

Tarong West Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

Minute of Meeting Minutes no 2

Date: 3rd June 2025

Venue: Supper Room, Kumbia Memorial Hall

Attendees:

Debbie Jackson, CCC Member
Kathy McMurdy, CCC Member
Brenton Opperman, CCC Member
Cr Ros Heit, Div 6, SBRC
Annie McGill, CCC Member
Keith Campbell, Independent Chair

Alice Greenup, CCC Member
Carolyn Stone, CCC Member
Scott Henschen, CCC Member
Andrew Stokes, RES
Carol Weekes, Secretary

1. Welcome:

Keith Campbell opened the meeting at 10.05am.

Keith welcomed the attendees

Andrew Stokes, RES, introduced Matthew Crisafio, Construction Manager. Andrew advised that Matthew will be the conduit for the CCC as the Project moves into the construction phase. Matthew is experienced in both internal and external project management and is presently engaging with the civil contractors and the electrical contractors for the Project. Matthew left the meeting shortly afterwards.

2. Apologies: Toby Coates, RES Tanya Jackson, RES

3. Conflicts of Interest: Nil declared

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 4th March 2025

Resolution: *The Minutes of Meeting No 1 held on 4th March 2025 be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.*

Moved: Brenton Opperman

Seconded: Scott Henschen

Carried

5. Business Arising from the Minutes: Tanya Jackson was unable to attend the meeting so provided a written response to each item listed prior to the meeting

a. EPBC public response documents:

Tanya Jackson via email: *"RES submitted a public environment report (PER) on 27 May to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Once the report is reviewed and deemed to meet the relevant guidelines, it will be published for public comment. RES anticipates the public comment to occur in Q3 2025"*

CCC members:

- It appears that the final approvals are not due until after construction has commenced.

Action: RES will notify the CCC, the broader community on the email contact list and issue a public notice so that all members of the community are aware of EPBS outcomes (in addition to posting on the Website)

b. Outcomes of investigation into road transport options

Tanya Jackson via email: *"The Draft TIA was submitted to SBRC on 20 March 2025. SBRC feedback on the draft report was received on 13 May 2025. The Draft TIA is currently under review to address comments received."*

CCC members:

- Ros advised that RES is in discussion with SBRC at an officer level. On 16th May, SBRC responded to RES advising that Ironpot Road needs 'heavy duty' work. The previous agreement that the Mannuam Road would be dual carriageway was not a component of the TIA.
- The volume and weight of the traffic was further discussed focussing on Mannuam and Ironpot Roads.
- What is proposed for Ironpot Road? It is too narrow; Jumna Road also needs to be upgraded.
- RES / SBRC have an obligation to make these roads safe before the construction phase gets underway. The increases in traffic, due to the construction of the Wambo Wind Farm, will be exacerbated when construction of the Tarong West Wind Farm gets underway.
- CCC members have requested that an alternate route for non OSOM vehicles through a local property be considered.

Andrew Stokes has taken this Question above on Notice. *He did point out that it would mean accessing and exiting on and off a State Road and a change of this nature could set the EPBC process back 2 years. The TIA is predicated on the roads that have to be used for the Project.*

- CCC members expressed that the consultation with CCC/ community had been vastly inadequate by both Council and RES. KM tabled a letter received from SBRC dated 23rd September 2024 (to initially request a meeting in February 2024) advising that SBRC would be in touch to arrange a meeting. It is now June 2025 and a meeting has not eventuated.

Recommendation: *Seek clarification from SBRC re what has been agreed to in terms of road upgrades. Invite the SBRC Engineering Team to explain the position with the CCC and hear their feedback and concerns. (See Recommendation Item 8b page 6)*

c. Information of types of gravel to be used and possible local sources

Tanya Jackson via email: *Under further investigation.*

Andrew Stokes advised:

- The civil contractors need to determine what types of gravel are needed and from where it can be sourced. They are required to source locally where possible to meet the local content contract requirements and will aim to achieve the best commercial outcomes as part of their bid process. These are commercial in confidence processes. There is further geo technical work happening.

CCC Members:

- Members understood from earlier discussions that as much gravel as possible would be sourced from within the footprint of the Wind Farm (where landowners are amenable) to reduce heavy road traffic.

d. Update on Project

Andrew Stokes provided the following update

- RES can give indicative, but not definitive, timelines as they do not control the Federal Government approval processes.
- 30% of the design work is done and the project will ramp up to construction.

CCC Members:

- Members have not been given any specific timelines but hear messages regarding construction possibly commencing as early as October BUT the roads and water supply issues have not been resolved so community anxiety/ frustration is escalating.
- Both RES and SBRC need to fulfill their due diligence responsibilities and ensure the community is not harmed with the construction of the Wind Farm.

e. (and f) Water Access and Hydrology Report. Volume of water required. Landowner's concerns

Tanya Jackson's via email: *A water sourcing strategy will be developed so that water used during the construction phase does not cause issues to adjacent landowners or other stakeholders.*

CCC Members:

- The footprint area is a dry land farming area and all properties are heavily reliant upon the bores for their farm production. A drop in bore water levels may result in catastrophic outcomes for farmers and "all hell will break loose."
- Only registered bores were taken into consideration in the desk top exercise. However, the impact will be equally felt by non- registered bores and these bores also need to be pre project measured and then monitored as construction gets underway.
- Information gleaned from the Wambo Wind Farm provides an indication of how much water will be required for construction and is also showing some indication that the bore levels in that area are beginning to drop (it was reported that this information was provided by Stanwell).
- It feels like the local knowledge and intelligence re these matters is being overlooked /disregarded.
- The Groundwater/Hydrology and Noise Monitoring information sessions, cancelled on 5th and 6th March, were to be rescheduled. 3 months later and that has still not happened. As the beginning of construction draws closer, property owners need this information.
- What is the water procurement strategy?
 - Members understood that the aim was to procure water from within the footprint of the Wind Farm, but members question whether there is availability within that area.
- What existing assumptions are being used to determine what the available water draw levels are? If these assumptions do not fit the local situation, then they need to be challenged.
- What is the Risk Management Strategy?
- Water needs and availability should be the highest priority and should be clarified before construction commences.

Recommendation: RES to reschedule the Groundwater (GWA Hydrology) Information Session (and Sonus Noise Monitoring Information Session) before the 28th July 2025. Using the above questions seek pre-meeting information from the Hydrologist by asking what information CCC members can provide from farmers in the footprint area prior to the session-

g. Bio Security Environmental Plan as a component of the construction phase:

Tanya Jackson via email: "A Biosecurity plan is used for the development phase of the project. As this is an evolving document containing sensitive landowner information, it is not available for public distribution at this stage."

Andrew Stokes advised:

- The Bio Security Environmental Plan will evolve on an as needed basis.
- An overall plan will be in place for the Project and individual plans will be developed with property owners.
- These agreements will be very clear about requirements and if there is a failure in application, then action can be taken.
- The civil contractor will adhere to the Bio Security Plan and will be responsible under construction to work to these plans.
- The contractor will be responsible for weed spraying where outbreaks occur due to construction traffic.
- The overall Plan can be viewed when ready but not the individual Landowner agreements due to privacy provisions.

CCC Members:

- Examples were provided of new weed infestations due to movement of vehicles, gravel, and water trucks etc and Council mowing. The spread of invasive species creates a huge / significant impost to individual property owners
- Ironpot and Mannuam Roads are public roads and it is not possible to control the traffic on those roads.
- Wash down/ shake down stations must be installed when vehicles are moving between properties.
- Run off sediment also spreads weeds.
- SBRC does not currently have a Bio Security Plan.

h. Accommodation Plan

Andrew Stokes provided the following information:

- An Accommodation Camp facility will be constructed in the Kingaroy/ Kumbia area, currently the location is commercial in confidence as this is being negotiated with the property owner. The position of the site has not yet been submitted to SBRC. When finalised the information will be publicly available.
- Determination of the right size for the location is underway but it is envisaged that a 200-bed modular facility that can be used long term post construction for other organisations such as Powerlink etc, will be constructed.
- A Transport Plan will be developed and it is also envisaged that staff will be bussed to and from the site to reduce the road vehicle traffic.

i. Community Benefits Program

Tanya Jackson via email: *"The project-specific ICN Gateway page has been activated online.*

RES has committed \$2,000 to sponsoring the '2025 Dinner with the Champions' to be held on Sat 26th July 2025.

RES has begun works on spatially mapping properties to measure how a property is positioned against the preliminary layout design of the project to determine the eligibility of a property to participate in the neighbour benefit scheme.

Potentially eligible neighbours will be notified via postal letter; these letters are expected to be posted in Q4 2025. Payment will begin at the start of construction."

CCC Members:

- The proposed ICN networking event with potential suppliers has not occurred. Perhaps this could be promoted through current channels such as Chamber of Commerce, local newspapers, and online media. A newsletter to potential suppliers could also be an option.
- What is the overall budget and how is that to be split between Neighbour Payments and Community Sponsorship? The decision must ensure that eligible neighbours are reimbursed adequately given that they are experiencing the impacts of the project full time.
- How is the Neighbour Benefit calculated, for example, distance from the site and payments relating to that?
- There is an industry standard and will that be utilised for this Project?
- How will equity be determined and what will be an equitable distribution?
- How will the CCC be engaged and involved in this decision-making and when will that commence?
- Land rates paid to Council should not be taken into consideration in these determinations, although the amount of rates paid by the Wind Farms can be substantial. (See Addendum for clarification of Coopers Gap Wind Farm rates paid to SBRC)
- Carolyn Stone tabled a discussion points document (See Attachment 1). Members thanked Carolyn and agreed that the dot points are helpful, and should be retained and used again when it is established what funds are on the table for community sponsorship.

Andrew Stokes advised:

- CCC needs to be involved and could set the parameters and intent for different components of the fund (such as one-off or recurrent payments across a project)
- CCC should determine what a good outcome looks like and create the metrics from there.

j. Comms Group to be set up:

An SMS group of Committee Members has been established to enable quick messaging if unavoidable changes occur at short notice (for example, Cyclone Alfred preparations).

k. Criteria for success:

Tanya Jackson via email: *"Members to review the CCC Terms of Reference prior to task.*

Use the SMART Goals Framework (see below) to guide goal setting.

Aim to set 2 – 3 goals maximum."

Due to time constraints this matter was deferred to a later meeting.

I. Address anomaly of Clause 6 Fees and Expenses

Tanya Jackson via email: *"RES staff unsure of this anomaly – to be discussed in meeting and response prepared in the following weeks."*

CCC Members

- **Previous Minutes noted "Recommendation:** *RES will address the anomaly in Clause 6: Fees and Expenses."*
- Members have signed the Terms of Reference which states they will be reimbursed (as occurs with the Independent Chair and Secretary). CCC Community members spend extensive time with their local property owners/ community members discussing the Project. Members indicated they should be reimbursed.
- If reimbursement is not possible then the current contract under which they are operating needs to be abolished and members renegotiate the Terms of Reference.

m. Connectivity issue raised by the Committee:

Tanya Jackson via email: *"RES staff unsure of this topic – to be discussed in meeting and response prepared in the following weeks."*

CCC Members:

- Members flagged the issue for RES and the previous Minute noted: *"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."*
- 5G towers have created further blackspots.

Recommendation: *RES to raise this issue with the Federal Government due to the safety concerns.*

6. Correspondence: The schedule of inward and outward correspondence is attached. (See Attachment 2)

7. Report by RES: Covered within Business Items above

8. Business for Discussion as presented by CCC Members:

a. Kathy McMurdie: Fire Management and Insurance: who is responsible?

Andrew Stokes advised:

- The Project has overarching insurance cover
- Landowners will have their own insurance
- All parties have a duty of care and so long as negligence is not committed, then common law insurance will cover. However, the insurance industry is unregulated.
- A Fire Management Plan is in its infancy and will be prepared in collaboration with the authorities.
- The Wind Farm is a tenant with a huge interest in ensuring no liability.

CCC Members:

- The Wind Farm will provide some fire resilience in that it becomes an area of fire break.

b. Carolyn Stone: (some items covered above)

- TIA and road conditions, Traffic counters and Bio Security were further discussed

Recommendation: *RES to arrange a meeting with SBRC, including Mayor, Councillors, CEO, General Managers Infrastructure and NRM focussing on Road conditions/ TIA and Bio Security.*

9. Meetings:

- Due to extensive business to be covered at each meeting, additional time is needed for meetings, so increase duration of the meetings to 3 hours;
- Will it be necessary to increase the frequency of meetings as the Project transitions from development to construction?

Next Meeting: 9am Tuesday 2nd September 2025. Venue: Ironpot Hall

10. Meeting closed at 12.45pm.

Keith thanked Andrew for his participation and input and thanked CCC members for their time and contribution.

Attachments:

1. Community Fund Discussion Points (Carolyn Stone)
2. Correspondence List

Addenda:

1. Email from Cr Ros Heit post meeting 3.6.25 (copied in full):

Ros Heit Tue, Jun 3, 5:47 PM

to me, Scott, Kathy, Toby, Annie, Keith, Brenton, Debbie, William, Alice, Carolyn,
andrew.stokes@res-group.com, Tanya

Good afternoon all

Good to catch up this morning and wanted to update you on a couple of things.

*Firstly I spoke to the roads manager and expressed your concerns re the road TIA. As
I said this morning the TIA has not been finalised. The gravel, water, sand
contracts have not been agreed as yet so its not possible to confirm which roads
will be used and what volumes of traffic and consequently which will need to be
upgraded. As soon as council has some definite information the committee will
be kept informed.*

*Secondly regarding the rates received from Coopers Gap Wind Farm to SBRC. The
figure Hook gave as \$2.6m pa is not the figure our General Manager of Finance,
Kerri, gave me which is that council receive rates of \$350,000 pa from the wind
farm.*

Regards

Roz

2. Email from Scott Henschen regarding the rates figures he provided at the Meeting 5.6.25
(copied in full)

*My apologies Ros,
And to all at the meeting, as my figure was incorrect as it in fact was \$260,00 pa at the time and this figure was noted at the said meeting I mentioned at Roma. Again, my apologies, quite a small amount in revenue all the same.
Regards, Hook.*