

# MEETING MINUTES

<b>Meeting title</b>	<b>Liverpool Range Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)</b>		
<b>Attendees</b>			
Michael Silver OAM (Independent Chair)	Martine Holberton, Senior Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Tilt Renewables		
Greg Piper (Community Member)	Matt Stafford, Project Manager, Tilt Renewables		
Linda Gant (Community Member)	Anne-Louise Capel, Community and Land Co-ordinator, Tilt Renewables		
Ant Martin (Involved Landowner)	Leeanne Ryan (Warrumbungle Shire Council)		
Cr Ron Campbell (Upper Hunter Shire Council)			
<b>Observers</b>			
Jane Hegarty	Matthew Pringle (Upper Hunter Shire Council)		
<b>Apologies</b>			
Dr Julia Imrie (Community Member)	Graeme Booker (Community Member)		
<b>Location</b>	Liverpool Range Wind Farm Office, 50 Binnia Street Coolah	<b>Date &amp; start time</b>	14 March 2024 at 1.07 pm

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>1. Welcome</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Mr Silver welcomed the observers attending the meeting. It was agreed by the Committee that the observers could engage with discussion during the meeting without seeking endorsement of the Chair.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Acknowledgement of Country</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is being held and their continuing connection to land, water, and culture, paying respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Declarations of Interest</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael Silver – pecuniary interest – expenses of Independent Chair borne by Proponent.</li> <li>Ant Martin – pecuniary interest - host landholder and landholder of proposed quarry.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Committee Membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chair noted that Community Member, Mr Graeme Booker had not attended a Community Consultative Committee meeting since December 2021. He had spoken to Mr Booker during this period who had indicated he was having difficulty attending meetings for personal reasons. Mr Silver advised he would contact Mr Booker to formally ascertain his interest in remaining on the Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was noted that the minutes of the CCC meeting held on 5 October 2023 had been approved on 31 October 2023. The minutes are available on the Tilt Renewables website.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Business Arising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Action 6.3 Tilt is investigating whether through local Landcare groups it could support and encourage initiatives by landowners to plant tree/wildlife corridors in appropriate locations within the wind farm boundary in order to undertake proactive planting ahead of construction, along with exploring nest box / hollow hog solutions.</i></li> <li><i>Comment: Ms Hegarty highlighted the potential for small grants to</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p><i>support vegetation improvement overseen by LLS. Mr Stafford indicated this would need to be discussed with LLS – Linda Gant suggested that Landcare is slowly being absorbed into LLS. She suggested a better outcome may be achieved by directly engaging with locals on tree planting.</i></p> <p>Ms Hegarty, as a point of clarification, advised that Landcare remains a separate entity and is not being absorbed by LLS. Rather LLS is facilitating the grant process in support of Landcare.</p>
<p><b>7. Actions</b></p>	<p>6.1 That Tilt arrange for the concrete and aggregates contractor to address a future meeting of the CCC, prior to the commencement of construction work, regarding location and operation of the proposed quarries.</p> <p><b>Response: Deferred pending selection of preferred balance of plant (BoP) contractor and confirmation of construction program. DEFERRED</b></p>
<p><b>8. Correspondence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Proponent’s Report</b></p>	<p><i>Matt Stafford led the presentation of the Proponent’s Report and was supported by Martine Holberton (copy attached to minutes).</i></p> <p><b>8.1 Project Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Stafford provided a detailed project update.</li> <li>• Mr Stafford highlighted that considerable attention was being given to finding a construction partner. He advised four Tier One companies have tendered for the project. There will be an extensive and detailed selection process undertaken with a decision likely in the third quarter of 2024.</li> <li>• Mr Stafford also reported on the Modification 1 application and noted that the Response to Submissions is about to be lodged with the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) – this will include a submission on the Temporary Workforce Accommodation (TWA). He added that the Public Environment Report is expected to be lodged shortly.</li> <li>• Jane Hegarty enquired as to compensation for clearing box gum woodland and sought clarity as to locations where it is to be cleared. She noted that there is one map in the Biodiversity Assessment Method for woody box. Linda Gant added that it is difficult to find on the map the exact location of box gum woodland even though she is familiar with the area. Mr Stafford indicated he would explain the mapping and discuss the matter further with Ms Gant post the meeting.</li> <li>• Councillor Ron Campbell agreed with Ms Gant’s comments, noting it was difficult to ascertain the location of environmental impacts from the maps, He strongly suggested that the environmental mapping should include identifiable land marks, such as roads and known local features so that the location of impacts can be readily and easily understood.</li> <li>• Mr Stafford advised that geotechnical work is planned to be undertaken on certain road segments in collaboration with local Councils to inform pavement design and improve the transport haulage route.</li> <li>• Cr Campbell questioned the size of the turbines and particularly the blades. Mr Stafford advised that equipment remains as previously advised with the blades to be transported in one piece - these are 85</li> </ul>

metres long.

- In terms of the proposed quarry, Mr Stafford confirmed that Australian Resource Development Group (ARDG) have identified that the Rotherwood Road site has excellent quarry material. ARDG are the proponents for the quarry and have lodged a scoping report with DPPI in support of a separate State Significant Development application.
- Mr Stafford advised that ARDG has been undertaking water drilling investigations at nine locations identified in the southern end of the project (Talbragar River and Turee Creek catchments), 6 x drilled (1 in progress, 3 with good flow, 2 dry, 1 with acceptable flow but still to be pump tested). He also confirmed that the TWA bore is sufficient to supply the need of accommodation facility.
- Ms Hegarty commented that the ground water is part of the Gunnedah Oxley Basin flowing from the Pilliga.
- Mr Stafford noted that ARDG has advised that some bores will be in excess of 100 metres deep.
- Ms Gant enquired as to the level of base line study work particularly in relation to the bore depth. Mr Stafford responded that considerable analysis is undertaken to assess location and each bore is pump tested to determine its viability, and is required to support any application with WaterNSW for an extraction licence.
- Ms Gant enquired as to the extent of studies to determine the local impact on existing bores in the area. Mr Stafford advised that the statutory separation distances are being complied with. Ms Gant indicated there is some concern regarding impacts on groundwater and bores in the vicinity of the TWA bore. Mr Stafford advised that discussions will proceed with neighbours to establish the local baseline ground water data in order that any impacts may be monitored. Ms Gant noted that irrigation in some locations in the area has had significant impacts on the level and availability of groundwater. Mr Stafford acknowledged the concerns and advised this was a matter for Water NSW to assess, monitor and regulate. Ant Martin noted the variability of water availability at bore sites in the area.
- Mr Stafford advised that an access tender submission is currently being prepared subject to revised guidelines to be issued by EnergyCo. He indicated work in this area will ramp-up over coming weeks.
- Mr Stafford confirmed that 99% of biodiversity offsets have been secured. Ms Hegarty enquired whether active restoration work is proposed particularly where a property owner may request assistance for vegetation restoration. Mr Stafford advised this was not a consideration at this point. The primary approach, at this stage, is avoidance – vegetation will only be removed if there is no practical alternative. Considerable work is being undertaken to reduce the disturbance footprint. Ms Holberton added that various grant programs have been run to provide funds to landholders to plant trees and is investigating something like this for the Project.
- Mr Stafford provided an overview of discussions with DPPI and BCS on a strategy to address Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SII) on box gum woodland. He indicated a report on the outcomes of these discussions

would be presented to the next meeting. The SAI report is also being included in the RTS documentation for Amendment 2 (TWA) that DPHI is expected to publish on the Major Projects Portal in due course.

### **8.2 Temporary Workforce Accommodation**

- Mr Stafford noted a lack of appropriately skilled labour and a shortage of accommodation in the area which has resulted in the need for a Temporary Workforce Accommodation (TWA) facility. It will cater for up to 550 construction workers (plus additional staff to operate and maintain the TWA) and will be located within the wind farm site boundary off Vinegaroy Road approx. 3 kilometres east of the Coolah township.
- Mr Stafford advised that substantial consultation had occurred regarding the potential location of the TWA with some 20 sites examined. He noted that there had been substantial rejection by the Cassilis community of a proposal to locate the TWA near Cassilis. He noted that there were others who expressed support for the TWA and the associated economic and legacy infrastructure benefits.
- Cr Campbell expressed his disappointment that the Cassilis community does not see the opportunity for any direct benefits from the project.
- Mr Stafford advised that a recurring theme within the submissions received regarding the TWA was the potential for and management of anti-social behaviour. A Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced to manage this risk.
- The Chair enquired whether the TWA would be subcontracted. Mr Stafford advised that it would likely be sub-contracted through the main contractor to an accommodation service provider.

### **8.3 Temporary Project-Specific Quarry**

- Mr Stafford advised that the proposed quarry would now be assessed under its own State Significant Development application and not as a modification to the existing windfarm development. Tilt have a Deed of Agreement with ARDG under which ARDG will investigate and potentially develop a quarry to supply material solely for the Liverpool Range Wind Farm project.
- Ms Gant sought clarification as to whether it can supply material for local roads. Mr Stafford responded that extending its use capability makes the approval process challenging and is outside the Deed of Agreement between Tilt and ARDG.
- Councillor Campbell sought confirmation that the resource will not be exhausted at the conclusion of the construction of the wind farm - ARDG has advised Mr Stafford that there will be "more than enough". He added that any further use of the quarry beyond the wind farm construction would be subject to a separate development approval.
- In respect to Cr Campbell comment that Cassilis is missing out, Mr Stafford noted that at the conclusion of construction the sewerage treatment plant (STP) at the TWA will be redundant and may be capable of being utilised at Cassilis. Cr Campbell indicated that Upper Hunter Shire Council (UHSC) may be interested in pursuing this option. The Chair suggested that UHSC make a further submission to DPHI on the

STP if it wishes to pursue that option post construction. Ms Gant noted that one of the main concerns of the community was the cost to residents of maintaining an STP.

- Leeanne Ryan questioned the extent of use of material from the proposed quarry noting that the Scoping Report intimated that it would provide material for 'ancillary works and transmission lines'. Mr Stafford reiterated that the proposed quarry is for wind farm use only and the Scoping Report is subject of review.

**UPDATE: as the proponent of the quarry, ARDG have, in their Development Approval Application applied to supply quarry product for 'ancillary works and transmission lines' in its Scoping Report. This is a matter for ARDG to work through with the community and consent authority. Tilt Renewables continues to keep its quarry supply options open to ensure in-specification quarry product is available to the wind farm project in a timely and cost-effective manner. This may include sourcing material from quarries other than that being developed by ARDG.**

- Greg Piper requested clarification of the use of material extracted from the quarry. Mr Stafford advised that it would primarily be used for roads and other site works (site tracks).

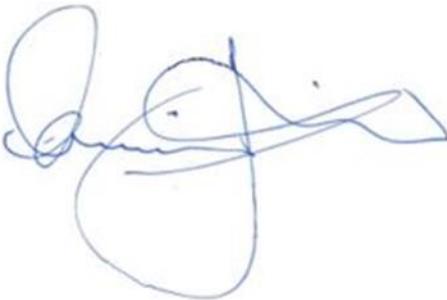
#### **8.4 Central West-Orana REZ Update**

- Mr Stafford advised that EnergyCo have now lodged their RTS and Amendment Report. DPPI will review the EIS, RTS report and the Amendment Report. After this it will prepare a draft Assessment Report, which may include conditions of approval for consideration and determination by the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces.
- Cr Campbell questioned whether batteries will be incorporated into the Liverpool Range Wind Farm project. Mr Stafford that installation of batteries is currently not part of the project. Mr Piper question, why not? Mr Stafford noted that it was advised to not include a battery in the Mod-1 Application as this could make it more complex and result in approvals delays/risks.
- Mr Stafford provided an update on the Access Tender process. The process will grant REZ suppliers with a connection agreement with EnergyCo. He indicated that within the Orana REZ eleven (11) projects will be seeking connection to the transmission grid. He noted that new access tenders will be invited shortly under new simplified guidelines.
- Ms Holberton noted there were considerable opportunities for the community from the renewable developments in the Central West Orana REZ.

#### **8.5 Consultation Update**

- Martine Holberton provided a comprehensive consultation and communication update.
- Ms Holberton highlighted attendance at two day workshop with the CWO Aboriginal Working Group which expressed appreciation for Tilt Renewables distribution of information.
- Ms Holberton covered various community communications from fact

	<p>sheets, photomontages, to newsletters and direct community engagement particularly in respect of the proposed TWA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Holberton advised of stakeholder engagement with Local Aboriginal Land Councils regarding opportunities created by the Project for First Nations people in the local area.</li> <li>• Mr Stafford noted the Gomeroi Native Title Land Claim across NSW in relation to Crown land. He indicated that the Proponent is working through this issue in association with NSW Crown Lands.</li> </ul> <p><b>8.6 Benefit Sharing Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Holberton provided an overview of the Benefit Sharing process. She noted that it is intended that the community and councils are no-worse-off under the Modified Project. Tilt Renewables has significantly increased its funding commitment for benefit sharing programs during construction and operation of the Project.</li> <li>• Ms Holberton advised that it has agreed to update the Voluntary Planning Agreements with Upper Hunter and Warrumbungle Shire Councils to meet the new NSW Government guidelines.</li> <li>• Mr Piper sought an explanation of the new guidelines. Ms Holberton responded that the new guidelines provide recommendations as a way to support communities but are silent on specific requirements. She noted the primary change is that the funding basis is on a per megawatt payment - \$1,050 per MW per annum.</li> <li>• Discussion proceeded on the implementation and processes associated with Voluntary Planning Agreements. Mr Piper expressed his concern regarding the lack of community consultation and involvement in the process.</li> <li>• Ms Hegarty enquired as to the likely timeframe for implementation of the VPA. Mr Stafford advised that the bulk of the VPA funding would come into effect at commissioning of the turbines.</li> <li>• General discussion proceeded on potential use of community funds from EnergyCo and how projects will be identified.</li> </ul> <p><b>8.7 Next Steps and Timing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee noted the proposed timelines in the progress of the project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Other Agenda Items</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. Actions Required</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. General Business</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Microclimate</b> – Ms Gant questioned whether any data or other work has been done on the impact of wind farms on microclimate, eg dew? Mr Stafford indicated there was a lack of research in this area to make any comment. <i>Chair’ note: The Bureau of Meteorology has subsequently advised that there is no way to produce conclusive results to link the wind farm with any impacts on micro-climate due to the considerable variability.</i></li> <li>2. <b>Sacrificial Valley</b> – Ms Gant expressed concern as to the potential</li> </ol>

	<p>cumulative impact of renewable energy developments in the Coolah region. She noted the impacts of coal mining in the Hunter Valley with resultant voids, health implications and environmental impacts. She suggested that despite houses were more than 5 kilometres from a wind turbine the residents may still be impacted. She expressed concern that some residences were not identified on the impact mapping. Mr Stafford noted her concerns regarding property mapping had previously been addressed but advised he would further discuss the matter with her post the meeting.</p>
<p><b>12. Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Meeting closed:</b> 3.10pm. The Chair thanked all for their attendance. <b>Next meeting:</b> Chair to advise on a future date.</p>
<p><b>13. Meeting minutes approved</b></p>	<div data-bbox="539 734 986 1034" data-label="Text">  </div> <p>Michael J. Silver OAM <b>Independent Chair</b> 20 April 2024</p>