

# Forest Wind Community Reference Group Meeting #3

## Minutes of Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 23 February 2021

Time: 4.00pm – 5.30pm

Location: Maryborough Neighbourhood Centre

### Attendees

<b>Independent Chair</b>	Greig Bolderrow (GB)
<b>Members:</b>	Mark Lourigan (ML), Economic Development Manager, Fraser Coast Regional Council Tracey Genrich (TG), Community Development Manager, Fraser Coast Regional Council Mike Moller (MM), Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council Paul Downman (PD) (Tin Can Bay) Kerry Fullarton (KF) (Rainbow Beach) Enid North (EN) (Talegalla Weir) Greg North (GN) (Talegalla Weir)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Andrea Powis (AP) (Poona) Ivor Powis (IP) (Poona) Rodney Lamprey (RL) Boonooroo/ Tuan)
<b>Guest:</b>	Keesha Millar (KM) ( <i>attended at the request of A. and I. Powis</i> ) (Poona)
<b>FWH:</b>	Jane Daniels (JD) Sandy Vigar (SV) Andrea McIntosh (AM) Madeleine Page (MP) Environment and Planning Manager

### 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>

## Item

### 2 Apologies/ attendance – noted

### 3 Minutes of previous meeting

The Draft Minutes of the FWCRG Meeting #2 were circulated via email dated 14/12/2020 and approved without dissent.

**Motion:** that the Draft Minutes from the FWCRG Meeting #2 held 11 November 2020 be accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

**Carried, via email dated 14/12/2020**

**Moved:** J. Daniels

**Seconded:** A. Powis & M. Moller

### 4 Business arising from the minutes of FWCRG meeting #2

- a. ML to introduce JD to John Suthers (Regional Director, Regional Skills Reference Group) - **completed**
- b. Make available map of potential turbine locations for Stage 1, if available - *to be discussed in today's General Business.*
- c. Conditions of approval, construction management, noise and visual impacts – *to be discussed in today's General Business.*
- d. Potential impact on property values – *to be transferred to next FWCRG meeting at request of Andrea and Ivor Powis so they can be in attendance.*

### 5 Adjourned business – Nil

### 6 General business

#### a. Project updates

Item	Action
<p><u>Stage 1 Plans</u></p> <p>JD advised the design and development timelines for Stage 1 Plans have shifted from when the FWCRG last met in November 2020. Commencement of construction is expected to be mid-2022. Certain Project milestones have also shifted, with the location of infrastructure and transport access routes still under design and consideration. More information is expected to be available mid-2021.</p>	
<p><u>EPBC Act Referral</u></p> <p>The EPBC Act Preliminary Documentation Report in response to the Request for Information is intended to be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) in the near future. FWH will notify FWCRG on the timeframe for the public consultation period.</p>	
<p><u>Status of studies and assessments</u></p> <p>The Project studies and assessments currently underway include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logistics and transport studies are in process.</li> <li>• Grid connection studies are in process.</li> <li>• Wind Resource Assessment - data monitoring equipment is now installed on all three of the temporary Meteorological (Met) Masts. The Met Mast located to the south of Boonooroo Road is visible from the road.</li> </ul> <p>Q1. KM queried what purpose do the Met Masts have?</p> <p>A1. The Met Masts are free standing towers, 160m in height, they hold measuring equipment with meteorological instruments such as thermometers and instruments to measure windspeed.</p> <p>Q2. TG queried if the Met Mast near Boonooroo will be the actual location for a wind turbine?</p>	

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<p>A2. With design and development planning in process, the locations of the wind turbines have not been finalised. FWH will share layout of Stage 1 turbine locations when available.</p> <p>Q3. KM asked what the height of the Met Masts are compared to height of the wind turbines?</p> <p>A3. Met Masts are 160m in height, the hub height of the turbines is 165m, plus 82m in length blades. The maximum height of the wind turbines to blade tip is up to 295m above the base of the wind turbine tower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmission line – discussed below in Item (e).</li> </ul>	<p>FWH will share layout of Stage 1 turbine locations when available.</p>
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### b. Community feedback/ information requests

Item	Action
<p><u>Brumby management within the plantation during proposed construction and ongoing management</u></p> <p>FWH is not involved in any Brumby management, this is undertaken by the Plantation Licensee. FWH works in accordance with the requirements of the Plantation Licensee. During construction, all risks will be managed under the Project Construction and Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>No further comments or questions were raised.</p>	
<p><u>Impacts on Ramsar near the Project site</u></p> <p>MP, FWH Environment and Planning Manager summarised the FW impact assessment of the Great Sandy Strait Ramsar Wetland. The EPBC Act Preliminary Documentation Report includes assessment of FW impacts to the wetland. The report will be available for public comment following submission to the Regulator, when published, FWH will notify the FWCRG.</p> <p>Q1. PD queried the meaning of Ramsar?</p> <p>A1. A Ramsar site is a designated Wetland of International Importance. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is a global intergovernmental environmental agreement/treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– KM informed members there are two Ramsar sites in Queensland, one being the Great Sandy Strait.</li> <li>– MM informed members the Great Sandy Strait Ramsar Site is included in the RFI as part of the application for the EPBC Act Approval, therefore Federal government is undertaking the assessment.</li> <li>– MM also noted through the EPBC Act assessment process, the government recently declined a proposal for its potential impacts on shorebirds.</li> </ul> <p>Q2. KM asked as part of the 5-year bird surveys, were observations taken at different times of the year?</p> <p>A2. Bird surveys were targeted during the migratory period and included monitoring sites both within the Project Area and at reference sites away from the Project Area. The methodology of the bird surveys has been peer reviewed by experts in this field, who found the data collection methods were in accordance with industry standards for this type of assessment. The report submitted as part of the application for the Development Permit has been updated with additional survey data and subsequently independently reviewed.</p>	
<p><u>Construction impacts (particularly in Poona)</u></p> <p>Addressed in Item (d) 'Development permit conditions' below.</p>	
<p><u>Disposal of turbines and structures at decommissioning: standard project lifespan</u></p> <p>FWCRG members were emailed information on decommissioning of turbines with the meeting Agenda. This information included initiatives the wind farm industry is undertaking to investigate recycling wind turbine blades using sustainable solutions. Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy, FW's EPC contractor, is a major</p>	

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<p>player in this initiative. FW is 25+ years from end of its lifespan whereby the industry and recycling initiatives will be further advanced.</p> <p>The composition of FW's wind turbine blades is yet to be finalised.</p> <p>Q1. KM asked if the site would be repurposed as a wind farm at the end of FW lifespan?</p> <p>A1. At the end of FW lifespan, it would be decided then to either rebuild or repurpose the turbines or decommission the site, depending on economics.</p>	
<p><u>Ongoing concerns regarding infrasound and impacts on environment and community</u></p> <p>JD distributed the National Wind Farm Commissioner's observations and recommendations on health impacts with the agenda for the meeting. The NWFC keeps abreast of current research regarding infrasound and health impacts on the environment and community and his observations (available on the NWFC website) are current.</p>	
<p><u>Other issues</u></p> <p>KM asked for an update on the timing for a second field trip to Coopers Gap Wind Farm.</p> <p>JD informed Coopers Gap Wind Farm are not available to meet with a visiting group. Given the benefit of meeting with the onsite operators, JD recommends that the field trip be postponed until a later date. In the interim, members are encouraged to visit Coopers Gap themselves to look at the wind farm and listen to the turbines for their own understanding.</p> <p>FWCRG members were asked how they would like the meetings to manage issues that have been addressed in detail at prior meetings but continue to be raised by community members, such as health impacts, noise impacts, environment impacts. Members agreed that the issues should be logged/ registered, as they provide an indication of issues that still require further engagement on with the broader community, but that the FWCRG meeting will only include in the agenda if new information arises.</p>	<p>Date for field trip to Coopers Gap Wind Farm to be confirmed.</p>

**c. Community benefits**

Item	Action
<p>JD introduced the concept of community benefit sharing.</p> <p>Objectives of community benefit sharing typically are to create a positive and lasting legacy from the wind farm within the local community; build positive relationships between nearby residents and the wind farm; and address social and environmental issues that are important to the community.</p> <p>FWH is currently scoping what a community benefits sharing strategy might look like. Feedback was sought from FWCRG members on defining the community, possible objectives, potential consultees and stakeholders, consultation methods, good practice models and existing research and plans that identify and address community priorities and needs.</p> <p>The next steps are to compile a stakeholder list, draft a stakeholder plan for presentation at the next FWCRG meeting, define the FW community and undertake desktop research on socio-economic and environmental issues. The sharing and seeking of feedback will be further discussed at the next FWCRG meeting.</p>	<p>FW to develop stakeholder engagement plan and methods; research socio-economic and environmental issues.</p> <p>FW to report back to FWCRG on findings.</p>

**d. Development permit conditions**

Item	Action
<p>SV outlined the FW Development Permit application and the Permit conditions that must be complied with during construction, operations and decommissioning. Permit conditions relate to different aspects of the Project including noise, traffic, vegetation, birds and bats, television reception, construction management, and others.</p> <p>At the request of the community or member, further information on a particular area of the Development Permit will be included in the next FWCRG meeting Agenda for discussion.</p> <p>Q1. TG asked for update on where construction traffic will access the site? A1. Access points will be provided on finalising logistics and transport design.</p>	<p>FW to provide information on construction traffic routes when available.</p>

**e. Transmission line route – updates**

Item	Action
<p>Design of the route for the Transmission Line is in the early phase with consultation of directly impacted landowners. The design of the alignment will aim to minimise environmental, cultural heritage and social impacts, including minimising the clearing of vegetation by spanning gullies and waterways where possible, locating towers in already cleared areas and adjacent to existing access tracks. Options to micro site towers to avoid impacts to protected flora and cultural heritage will also be considered. In addition, the design seeks to minimise visual impacts, and other impacts to communities located near the Transmission Line.</p> <p>Once the consultation with directly affected landowners is complete, the FWCRG will be notified and consultation with the community including relevant environment groups and other stakeholders will commence. Ongoing liaison with Powerlink will continue.</p> <p>At the appropriate time FWH will submit a Development Application for the Transmission Line to SARA.</p> <p>Q1. MM asked if an EPBC Act Referral will also apply for the Transmission Line? A1. This is dependent on the final alignment for the Transmission Line and subsequent assessment of impacts.</p> <p>Q2. KM queried why the Transmission Line was not included in the wind farm Development Application? A2. At the time the Development Application for the wind farm was submitted, the alignment of the Transmission Line had not been determined.</p> <p>Q3. KM asked would the Transmission Line go underground or aboveground? A3. High voltage electricity is typically not placed underground.</p> <p>MM noted minimal impact to the environment is important for protection of Koala habitat, stating the route for the transmission line is of concern for the WBBEC members.</p>	

**f. Other issues**

Item	Action
<p><u>Timing of Baseline Assessments</u></p> <p>Q1. MM asked when will baseline assessments commence, and when would the community be informed what the baseline levels are? A1. FWH will be undertaking a noise background assessment, and other baseline assessments, the timing of which is to be determined. The community will be informed of the assessment findings.</p>	

Item	
	<p>KM suggested timing of the baseline assessments be communicated to the community.</p> <p>GB indicated within the area of the baseline assessment there may be existing 'shadow spots' which could cause areas of variance within the assessments of TV and mobile phone coverage.</p>
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Next meeting date and location</b> – 6 May, at Bauple Hall.</p> <p><i>Action: FWH Team to confirm date and location and circulate.</i></p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Meeting closed</b> – 5:40PM</p>

**Other notes or information** - None