

BANGO WIND FARM PROJECT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Bango Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee Details

CCC / Project Name:	Bango Wind Farm CCC	Reporting Period:	March 2019 to March 2020
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Jonathan Post

1. Executive Summary

The Bango Wind Farm is located to the east of Lachlan Valley Way between the regional centres of Yass and Boorowa in the Southern Tablelands of NSW.

The site is located in the Hilltops and Yass Valley local government areas and forms part of a larger rural area used primarily for grazing.

Originally the project proposed the construction of up to 75 turbines, however, following submissions during the assessment process, mainly regarding biodiversity and visual concerns, was reduced and approved by the Independent Planning Commission for 71 turbines. Following an appeal to the Land and Environment Court, consent was granted for 46 turbines (to be positioned within 49 locations). The project also involves the development of associated ancillary infrastructure.

The proponent, CWP Renewables Pty Ltd, consulted with the community from the commencement of its preparation for their development application in 2013. First meeting approximately once per year, the CCC now meets on a quarterly basis, alternatively between Yass and Boorowa venues.

The Community Consultative Committee (CCC) operates in accordance with the Department of Planning & Environment's Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Development (January 2019). The committee's membership consists of:

- Two local community representatives
- One Yass Valley Council delegate
- One Hilltops Regional Council delegate
- Three stakeholder group representatives (Boorowa District Landscape Guardians, Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation & Yass Business Chamber)
- One host landholder; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

The project moved to construction in April 2019 with the awarding of the tender to the successful civil works and turbine supplier contractors. This commenced a number of activities occurring in the background, including the final turbine layout, post development approvals with relevant government departments and agencies, ICN Gateway registrations for local employment/sub-contractor opportunities, preparation of Management Plans, survey and design works.

At this stage of the project, it was an opportune time to advertise for additional CCC members to ensure the effective consultation with the broader community. Unfortunately, there was no interest from community representatives, however, two stakeholder groups nominated and were approved by DPIE to join the CCC (Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation and the Yass Business Chamber), both of which provide valuable and experienced contribution to meetings.

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Over the past 12 months, the CCC met in April 2019, August 2019, November 2019 and February 2020 with members receiving presentations and updates from the proponent's representatives on:

- Post consent approvals
- Preparation and approval of Management Plans
- Local contractors and employment information/statistics
- Management of the superb parrot population
- Extensive presentation from the successful Project Team contractors (guests)
- External and external roadworks
- Substations and Meteorological Masts
- Micrositing of the turbine locations
- Education Programs for local schools
- Community Sponsorship Program
- Water Usage
- Voluntary Planning Agreements with both Councils.

The CCC is an effective communication forum between the community, the Council and the company. It fulfils its objectives under the Department's guidelines and has a diverse membership, representing the broader community.

There were no joint CCC's held in the region.

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Impacts to community from construction & transportation activities	Comprehensive presentation provided by successful construction/civil contractors to the CCC in August 2019.	Continued updates to be provided to the CCC. It should be noted that the feedback received indicates that the roadworks and transportation activities have been managed well and have not impacted too detrimentally on the community.
Management of the Superb Parrot	Condition 13 of the project approval requires CWP to contribute \$100,000 over 5 years to prepare and implement a Superb Parrot Conservation Research Plan. This will be incorporated with two other wind farm approvals in the region.	Ongoing updates to be provided to CCC.

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Local employment opportunities	An ICN Gateway has been and members are provided with information and statistics at each meeting on the number of local employment and sub-contractors that are being used during the construction stage.	Ongoing updates to be provided to CCC.
Lack of accommodation in the region	Concerns have been raised with the lack of accommodation in the region. Council and the business chambers are working on strategies to improve accommodation opportunities.	Ongoing updates to be provided to CCC.

4. Focus for next 12 months

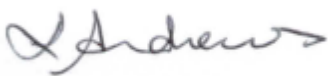
The focus for the next 12 months will continue to be the construction stage of the project, with a number of civil works being undertaken in and around the site.

The planned activities for 2020 will be guided by the contributions of the CCC members. These activities are likely to include:

- Continued updates on environmental monitoring of the site.
- Continued updates on employment/sub-contractor opportunities for locals.
- Transportation of major infrastructure (turbines) to the site.
- Continued engagement with the community regarding education programs and sponsorship opportunities.
- Implementation of the National Superb Parrot Conservation Plan.
- Implementation of the project's Community Enhancement Fund.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no outstanding or emerging issues that have not been addressed.

CCC minutes and presentations are available on the website.

Signature of Chair:	
Date:	14 April 2020