

Sapphire Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

CCC / Project Name:	Sapphire Wind Wind Farm CCC	Reporting Period:	May 2019 to May 2020
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	Patric Millar

1. Executive Summary

Sapphire Wind Farm Pty Ltd is located in the Northern Tablelands region, 18 kms west of Glen Innes and 28 km east of Inverell, in the Glen Innes Severn and Inverell Shire local government areas.

The project was originally approved on 26/6/13 for 159 wind turbines, and associated infrastructure, however, following a modification application was reduced to 109 turbines and approved on 30 June 2016.

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 Glen Innes and Inverell 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:

- Three local community representatives
- One Glen Innes Severn Council delegate
- One Inverell Shire Council delegate
- One stakeholder group representative (Inverell Business Chamber & Church Communities Australia)
- One stakeholder group representative (Business in Glen)
- One host landholder; and
- One Independent Chairperson.

2. CCC activities over last 12 months

Over the past 12 months, the CCC met in July 2019, October 2019 & March 2020 with members receiving presentations and updates from the proponent's representatives on:

- The operation of the project
- Aviation Lighting
- Management Plans
- Environmental issues
- Local employment
- Community Enhancement Fund Program

The main issue of contention in the community was the aviation lighting. Residents were concerned with the visual impacts at night in the rural environment. As a result, correspondence was sent to CASA, CEC, local members and DPIE regarding these concerns. Following this, the project was able to reduce the number of lights that were switched on as well as the candela/illumination of the lights. A further review will be undertaken by CASA.

As the project is now in its operational phase, the number of CCC's has been reduced to two per year.

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 attendance has been consistent and strong.

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

3. Key issues

Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
Aviation Lighting	Aviation lighting continues to be the biggest concern of CCC members and the broader community. The CCC raised its concerns with the relevant departments and agencies, seeking a more consistent approach to Wind Farm approvals (ie radar lighting).	Review trial of reduced candela on the turbines.
Local employment opportunities	Where possible, local contractors were engaged and local residents employed by the project.	Employees remain contributing members of the community.
Community Enhancement Fund	It is the CCC's opinion that the funds should be spent in the communities most affected by the project.	Regular briefings are provided at each CCC by delegates.
Provide CCC members with a presentation of the project's operation	Given the wind farm has been operating for over 12 months; the CCC has requested that the proponent provide an overview of how the wind farm has been functioning.	Presentation to October 2020 CCC meeting planned.
Solar Farm Proposals (Sundown & Sapphire)	The CCC has requested that updates be provided on the proponent's development applications for two solar farms in the area.	Updates provided at each CCC.

4. Focus for next 12 months

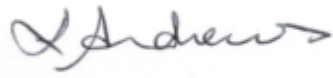
The focus for the next 12 months will be the results of the aviation lighting trial, with the CCC members adamant that all lighting should be removed from the turbines.

Provide CCC members with a presentation on the operation of the Sapphire Wind Farm, including output, maintenance and environmental monitoring.

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew" with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Date:

30 June 2020