consultation activities to anticipate and address community issues and concerns	Consultation records and issue reports	<p>AGL's advocacy has resulted in a field study for the construction of a mobile phone tower at Cooranga North to improve local reception</p> <p>In consultation with community members, AGL and its contractors identified noise from yaw brakes as an unacceptable impact, and have completed replacement of yaw brake pads to resolve the issue.</p> <p>AGL has also engaged with landholders with respect to television reception and internet concerns.</p>

## 2.6 Forward Plan

AGL is currently updating the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the operational phase, with completion due before full operations commence around the end of 2021. This includes reviewing the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement to date and the need for ongoing consultative mechanisms in cooperation with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC. The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan will form part of the revised SIMP for operations (see Section 6.3) and will address:

- landholder liaison, underpinned by AGL's Agreed Principles of Land Access (2014) and individual Landholder Access Management Plans (LAMPs);
- CGCCC operation;
- Council engagement on matters of interest including emergency management and disaster recovery;
- ongoing engagement with QPS and QFES as agreed with these agencies, including their involvement in reviewing Emergency Response Plans;
- complaints management;
- general communication methods to provide information to stakeholders and community members;
- mechanisms to address any emerging issues and information requests as part of the CGCCC and/or with concerned stakeholders; and
- maintaining the CGWF Community Fund, including engagement with the SBRC and WDRC and community members on community investment priorities.

WDRC, SBRC and the CGCCC will be invited to provide feedback on the draft Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

The Coopers Gap Community Fund of \$100,000 per annum will be provided to September 2025, with the objective to broaden the environmental and community benefits of the wind farm within the local Western Downs and South Burnett communities. AGL is establishing a structure for the administration of the Community Fund in consultation with the CGCCC.

A Community Fund of \$30,000 per annum will be made available during the subsequent 20 year (approximate) operational phase.

## 3. Employment, Training and Development

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This section summarises the status of employment, training and development actions undertaken to provide local and regional employment, training and development opportunities, and mitigate and manage any project-related impacts on local labour markets.

With a modestly sized construction workforce (see below) including a combination of local personnel and specialist personnel from other areas, impacts on local labour markets have been shared between several LGAs, minimising impacts on local labour markets.

### 3.1 Desired outcomes and priority actions

The desired outcomes for employment, training and development are:

- at least half of the CGWF workforce are local hires;
- project employment and supply opportunities are well promoted locally and through local stakeholders;
- increased opportunities for local Indigenous stakeholders to participate in the project and local business enterprise;
- demonstrable benefits to local community members from increased access to up-skilling and training opportunities; and
- Australian entities have full, fair and reasonable opportunity to bid for the supply of key goods or services for the project and, if applicable, initial operation of the facility.

Priority actions for 2020/21 included:

- a continued focus on recruiting local people and people who will move to local communities;
- a continued focus on CGWF's workforce health and wellbeing; and
- implementation of training strategies for operational personnel.

### 3.2 Construction and commissioning employment

CGWF's construction commenced in January 2018 and the last turbine was installed in April 2020. The number of construction personnel fluctuated according to the activities being undertaken, peaking at 226 personnel in October 2019, and reducing to 110 personnel in May 2020.

Commissioning and servicing work has continued during the reporting period, including:

- the replacement of one of the turbines;
- a program to change-out generators in 50 of the turbines;
- completion of the yaw brake pad replacement program;
- construction of access roads and associated stormwater drainage; and
- rehabilitation and revegetation works.

CGWF's construction and commissioning personnel include electrical, safety and trades workers, and specialist technicians. The number of workers changed during the reporting period according to the works being undertaken. The average number of personnel employed during 2020/21 was 80 people, of whom an average of 16 personnel (20 percent) were local residents. The reduction in the percentage of local personnel from approximately 35 percent in June 2020 was due to the need for specialist technical personnel from outside the project region to replace generators, yaw brake pads and a turbine.

There was a peak of 110 personnel during May 2021 (of whom 80 percent were workers from other regions) whilst the generator change-out and yaw brake change-out projects were completed. This was an increase on the anticipated average of 55 personnel that were expected to be required for the remainder of the commissioning period.

As at June 2021 there were approximately 100 construction and commissioning personnel on site, of whom approximately 20 were residents of the Western Downs or South Burnett LGAs and 80 were non-local personnel travelling home at the end of their roster. There were five Indigenous people employed during the reporting period.

Practical completion and commissioning of the facility is expected in December 2021, with GE/CATCON demobilising from the site.

### 3.3 Operational employment

As of May 2021, CGWF employs 13 operational personnel (up from 12 personnel in June 2020) to service the wind farm and manage its operations. This level of employment will be maintained for the operational period.

Operational personnel include the site manager, lead technician, eight technicians, an engineer, an Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) advisor and a store person. Twelve of the operational personnel are local residents (living in the South Burnett or Western Downs LGAs), including seven who were local residents as at June 2020, and five who moved to the project region during 2020/21, with the thirteenth employee to move to the region during the second half of 2021.

As at June 2021, an average of 20 non-local sub-contractors were undertaking operational works involving specialist electrical work, work at heights and confined space entry works, however sub-contractors' employment will end with the completion of the commissioning phase. It is likely that for periods of time during operations, additional subcontractor personnel will be required (e.g. for maintenance campaigns). GE will seek to utilise sub-contractors from their established local network of electrical, painting and machine maintenance services. Non-local subcontractor personnel may also be required due to the specialist nature of works and/or work certification requirements. For the purpose of estimating any future occasional usage of accommodation (see Section 4.2), a total of up to 20 non-local subcontractors has been assumed to be required on an occasional basis.

Operational recruitment was substantially complete by June 2020. The CGWF webpage will continue to provide a link to GE information on the availability of operational roles.

### 3.4 Training and development

As construction activity was substantially complete by September 2020, additional training and apprenticeships were not possible during the reporting period.

CGWF operational personnel are provided with regular training to support the delivery of their roles and the safe management of CGWF. This has included facilitating staff access to certification training in Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) Generation Operations Support and ESI Generation Maintenance-Electrical Electronic (where this is required by CGWF and would benefit personnel), first aid training, maintenance skills training and safety training. Regular access to information about mental health and wellbeing is also provided (see Section 5.4).

GE/CATCON assessed the opportunity to offer an apprenticeship for the operational phase and determined that the operations scope of work will not support either electrical or mechanical apprenticeships. Discussions with the Dalby State High School regarding training opportunities were not progressed.

### 3.5 Local supply opportunities

AGL and GE/Catcon established their local supply arrangements in 2018-19, including ongoing engagement with employment and labour hire companies, implementation of the project's Australian Industry Participation (AIP) Plan, and publishing all project supply opportunities on the ICN Gateway (which is no longer relevant, as there have been no additional construction contracts required).

During 2020/21, GE/CATCON involved 12 local businesses (within the South Burnett and Western Downs LGAs) in supply to CGWF, including businesses supplying fuel, electrical services, civil engineering, machine maintenance and cleaning services, supermarkets, a workplace health and safety adviser, and the Bell Store, as well as motels and caravan parks. This was an increase from the five local businesses who supplied CGWF during 2019/20. Non-local supplier included suppliers of turbine components and turbine maintenance services under AGL's nationally accredited supplier program.

The value of CGWF's expenditure with businesses in the South Burnett and Western Downs LGAs during 2020/21 was approximately \$24.5 million (up from the \$13.01 million spent in 2019/20) with an additional \$150,000 spent with businesses in the Toowoomba region during the reporting period, down from \$5.89 million spent in the Toowoomba region during 2019/20. Overall, spending with businesses in the South Burnett, Western Downs and Toowoomba LGAs increased by more than 30 percent on the previous year's expenditure.

Wherever possible during the operational phase, GE will source goods, services and contract labour from their established local network of business, which includes electrical, painting and machine maintenance services, cleaning services, catering and hospitality services, and accommodation providers.

### 3.6 Monitoring results

Table 3 summarises the desired outcomes and status of outcomes for employment, training and development.

**Table 3: Monitoring results - Employment, training and development**

Desired Outcomes	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
At least half of the CGWF workforce are local hires	Employees by postcode / by LGA	Project employment and contractual records	The project's construction and commissioning workforce included an average of approximately 20 percent local employment over the reporting period.  The operations team are all local residents, with the exception of one technician who will move to the area by the end of 2021.
Project employment and supply opportunities are well promoted locally and through local stakeholders	Implementation of the AIPP communication strategy	Procurement communications and engagement records	Operational recruitment was substantially complete in 2019/20.  Twelve local businesses were involved in supply to CGWF

Desired Outcomes	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
			<p>during the reporting period (up from five local business in 2019/20)</p> <p>Expenditure of more than \$24,650,000 with businesses located in the South Burnett, Western Downs and Toowoomba LGAs was achieved during the reporting period.</p>
Increased opportunities for local Indigenous stakeholders to participate in the project and local business enterprise	Indigenous personnel employed and Indigenous businesses engaged	HR records	The project has employed five Indigenous people during the reporting period.
Demonstrable benefits to local community members from increased access to up-skilling and training opportunities	Local community members access upskilling and training opportunities associated with CGWF	Project records	<p>The project employs seven people who were local to the region as at June 2020, and five personnel who have moved to the region during the reporting period, with a thirteenth soon to relocate.</p> <p>Ongoing on-site training and development have been provided during the reporting period</p> <p>CGWF has also partnered with Mates in Construction to develop workers' mental health awareness and access to support (see Section 5.4).</p>
Australian entities have full, fair and reasonable opportunity to bid for the supply of key goods or services for the project and, if applicable, initial operation of the facility	Implementation of AIP Plan commitments to equitable promotion of project supply opportunities	<p>Procurement communications and engagement records</p> <p>AIP Compliance Report</p>	The project has advanced and is close to completion, hence most of the major procurement activities were completed in prior reporting periods.

### 3.7 Forward plan

Priority actions to be implemented by GE/CATCON and AGL over the next reporting period include:

- a continued focus on employment of local residents or people who will move to the region to fill any permanent vacancies;
- implementation of training strategies for operational personnel; and
- wherever possible, sourcing goods, services and contract labour from GE's established local network of business within the South Burnett and Western Downs LGA.

Any vacancies will be advertised via a link to GE's recruitment page on CGWF's website, with interested local people encouraged to monitor this site.

## 4. Housing and Accommodation

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This section summarises the actions undertaken to mitigate and manage project-related impacts on the local and regional housing markets.

### 4.1 Desired outcomes and priority actions

The desired outcome for the CGWF is for there to be no significant impact on local housing and accommodation availability during its construction and operation. To mitigate and manage project-related impacts on local and regional housing markets, the project established a Housing and Accommodation Action Plan (HAAP) in January 2018, developed in consultation with the relevant Councils.

Anticipating the completion of the construction and commissioning phase, the key action identified for 2020/21 was confirming the likely ramp-down of accommodation demands to WDRC, SBRC, real estate agents and short-term accommodation providers one month prior to the expected completion date.

### 4.2 Housing and accommodation use

As of May 2021 (the peak month during 2020/21), the project employed approximately 88 construction and commissioning personnel and one operational staff member from outside the project region. There were also 20 subcontractors undertaking operational works.

Non-local personnel share rental dwellings while they are on shift or use short term accommodation in local communities. During 2020/21, this included the use of:

- a total of 19 rental dwellings including seven houses in Kingaroy and 12 houses in Dalby, which was an increase of four dwellings since May 2020, and a decrease of 15 dwellings since the peak requirement in October 2019; and
- short term accommodation including motel rooms in Dalby (generally up to nine rooms across a range of motels), two cabins in the Bell Tourist Park and one cabin in the Jandowae Accommodation Park, which is a slight reduction in use of short-term accommodation (of one cabin) since May 2020.

All but one of the 13 operational workforce live locally, with uptake of five dwellings (including three rental dwellings and two purchased dwellings) over the reporting period, and the requirement for one further dwelling by the end of 2021.

#### Rental housing

In summary, project use of rental housing during 2020/21 included approximately 22 rental dwellings (an increase of seven rental dwellings since May 2021) along with use of motel rooms and cabins at a similar usage rate as in 2019/20.

SQM Research data for May 2020 indicated that the available rental stock in local towns where CGWF personnel were accessing housing included approximately 26 dwellings in the Kingaroy and Kumbia postcode (4610) and 39 dwellings in the Dalby postcode (4405), with no rental dwellings available in the Bell postcode (4408).

As at May 2021, the availability of rental housing in Kingaroy/Kumbia/Cooranga North and Dalby had reduced, with rental vacancy rates of less than 1 percent in both postcodes and approximately 20 rental dwellings available, down from approximately 65 dwellings across these two postcodes in May 2020. As a consequence of increased demand, the average weekly rental cost increased by 18.9 percent in the Kingaroy/Kumbia postcode and by 11.8 percent in the Dalby postcode in the year to 31 May 2021 (see Table 4).

The project's increased rental housing requirement (seven dwellings) was equivalent to approximately 15.5 percent of the net increased rental demand across the two postcodes (45 dwellings) during 2020/21. This would have contributed to lower rental vacancy rates. However, the decline in local housing availability is in line with a national trend of reduced rental vacancies in regional towns during 2020. Generally, this is the result of increased numbers of local residents 'staying put' during a period of high uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic, along with a drift of new residents from larger centres to regional towns.

With completion of construction and commissioning, the 19 rental dwellings used by these personnel will be made available to the market as their leases end, which will reduce pressure on the local housing market.

**Table 4: Rental dwelling use, availability and cost, May 2020 – May 2021**

Postcode	Dwellings rented by project at May 2020	Rental dwellings available at May 2020	Rental vacancy rate May 2020	1 year rental cost change (houses)	Dwellings rented by project at May 2021	Rental dwellings available at May 2021	Rental vacancy rate May 2021	1 year rental cost change (houses)
4610 - Kingaroy, Kumbia Cooranga Nth	8	26	1.1%	-6.7%	8~	7	0.3%	18.9%
4405 -Dalby	7	39	1.5%	3.9%	14^	13	0.5%	11.8%
Total	15	65	-	-	22	20	-	-

Source: SQMRResearch. May 2021. Notes: ~ includes 7 construction and commissioning, one operations. ^ includes 12 construction and commissioning and 2 operations)

#### Short term accommodation

The project's use of an average of nine motel rooms and three cabins has been of value to local accommodation providers, particularly during periods when tourists' movements have been affected by COVID-19 restrictions. If non-local subcontractors are required during operations e.g. for maintenance campaigns, and assuming up to 20 short-term non-local subcontractors, any future occasional usage of accommodation is also likely to be appreciated by local accommodation providers. With five motels in Kingaroy and nine motels in Dalby, along with hotel accommodation and tourist parks, occasional demands from subcontractors are unlikely to have a significant impact on the availability of local tourism accommodation.

## Housing for purchase

Kingaroy and Dalby have substantial stocks of housing for purchase, with a collective total of approximately 782 houses and dwellings available in May 2021. This was a decrease of almost 25 percent from the 1,038 dwellings listed for purchase in May 2020. The reduced availability of housing for purchase is likely related to owners deferring a decision to sell during uncertainties related to COVID-19, and/or to an influx of new residents from other areas.

Median asking prices for homes have shown minimal variability over the twelve months, with a 1.5 percent decrease in the Kingaroy/Kumbia postcode, and a 4.3 percent increase in the Dalby postcode 4405 (see Table 5).

CGWF personnel who were new to the region purchased a total of two dwellings in 2020/21, so an effect on the availability or asking prices of dwellings in local towns is not apparent.

There is potential for a small number of operational personnel to convert from rental housing to home ownership housing during the next reporting period, however in the context of current availability, this is unlikely to have any negative effect on other residents' access to housing.

**Table 5: Stock available and change in median cost May 2020 – May 2021**

Postcode	Stock available (houses and units) May 2020	Stock available (houses and units) May 2021	1 year change in stock on market (no.)	1 year change in asking price – houses (%)
4610 - Kingaroy, Kumbia and Cooranga Nth	589	412	-177	-1.5%
4405 -Dalby	449	370	-79	4.3%
Total	1038	782	256	-

Source: SQMRResearch. May 2021.

## 4.3 Monitoring results

Table 6 summarises the desired outcomes and status of outcomes for housing and accommodation.

**Table 6: Monitoring results - Housing and accommodation**

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
No significant impact on local housing and accommodation as result of the project.	Change in rental availability and affordability (median rent, stock and vacancy rate) - Nanango, Dalby, Jandowae, Kingaroy postcode areas	SQM Research data	Rental vacancy rates have decreased over the past year in towns accommodating CGWF personnel, with the project contributing to approximately 15.5 percent of the net increased rental demand across the two postcodes.  The completion of the construction and

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
			commissioning phase will see approximately 19 rental dwellings released to the market, which will help to ease pressure on the rental housing market.
	Change in property sales (median and stock) - Nanango, Dalby, Jandowae, Kingaroy postcode areas	SQM Research and consultation with Council	Changes in the availability of housing for purchase are not attributable to the project.  Operational personnel are expected to make minimal demands on local housing stock with potential for three rental households to convert to purchased housing and one employee yet to seek housing.

#### 4.4 Forward Plan

AGL had advised stakeholders including SBRC, WDRC, real estate agents and short-term accommodation suppliers of the likely date for completion of construction and commissioning, and will confirm this ahead of the demobilisation of the construction and commissioning team.

The operations workforce will live locally, renting or purchasing their housing. With just one employee expected to move to the project region by the end of 2021, and the potential for very small incremental changes in housing demand related to occasional staff vacancies, any future housing demand would be well within existing capacity.

Requirements for short-term accommodation would be limited to occasional requirements for an estimated 20 non-local subcontractors, which in the context of supply in the Western Downs and South Burnett LGAs, is not expected to have a significant impact on the availability of accommodation for other users. No future housing management requirements are foreseen.

## 5. Community Health, Safety and Wellbeing

This section summarises the actions undertaken to address concerns about community health, wellbeing and safety, including integration or relevant environmental management plans.

### 5.1 Desired outcomes and priority actions

The desired outcomes of the CGWF's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan are:

- no reduction in community health or safety characteristics as a result of CGWF;
- responsive engagement with health, community and emergency service providers to address potential service delivery issues;

- responsive engagement with local residents to address potential nuisance impacts associated with CGWF; and
- contributions to enhancements in quality of life for local residents.

Key actions planned for 2020/2021 included:

- continued implementation of the CGWF Community Engagement Plan, including meetings with local landholders and neighbours (see Section 2.2);
- engagement with local and regional emergency service representatives, including their involvement in reviewing emergency response plans for operations and disaster management preparedness; and
- maintaining the CGWF Community Fund, including engagement with the CCC, SBRC and WDRC on funding priorities (see 5.6).

With the delay to full operations, review of emergency response plans for operations and disaster management preparedness has been delayed, and will be addressed during 2021/22.

AGL has also worked with the CGCCC to plan for engagement during the operations phase, including the frequency of CCC meetings and other updates, and their involvement in reviewing and selecting Community Fund grant applications.

## 5.2 Community amenity

Management mechanisms to achieve the desired outcomes include:

- management of nuisance activities, including associated controls measures for air quality, noise and electromagnetic interference, underpinned by timely and responsive engagement;
- mitigation of risks to community health, safety and wellbeing, including associated procedures for workforce management, weed and pest management, traffic management and emergency management;
- a range of communication and engagement mechanisms and commitments to support responsive and adaptive management; and
- a range of community investment and partnership initiatives to enhance quality of life for local residents.

As discussed in Section 2.4, noise complaints were received from four landholders during 2020/2021. AGL commissioned a noise study including collection of noise monitoring data for four residences, which indicated that CGWF's noise levels are within noise criteria and comply with the project's environmental approval. Final noise monitoring studies will be performed by GE at 3 and 9 months after practical completion.

One landholder raised the possibility of interruption to his television reception. AGL has commissioned a local specialist to determine whether the issue is related to the wind farm and whether mitigation (e.g. a reception booster) is required, pending the landholders' return to the property. Another queried whether the wind farm was interfering with their internet access, which was investigated with the issue traced to a change in NBN delivery.

### 5.3 Community health and safety

Delivery of the project's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is supported by the implementation of the project's Community Engagement Plan and Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), including the following sub-plans:

- Pest and Weed Management Plan (which includes provisions for mosquito management);
- Noise Management Plan (which includes provisions for noise and vibration monitoring and management);
- Emergency Response Plan;
- Bushfire Risk Management Plan;
- Traffic Management Plan; and
- Transport Communication Plan.

Implementation of these plans during 2020/2021 has ensured that the project has avoided the potential for impacts on community health and safety, including cooperation with QFES regarding blasting arrangements, as further discussed in Section 5.5.

As noted in Section 2.3, AGL and SBRC have cooperated to deliver an upgrade of Niagara Road, providing a safer road connection for local residents and visitors, with final works nearing completion in May 2021.

CGCCC members have identified concerns regarding the safety of motorists who pull off Niagara Road (a SBRC-owned road) to view the wind farm and have advocated the need for a viewing platform to SBRC. SBRC indicated that it was willing to discuss the development of a viewing platform with CCC members and met with them at a potential location to discuss the opportunity, but has advised that it does not currently have the budget for construction or servicing of such a facility. AGL anticipates that the CCC will continue to advocate to SBRC for the development of a viewing platform.

Noise complaints from nearby landholders included complaints that noise was disturbing their sleep. The project's wind turbine layout was designed to ensure compliance with the separation distance requirements for host and non-host lots (1,500 metres) prescribed in the wind farm state code, and separation distances also align with the advice on wind farms issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council. As noted in Section 5.2, a noise study was undertaken (including monitoring at four landholders' properties) and indicated that the wind farm was compliant with its conditions of approval.

### 5.4 Workforce health and safety

AGL is a member of Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE) which supports the 'Mates in Construction' mental health network, and is a blueprint partner with Mates in Construction, committed to implementation of key measures for better mental health for AGL personnel.

CGWF works with Mates in Construction to promote a mentally healthy and supportive workplace, with a Mates In Construction representative visiting CGWF on average every 4-5 weeks during the reporting period. The visits include the opportunity for one-on-one contact with workers on matters relating to mental health (with the Mates in Construction representative fully inducted to enable them to move around the site for personal time with workers) and being present at daily pre-start meetings

where there has been an opportunity to speak to everyone about suicide prevention and better mental health outcomes.

During June 2021, Mates in Construction provided a mental health awareness session with the GE Services crew, and will roll out 'Connector' training for GE Services during the second half of 2021, to train personnel to help keep someone safe in a crisis, while at the same time connecting them to professional help.

During the COVID-19 pandemic response period, AGL and GE/CATCON developed a COVID-19 management plan, which encompasses revised working protocols e.g. social distancing measures, hygiene measures and consistent and regular communication with all personnel about the new management measures. This is implemented to protect workers' health and safety but also to protect local communities from virus transmission. These measures will be ongoing as guided by Queensland Health's advice.

AGL's Workforce Code of Conduct applies to personnel engaged in the construction and commissioning phase, and will apply to all personnel during CGWF's operations phase.

## 5.5 Engagement with police and emergency services

Engagement with the QPS during the reporting period included information exchange on the demolition and reconstruction of a turbine and consideration of their feedback in planning the reconstruction.

Engagement with QFES included:

- a series of planning meetings and on-site cooperation regarding the management of the turbine deconstruction (which was successfully completed without incident or complaints); and
- engagement around the provision of AGL funding for the new Cooranga North Rural Fire Brigade shed.

GE will engage with QPS and QFES regarding Emergency Response Procedures for operation, prior to the completion of the commissioning phase. The emergency response procedure currently involves calling the QFES, QAS and/or QPS as relevant in the event of a fire or other emergency on site, which is not expected to change.

GE will also engage with the Western Downs and South Burnett Regional Councils regarding the process for cooperation with the Western Downs and South Burnett Local Government Disaster Management Groups for the operations phase, prior to the completion of the commissioning phase.

## 5.6 Contributions to quality of life

Community initiatives identified and implemented in consultation with community members are outlined below.

### ***Support for community development***

During the past four years, AGL's Community Fund for CGWF has had an allocation of \$60,000 per annum. In response to CGCCC advocacy, AGL's Community Fund for CGWF was increased to \$100,000 per annum, commencing during 2021/22, for the duration of AGL's tenure on the project (to September 2025). This includes \$80,000 p.a. for community donations and sponsorships for local

organisations, which is administered by the CCC, and an additional \$20,000 per annum which is administered by AGL to provide funding for the wider community.

During the reporting period AGL has delivered two rounds of Community Fund investment (September 2020 and March 2021), supporting a wide range of community, sporting, education, civic, emergency services, cultural and business organisations in the project region. Round 7 received 15 submissions of which 13 were successful, and Round 8 received 13 submissions of which 11 were successful. Grants and donations were provided to the organisations shown in Table 7. A total of approximately \$64,000 was invested in community organisations through the fund during the reporting period.

AGL has also provided \$10,000 to upgrade the Cooranga North Rural Fire Brigade shed. The funds were provided to QFES under an agreement that QFES will build the new shed to government standards and fund any shortfall if funds are insufficient to meet this standard.

As noted in Section 2.2, the CGCCC discussed governance arrangements for the Community Fund during the operational period. Two CCC members are currently involved in assessment of Community Fund applications as part of the Community Fund panel, with further community representation from the Kumbia community being sought for the panel.

The CGWF project team is reviewing AGL's best practice in Community Fund administration (with 28 AGL Community Funds currently operating across Australia) to develop grant eligibility criteria, procedures for operation of the fund, the framework for grant assessment and selection panel/committee, and reporting procedures. The advice on governance for the Community Fund will be provided for the CGCCC's feedback. The SIMP for operations will also include mechanisms for stakeholder input on local community priorities during operations including via the CCC and meetings with WDRC and SBRC.

**Table 7: Community Fund recipients 2020/2021**

Round 7	Round 8
Bell Bunya Community Centre Association Inc	Dalby Yumborra Scout Group
Ironpot Farmers Hall Association	Jandowae Netball Association Inc
Bell Art Group Inc	Jandowae Bowls Club Inc
Wooroolin Warriors Cricket Club Inc	Bell Memorial Public Hall
Bell State School	Bell Bunya Community Centre Association Inc
Bell Theatre Group Inc	Jandowae Golf Club
Dalby Men's Shed Inc	Jandowae Kindergarten Association Inc.
Bell & District Golf Club	Kumbia and District School of Arts Inc
Bell Memorial Public Hall Inc	Bell State School (Student Council)
Kumbia Neighbourhood Watch Rural Inc	Jandowae Squash Club
Jandowae Amateur Swimming Club Inc	Bell & District Golf Club
Kumbia and District School of Arts Inc	
Kumbia State School P&C Association	

### Mobile phone tower progress

AGL's advocacy to the State and Federal governments resulted in Cooranga North being selected in the Blackspot Program for a mobile phone tower. AGL has also formed an agreement with Telstra to undertake a feasibility study to construct an additional tower within the wind farm that will cover the majority of the 'blackspots' at the wind farm, benefitting the residents living nearby.

Pending the results of Telstra's feasibility study, the tower is expected to be constructed from June 2022.

## 5.7 Monitoring results

Table 8 summarises the desired outcomes for community health, safety and wellbeing and the status of outcomes.

**Table 8: Monitoring results - Community health, safety and wellbeing**

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
No reduction in community health or safety characteristics as a result of CGWF.	Compliance with all regulatory Codes and noise criteria	Environmental monitoring reports	CGWF has maintained an excellent safety record.  With the exception of two noise complaints indicating sleep disturbance, impacts on community health or safety were not identified. CGWF has engaged with landholders complaining about noise, and has undertaken a targeted noise monitoring study during 2020/21 to ensure that the wind farm is compliant with its conditions of approval.
Responsive engagement with health, community and emergency service providers to address potential service delivery issues	Positive service provider feedback regarding effectiveness of joint working arrangements	Face to face meetings Consultation records	Cooperation with QFES on the turbine deconstruction has strengthened relationships between CGWF and QFES, and resulted in the successful management of the exercise. Engagement with QPS and QFES on the emergency response plan and procedures for operations is pending.
Responsive engagement with local residents to address potential nuisance impacts and/or health and wellbeing concerns associated with the project	Relative frequency of complaints about project impacts	Complaints register and CGCCC meeting notes	There were three complaints and feedback from an additional landholder about noise, which resulted in AGL undertaking a noise study and engagement with the complainants. There was one indication of landholder feedback regarding potential television reception issues, with an assessment pending.

Desired Outcome	Indicator	Data Source	Outcome/Status
	Frequency of engagement on key issues	Consultation records Annual SIMR	This is detailed in Section 2.3.
Contribute to enhancements in quality of life for local residents	Community investment is guided by a framework of locally identified and agreed priorities	Consultation records with CGCCC, WDRC, SBRC and local stakeholders	Community investments are outlined in Section 5.6. AGL has involved CCC members in evaluating and deciding on grant applications, and will consult with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC regarding community priorities to be reflected in Community Fund criteria.

## 5.8 Forward Plan

Key actions to be implemented over the next reporting period include:

- revision and implementation of the CGWF Community Engagement Plan, including engagement with local landholders and neighbours;
- communication with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC regarding SIMP revision;
- engagement with local and regional emergency service representatives on an as-needed basis;
- communication with the WDRC and SBRC regarding emergency and disaster management; and
- maintaining the CGWF Community Fund, including engagement with community members and SBRC and WDRC on funding priorities.

## 6. Conclusion

### 6.1 Monitoring results summary

Monitoring of the outcomes of CGWF impact management measures during 2020/21 indicates that:

- consultation mechanisms have enabled stakeholders to provide their feedback on the project's construction and impact management, and to receive updates on actions and/or project responses on matters of concern. CGWF has also involved community members in Community Fund decisions;
- the specialist nature of construction and commissioning work during this reporting period required the employment of non-local personnel, however an average of approximately 20 local residents have benefitted from construction and commissioning employment opportunities. Five Indigenous people were employed by the project during the reporting period;
- a wholly resident workforce has been employed for the operations phase;

- 12 local businesses have benefited from supply opportunities, with expenditure of approximately \$24.5 million in the Western Downs and South Burnett LGAS, and an additional \$150,000 spent with businesses in the Toowoomba region during the reporting period;
- the increased use of rental housing for CGWF personnel was equivalent to around 15 percent of the net increase in demand for rental housing in the Dalby and Kingaroy/Kumbia postcodes between May 2020 and May 2021, contributing along with a range of other factors to a decline in rental housing availability. Rental dwellings used by construction and commissioning personnel will be released to the market when their leases end which will help to address the current high demand for housing;
- noise complaints have been addressed by changing out yaw brake pads, engagement with landowners and targeted noise monitoring. Noise monitoring has demonstrated compliance with approval conditions which are designed to protect amenity and health;
- there have been no project-related issues affecting community health, safety and wellbeing; and
- AGL's Community Fund has contributed to a wide range of community projects to support quality of life in the project region.

## 6.2 Key actions for 2021/22

With the continuation of construction and commissioning work beyond the anticipated completion date, some actions planned for 2020/21 will be carried over to the next reporting period. Key actions for 2021/22 include:

- implementation of the current Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan during the completion of the project (construction and commissioning) phase;
- development of a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the operations phase, as part of a revised SIMP for operations, scheduled for completion before the commencement of full operations around the end of 2021;
- confirming the ramp-down of accommodation demands to WDRC, SBRC, real estate agents and short-term accommodation providers one month prior to the expected completion date;
- ongoing implementation of the CGWF Community Fund, including stakeholder consultation regarding community priorities via the CGCCC and meetings with WDRC and SBRC;
- implementation of AGL's Workforce Code of Conduct for operations;
- a continued focus on CGWF's workforce health and wellbeing, including cooperation with Mates in Construction;
- a continued focus on recruiting local people and people who will move to local communities;
- implementation of training strategies for operational personnel;
- development and implementation of the Operations Emergency Response Plan and Emergency Response Procedure, including consultation with QPS and QFES; and
- cooperation with police and emergency services personnel, as required and agreed with QPS and QFES.

### 6.3 SIMP revision

The CGWF SIMP will be reviewed during July-November 2021, in consultation with the CGCCC, WDRC and SBRC. The scope of the review will include:

- evaluating the effectiveness of the SIMP during construction;
- identifying any issues or actions carrying over from the construction period (e.g. the initiative to improve mobile telephone coverage) which need ongoing actions;
- identifying any social impacts or issues that stakeholders anticipate in relation to operations; and
- developing strategies for the operational phase including a Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and any mitigations required to address any potential impacts.

This will provide the basis for developing a SIMP for the first two full years of operations, which will be provided for the approval of the OCG prior to the commencement of full operations.

Implementation of the SIMP for operations is planned to commence in January 2022 and conclude in January 2024. The final SIMR will be provided to the OCG in August 2022 or as agreed with the OCG.