

## **Meeting Minutes no 1:**

### **Tarong West Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee**

**Date: 4 March 2025**

Venue: Supper Room, Kumbia Memorial Hall

#### **Attendees:**

Debbie Jackson, CCC Member	Alice Greenup, CCC Member
Kathy McMurdy, CCC Member	Carolyn Stone, CCC Member
Brenton Opperman, CCC Member	Scott Henschen, CCC Member
Cr Ros Heit, Div 6, SBRC	Toby Coates, RES
Keith Campbell, Independent Chair	Tanya Jackson, RES
Carol Weekes, Secretary	

#### **1. Welcome:**

Keith Campbell opened the meeting at 10.05am.

Keith

- Congratulated the Committee Members on their appointments.
- Outlined the importance of being selected members and being motivated and mobile to collect, and table, community issues.
- Called for Agenda items prior to meetings but advised that items can also be tabled at the meetings.
- Announced that future Agendas will include an item titled “Conflict of Interest” where members can declare any perceived conflicts of interest regarding any item of business, which can then be examined by the Committee.
- Declared the Tarong West Community Consultative Committee Officially convened comprising the Members present.

#### **2. Apologies: Nil**

#### **3. Official formation and declaration of CCC Membership and adoption of Terms of Reference**

Tanya Jackson was invited to brief the Committee regarding the Terms of Reference.

Tanya

- Expressed thanks to the members for applying
- Advised that the Terms of reference are self-explanatory
- Reiterated that the CCC was a facilitation and consultation body not a decision-making committee
- To complete the CCC membership process, the Terms of Reference need to be signed
- Included in the Terms of Reference are the Project Team responsibilities - two (2) Project Team members will participate in CCC meetings. At this stage, Toby and Tanya will participate but they cannot guarantee that either of them may need to change from time to time due to circumstances beyond their control
- If additional RES staff need to attend in an advisory capacity, then they will be Observers

- If a swap is needed for Toby or Tanya, then that will be done in consultation with the Chair, prior to the meeting.
- When the Project moves from Development to Construction, there will be a change of focus and Toby and Tanya may not be involved.

It was noted that continuity of RES participants will assist with following up and following through of items of business.

In the event that a CCC member is unavailable for a meeting, their absence will be noted as an apology. It is not permissible under the Terms of Reference to have proxies attend the meeting on members behalf. It is expected that an absentee Committee Member will provide another member with the issues/ topics they would like raised in their absence.

In consultation with the Chair, the Committee can seek and invite technical specialists to provide information and advice, for example, engineering experts for roads.

The CCC meetings have been set for 2025:

- 3rd June
- 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

It is expected that RES will provide timely responses to the issues raised at the Meetings.

**Resolution:** *The Terms of Reference are endorsed, and the Tarong West Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee is formally convened with the following members:*

- *Debbie Jackson*
- *Kathy McMurdy*
- *Brenton Opperman*
- *Alice Greenup*
- *Carolyn Stone*
- *Scott Henschen*
- *Cr Ros Heit, Division 6, SBRC*
- *Toby Coates, Lead Project Manager, RES*
- *Tanya Jackson, RES*
- *Keith Campbell, Independent Chair*
- *Carol Weekes, Secretary*

Carried unanimously.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Nil

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes:** Nil

**6. Correspondance:**

**Inwards:**

- Expressions of Interest from applicants for CCC Membership

**Outwards:**

- Letters to successful and unsuccessful applicants
- Agenda for this meeting

## 7. Report by RES: Tarong West Wind Farm- Toby Coates

- a. Plans for this week disrupted due to the approaching Cyclone Alfred. Information sessions planned for Wednesday and Thursday cancelled as staff were recalled due to the cyclone approaching Brisbane. As Toby and Tanya were en route to the South Burnett they proceeded with today's meeting but need to fly out tonight.
- b. The Information sessions will be rescheduled. Dates will depend upon when the availability of the technical experts (Sonus: Noise Monitoring and GWA: Groundwater). Members will be advised as soon as new dates are confirmed.
- c. EPBC Referral: The assessment process is ongoing and part of the process will involve a public comment period, currently expected to occur in early 2025. RES will advise further on the timing of the public comment period.
- d. Approval is expected in June and this is the last key deliverable prior to move into the construction phase, which could begin in July/ August, contingent upon feedback from the Department.
- e. The projected Project cost is approx. \$1.5b, and it is expected that 97 towers will be constructed, generating 436.5 megawatts.
- f. RES are in agreement with Stanwell, whereby Stanwell have an option to invest in the project subject to RES developing the project.
- g. Powerlink will do the grid connection. A new substation (approximately 180m x 120m) will be constructed within the site boundary.
- h. **Roads:** A Road Infrastructure Agreement with Council is being negotiated. It needs to specify key roads and scope of upgrades for Manneum and Jumna Roads.
- i. Alternate access options were discussed such as alternate access roads, side entrances, using gravel from the site rather than trucking it in. 3 gravel sites in South Burnett and some in Western Downs have been identified. Geo Technical assessments on site have identified that suitable road capping material is not available on site.
- j. Multiple options are on the table for the sourcing of off-site materials.
- k. A Traffic Impact Assessment is underway and the outcomes should be available by the next CCC meeting.

### ***Feedback from the Committee:***

1. All roads are unsuitable for the volume of traffic and size of trucks using the roads, creating unsafe situations, and leading to incidents such as the school bus and local drivers being forced off the road.
2. Key roads impacted include: Mannuem Road, Jarail Road, Ironpot Road, Nords Road, Red Tank Road, Jumna Road, Burrandowan Road, Boyne Road, River Road and Bunya Highway.
3. A contributing factor appears to be that the construction of the Wambo Wind Farm is using gravel from South Burnett quarries. The trucks commence work at 2.15am creating neighbour sleep disturbances as well as unsafe roads. When construction begins on the Tarong West Wind Farm, this will exacerbate the traffic volume and safety issues.
4. An enforceable Traffic Management Plan is required with tight frameworks for contracts.
5. Under current traffic usage and abuse by vehicles, there is a fear of a fatality occurring.

6. A traffic counter had previously been installed on Ironpot Road, could this be re-installed to demonstrate/ validate the traffic increases?
7. The objective has to be to reduce the volume of non-OSOM vehicles on the public roads as soon as possible to preserve the safety for local residents and the School Bus as well as all other road users. The community wants a safe, sustainable and successful project.

**Actions:**

1. *In the interest of transparency, CCC Members requested to be advised as EPBC public response documents become available for comment.*
2. *RES to investigate road transport options for the Tarong West Wind Farm that reduces the dangerous and risk volume by re-directing the non-OSOM traffic; and creates a mechanism to enable the school bus to safely get off the road on the Mannuem to Kumbia Road.*
3. *RES to provide information regarding what types of gravel are being sought as locals may be able to provide advice/ possible source sites.*

**b. Update on Project Timelines** – Stages of Construction Commencement e.g. road infrastructure, site works, etc. RES advised:

- i. Pre-construction: early stage of design brought forward to development phase
- ii. Road infrastructure and site works could commence as early as July/ August

**c. Water Access/ Supply Concerns raised by Committee Members:**

- I. Project site is a dry land area, and rainfall is sporadic. Use of water from the Mannuem and Reedy Creeks will take much needed agricultural water.
- II. Will the Hydrology Report include pre-emptive monitoring of current water levels before commencement to determine if there is an impact as construction gets underway?
- III. Some bores are licensed, and some are not, so does the desktop exercise capture all of these?
- IV. Scott Henschen stated that he was aware during road construction phases for another wind farm development (access roads and site construction) took excessive water. 300,000l was used for dust suppression alone.

**RES response:** A hydrology expert was available for the now postponed Information Session, to deliver the results of a desktop assessment report and to discuss water access and supply.

**Action:**

1. *RES to provide landowners with details regarding the source and volume of water required for the Project; and the contingency plan for substituting water from other sources, if and when the on-site supply diminishes.*

**d. Bio Security Plan as raised by the Committee:**

- i. Has a Biosecurity Plan been developed prior to the commencement of the construction phase? Will it be negotiated with landowners? This is a parthenium weed area and trucks will be moving in and out and through waterway catchment areas.

**RES Response:** A required Environmental Plan is being developed as a component of the Construction Phase.

**e. Accommodation Plan**

- i. RES advised that no accommodation will be constructed on site. It is expected that existing accommodation will be found in the surrounding area, both in South Burnett and Western Downs.
- ii. Committee responded:
  1. accommodation is in short supply everywhere
  2. Wambo Wind Farm does not have on-site accommodation and this appears to be directly contributing to the increase in traffic volume and road safety issues.
- iii. Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting for further discussion and will be a Standing Agenda item.

**f. Community Benefits Program**

**i. Employment Opportunities:**

1. RES is talking to contractors who can register through the ICN Gateway to list their goods and services.
2. A “Meet a Contractor” session is being considered so RES can explain the scope of works and what supplies/services are needed.
3. A database of suppliers is being developed. 30 businesses have provided information and links to their businesses.
4. Stanwell has local knowledge and information and their involvement will support and enhance opportunities for local businesses.

**g. Changes to legislated Consultative Requirements – will this impact RES at this point?**

1. RES is aware of the changes, and advice indicates that the changes apply to projects that are yet to be developed.
2. Therefore, no changes are anticipated in this regard for the Tarong West Wind Farm Project.

**8. Other Business:**

**a. Communication issues discussed:**

- i. CCC members need to be promptly informed if there are changes to meeting schedules

**RES advised:**

1. Every attempt will be made to ensure timely and appropriate communications occur with CCC members and
2. Meeting dates have been established to ensure adequate planning time for members

**Action:** *Secretary will set up an SMS group of Committee Members to enable quick messaging if unavoidable changes occur at short notice (for example, Cyclone Alfred preparations).*

**b. Littering of roads:**

- i. Locals are tired of having to pick up rubbish from the sides of the road.
- ii. What can be done?
- iii. There was no further discussion on this topic at the meeting.

c. **RES as a contributor to supporting and funding the local community strategies:**

- i. This support is very much appreciated and is making a difference in the community.

d. **Terms of Reference:**

- i. **Clause 4.1 Composition states:** *'After 12 months the CCC members will assess their progress against the success criteria established during their first meeting...'*
  1. The criteria could be generated from a statement of objectives/ purpose (see Clause 2 of Terms of Reference)
  2. Defer to the next meeting for discussion and articulation.
- ii. **Clause 6 Fees and Expenses:** *'Committee members will be paid ...'*

**Action:** RES will address the anomaly in Clause 6: Fees and Expenses.

e. **Connectivity issue raised by the Committee:**

- i. Since the 3G shutdown, access to support in an emergency is significantly hampered, further exacerbating the potential risk in terms of road users if there is an accident.
- ii. Due to time constraints there was no further discussion on this issue at the meeting.

9. **Next meeting: 10am Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.** Come a little earlier for tea and coffee.

10. **Meeting closed at 12.10pm.** All attendees thanked for their time and contribution.