

# Forest Wind Community Reference Group Meeting #2

## Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 11 November 2020

Time: 3.30pm – 5pm

Location: Boonooroo Community Hall

### Attendees

<b>Independent Chair</b>	Greig Bolderrow (GB)
<b>Members:</b>	Mark Lourigan (ML), Economic Development Manager, Fraser Coast Regional Council Mike Moller, Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council Rodney Lamprey (RL) ( <i>from 4:30PM</i> ) Ivor Powis (IP) Kerry Fullarton (KF) Enid North (EN) Greg North (GN)
<b>Apologies</b>	Paul Downman (PD) Andrea Powis (AP) Tracey Genrich (TG), Community Development Manager, Fraser Coast Regional Council
<b>Project representatives</b>	Jane Daniels (JD) Sandy Vigar (SV) Andrea McIntosh (AM)

### Agenda items

Item	
<b>1</b>	<b>Chair's welcome and opening remarks</b> Welcome to Forest Wind Community Reference Group (FWCRG) members and Project representatives.  Acknowledgement of country: <b>I would like to begin by acknowledging the Butchulla people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies/ attendance – noted</b>

## Item

### 3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Draft Minutes of the FWCRG Meeting #1 that had been circulated prior to the meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**Motion:** that the Draft Minutes from the FWCRG Meeting #1 held 10 September 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.  
**Carried**

**Moved:** K. Fullarton  
**Seconded:** I. Powis

### 4 Business arising from the minutes of FWCRG meeting #1

- a. Forest Wind (FW) to establish fwcrgr@forestwind.com.au - **completed**
- b. Methods for seeking community feedback – to be considered in General business
- c. FW to provide information on job estimates, job areas and contracting opportunities at next meeting – to be considered in General business
- d. Impact on Broadband – to be considered in General business

### 5 Adjourned business – Nil

### 6 General business

#### a. Local employment and contracting

- Employment estimates for construction and operations
- Procurement process, work packages
- Job roles and typical qualifications
- Skills strategy

Item	Action
<p>JD provided overview on the job contracting opportunities (copy of presentation provided to committee members).</p> <p>Q1. Community members have asked what skills they would need to apply for employment on the Project.</p> <p>A1. The presentation includes a breakdown on the jobs estimate. FW is working with key industry players, with input from major contractors to explore the key skills required toward development of a workforce training program and investigating what certificates and tickets will be required. FW is also engaging with the Wide Bay Regional jobs program and reaching out to industry on training programs and apprenticeships. FW is working to address any skills gaps where feasible.</p>	
<p>FWCRG members suggested other groups for FW to approach, including: Jobs at Fraser Coast; Regional Skills Reference Group; Dept. of State Development local office; and Skilling Queensland, Department of Education.</p>	<p>ML to introduce JD to John Suthers (Regional Director, Regional Skills Reference Group)</p>
<p>Q2. IP asked if the contract legal framework in place with Forest Wind Holdings and the principal contractor, includes provisions for local employment?</p> <p>A2. The contracts will address local content and Indigenous employment, which includes how local content, local jobs targets and Indigenous jobs targets are fulfilled and assessed. Further, the Project is to be located on State land where FWH has reporting obligations to the State government. .</p>	
<p>Community members will be able to register for employment on the Project via the FW website. This database will enable a skills assessment to better inform the training program. Information will be available to contractors, and FW will notify industry skills training providers.</p>	
<p>Q3. EN asked how many people will be employed at commencement of construction?</p>	

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A3. Construction will be in stages, likely to be 200-300 people employed at start of construction with an estimated 80 percent employment from within the Wide Bay Region.

### b. Planning studies/ development permit conditions (reports attached)

- Landscape and visual impact assessment
- Noise assessment
- Electromagnetic interference (EMI) assessment (including Broadband)
- Shadow flicker assessment

Item	Action
The FW Project planning studies and development permit conditions are on the Forest Wind website. FWCRG members were shown copies of the studies to show how issues have been assessed and addressed as part of the development application.	
EN reported that they felt that due to there being a lot of information on the website they were finding it difficult to navigate. Time during the meeting was provided for members to discuss several points of interest, in particular noise and visual impacts.	
IP requested information on the number of turbines that would be visible from their property, whilst out fishing, and also when out and about in Poona. IP noted that he was also raising this question as others in the community were similarly asking. JD and SV stated the detailed design will inform the final locations of the wind turbines, and that the concerns that have been raised by residents of the coastal communities have been relayed to the planning design team.	Table print out of potential turbine locations at next FWCRG meeting, if available.
The findings from the EMI assessment found no impact to Broadband reception.	
SV and JD recommended that members read the Project planning studies, the State Code 23 Wind Farm planning guidelines, and the Project Development Permit conditions, or summary Fact Sheets to understand what has to be designed to comply with legislation, and to contact FW with any questions, or raise at next meeting.	Conditions of approval, construction management, noise and visual impacts to be discussed in detail at next FWCRG meeting.

### c. Environment studies and plans – overview and update

Item	Action
SV and JD provided summary of the EPBC Act approval process. To address the Commonwealth's request for further information, modelling is being undertaken on bird collision risk. The decision timeframe is unknown to date. All the documents and reports for the EPBC Act approval submission are available on the Forest Wind website. FWCRG members are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these documents. FW Team will notify FWCRG when the consultation process is open and will advise FWCRG of decision. Q1. IP asked if FWH had received any responses from wading bird groups? A1. SV and JD confirmed that contact had been made with a number of bird interest groups, including wading birds.	

### d. Visit to Coopers Gap

- Trip report attached

Item	Action
KF authored a report on her trip to the Coopers Gap Wind Farm. She also noted that from her contacts with local people, she had been told that the wind farm has been a positive experience for the community, with the community fund being well	KF Report included with Minutes

## Item

<p>received, and that noise has not been an issue for the community. This report was provided to FWCRG.</p> <p>ML, who also went on the trip to Coopers Gap, noted that he could not hear the turbines from 1km, 2km or 5km away and encouraged all to go out and look and listen.</p> <p>JD said a second trip to Coopers Gap Wind Farm for interested community members is being planned and that people were encouraged to register interest.</p> <p>MM indicated his interest in joining the trip to Coopers Gap.</p>	<p>Those interested in 2021 trip to Coopers Gap Wind Farm to register interest</p>
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### e. Project updates and forward community consultation plan

Item	Action
<p>JD advised project updates including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 meteorological masts (1 in the north of project site, 1 in the centre, and 1 in the south) are currently being installed to gather wind data to inform the wind turbine specifications. The met masts will be 160m in height. Local firm JAC Civil is undertaking the civil works, Butchulla and Kabi Kabi are conducting cultural heritage monitoring during earthworks.</li> <li>EPBC Act Referral was submitted and a response to the Request for Information is being prepared, FWCRG will be notified when consultation period is open.</li> </ul>	
<p>The FW Forward Community Consultation Plan was tabled at the meeting. JD provided summary of the plan. FW will present FWCRG with findings of the assessments and plans, and consultation held with key stakeholders as the Project progresses.</p>	

### f. Information requests from FWCRG members

- Will the Project impact on property values?
- Request for information on Transmission Line to Woolooga
- Request for information on construction traffic plans
- Can the Project scope be changed?
- Conflict of interest?

Item	Action
<p><u>Property values</u></p> <p>SV reported that studies have not found a clear link between wind farms and property prices overall, and that local conditions are key factors.</p> <p>IP indicated that he wished this topic to be further addressed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Potential impact on property values to be discussed at next FWCRG meeting.</p>
<p><u>Transmission Line to Woolooga</u></p> <p>Transmission line consultation is currently underway with directly affected landowners. Once more certainty is known on the alignment, wider community engagement will be undertaken.</p>	
<p><u>Construction traffic plans</u></p> <p>IP queried construction working hours.</p> <p>No limitation is proposed on construction hours, to enable more intensive activity at key construction points subject to compliance with Development Permit conditions.</p>	<p>Conditions of Development Permit, construction management, noise and visual impacts to be discussed in detail at next FWCRG meeting.</p>
<p><u>Changes to Project scope (location, number of turbines)</u></p> <p>Due to time limitations this item is carried forward to next meeting of the FWCRG.</p>	<p>Changes to Project scope carried forward to next meeting</p>

## Item

### Potential conflict of interest

IP raised concerns that the environmental impact reports on the Project had been commissioned by the proponent, and so may not be objective/ independent.

SV noted that during the assessment of the Development Permit by the State, the State had engaged independent professional reviewers to provide third party advice and recommendations. The EPBC Act Referral is also considered by Commonwealth experts and takes into account all matters raised in public submissions.

Various FWCRG members noted that application reports and independent assessments requested by the State government are usually paid for by the proponent. These assessments are undertaken by professional experts whose reputations rely on a professional approach.

### **g. Communication**

- Methods for disseminating information and seeking community feedback

Due to time limitations this item is carried forward to next meeting of the FWCRG.

*Action: carry forward Item g Communication to next meeting.*

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### **8 Community feedback**

Time limitations meant this item was not discussed. Item will remain on the Agenda.

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### **9 Next meeting date and location – early February 2021 in Maryborough**

*Action: FW Team to confirm date and location and circulate.*

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### **10 Meeting closed – 5:10PM**

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**Other notes or information - None**