

# Sapphire Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for 2021

<b>CCC / Project Name:</b>	Sapphire Wind Wind Farm CCC	<b>Reporting Period:</b>	March 2020 to March 2021
<b>Independent Chairperson:</b>	<b>Lisa Andrews</b>	<b>Proponent Contact:</b>	<b>Patric Millar &amp; David Williamson</b>

## 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 delegate (representing both the 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 March 2020 and September 2020 with members receiving presentations and updates from the proponent's representatives on:

- The operation and output from the project
- Aviation Lighting
- Management Plans
- Environmental issues
- Local employment
- Sapphire Solar Farm
- COVID-19 restrictions
- Community Enhancement Fund Program

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

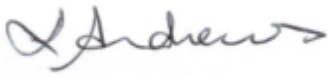
Issue	Actions Taken	Next Steps
<b>Aviation Lighting</b>	Aviation lighting was a big concern for CCC members and the broader community. The CCC raised its concerns with the relevant departments and agencies, seeking a more consistent approach to Wind Farm approvals (ie radar lighting).	Reduced candela on the turbines was trialed and impacts reduced.
<b>Local employment opportunities</b>	Where possible, local contractors were engaged and local residents employed by the project.	Operations staff are generally local residents.
<b>Community Enhancement Fund</b>	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.
<b>Provide CCC members with a presentation of the project's operation</b>	Given the wind farm has been operating for over 12 months; the CCC requested an overview of how the wind farm has been functioning.	Presentation provided at October 2020.
<b>Solar Farm Proposals (Sundown &amp; Sapphire)</b>	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.
<b>White Rock Wind Farm</b>	Enquiry regarding another wind farm in the area and its proposed expansion.	A site plan of the layout for Stages 1 & 2 were provided to CCC members.
<b>New England Joint Organisation</b>	Suggestion that this CCC recommend to New England Joint Organisation (NEJO) that member Councils should seek to purchase green power as a joint venture.	Correspondence sent to NEJO by chair, advising of CCC's views.
<b>Potential Battery Project</b>	Potential for a battery to be installed to store power.	CCC to be kept updated.

### 4. Focus for next 12 months

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:	
Date:	23 April 2021