

# Forest Wind Community Reference Group Meeting #4

## Minutes of Meeting

Date: Thursday, 7 December 2023

Time: 4.00pm – 5.45pm

Location: Tiaro Memorial Hall - corner of Mayne Street and Forgan Terrace, Tiaro

### Attendees

<b>Independent Chair</b>	Sotera Trevaskis
<b>Members:</b>	Pamela McAllister – Cooloola CoastCare ( <i>as proxy for</i> ) David Arthur, President, Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council Inc Jarrod Delahunty – Fraser Coast Regional Council ( <i>as proxy for</i> ) Mark Lourigan, Economic Development Manager, Fraser Coast Regional Council Tracey Genrich, Community Development Manager, Fraser Coast Regional Council Rodney Lamprey Kerry Fullarton (via phone) Enid North Greg North <b>New Member: Glen Roads</b> <b>New Member: Des O'Hare</b>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Keesha Millar Paul Downman Andrea Powis
<b>Forest Wind:</b>	James Pennay Bree Williams Fiona Hawkins Madeleine Page

### Agenda items

Item	
<b>1</b>	<b>Chair's welcome, Acknowledgement of Country, introduction and opening remarks</b> Welcome to Community Reference Group members and Project representatives.
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies/ attendance</b> – As noted
<b>3</b>	<b>Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct and Declaration of Pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest</b> Copies of documents were provided to all members with a reminder by the Chair of the nature of the group. New members were asked to provide a signed copy of the Code of Conduct and Declaration of Pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest forms to the Chair prior to the next meeting.

## Item

### 4 Project overview and status update – recap on Forest Wind to now

#### a. Presentation by James Pennay (JP)

##### - Project description overview, key milestones and transmission line update.

JP thanked the members for their attendance and participation. He acknowledged that the project has been quiet for some time and explained that this was due to a range of factors but most significant was the impact of COVID on supply chains and the speed with which the project could progress with various studies. One of the outcomes of this is that the project now has on a new partner – Tilt Renewables

Presentation slides providing a project overview were available for reference (refer **attached**).JP provided an overview of the project and confirmed that the project area remains the same.

JP explained that as part of the project's development application (DA) approval, the project can have no more than 226 wind turbines. In addition, JP advised:

- Each turbine will be 4.5-6MW and are intended to be located along the existing access tracks within the wind farm project area.
- The wind farm will generate enough power to supply up to one in four Queensland homes.
- A grid connection line will run from the project area to the Woolooga substation.
- The project will include a battery storage facility.

JP advised that construction start is a little way off, but that early procurement may start in late 2024 (TBC).

JP advised that the project is committed to responding to the results of environmental surveys and studies and will adjust the project design accordingly. JP advised that the project has been undertaking environmental studies and surveys since 2016.

Bree Williams (BW) introduced Tilt Renewables and the project's new, Australian-owned investor, and explained her role and Tilt's involvement with project.

The following provides a summary of questions received as part of the project overview, and the responses given by FW project team members.

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## Item

Question	FW project team response
Is the project team still considering the location of the turbines? (R Lamprey)	Yes. The DA maps provided indicative turbine locations only. The project is continuing with surveys and studies to help inform the location of the turbines within the project area
Are we going to use a different turbine – not Siemens? (R Lamprey)	Yes
Are we considering an underground transmission line? (P McAllister)	The transmission line will be overhead
Is Neerdie Road still being considered as a possible transport route for construction? (T Genrich)	Neerdie Road has been excluded as a transport route option. JP further explained that there are several studies currently underway to help inform the transport route to support the wind farm's construction. He said the project is looking to identify a transport route that has good access off the highway and that has the least possible impact on residents and the environment
Have all the environmental approvals been signed off? (R Lamprey)	The project continues to work through the EPBC process and continues to work with local environment groups
When will the EPBC response be finalised? (D O'Hare)	The project is aiming to submit its EPBC RFI response early next year
Whose jurisdiction is the EPBC assessment? (D O'Hare)	Federal Government assesses EPBC responses
If the turbine towers are expected to be taller, shouldn't the 1500m distance from turbine to any residence be increased? (R Lamprey)	The tip height of the turbine is 240-250m. The project has committed to a minimum 3000m distance from turbine to any residence (double the regulatory requirement of 1500m) but the project will continue to liaise with and learn from the local community about the potential visual impacts

## 5 Member introductions

Name	Summary introductions and connection/relationship to the project
Glen Roads	Hervey Bay resident. Very interested in renewables and is excited about the project.

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Greg North	Talegalla Weir resident. A qualified renewable and electrical engineer with experience in solar. Has heard lots of negatives about wind farms so keen to understand more.
Enid North	Talegalla Weir resident. Interested in the project and keeping the local community informed.
Rodney Lamprey	Tuan resident. Supportive of renewables but has health concerns and is concerned about the height of the turbines. Seeking to understand more to help him make informed decisions
Des O'Hare	Wallu resident. Wants to better understand the project and ensure genuine cooperation between the project and the community. Raised the issue of distrust towards the project within the community.
Tracey Genrich	Fraser Coast Regional Council representative. Wants to be involved to help keep the community informed. Noted the upcoming local and state government elections that may impact the project.
Jarrold Delahunty	<i>Proxy for Mark Lourigan</i> Fraser Coast Regional Council representative. Interested in the project for the economic opportunities it will bring to the region and local businesses
Pam McAllister	<i>Proxy for David Arthur</i> Excited about the project and the part it will play to help address climate change. Interested in ensuring a just transition for people and the community, including first nations people
Kerry Fullerton	Rainbow Beach resident and a representative of the forestry industry. Interested in the impact on the plantation resource as well as the road and traffic impacts. Noted an increase in tourism in the area, which means more cars and caravans.
Sotera Trevaskis (Chair)	Regional Director of Regional Development Australia covering six local government areas. Interested in the project's social licence and the economic benefits it can bring to the region

The following provides a summary of questions received as part of general discussions during CRG members' introductions, and the responses given by FW project team members.

Question	FW project team response
There is a lot of distrust towards the project within the community. How will the project rebuild trust?	The project team acknowledges that the project has been quiet for some time. The project is committed to re-engaging with the community through community information sessions and other activities.

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There was general discussion around noise and infrasound impacts of the wind turbines.	With a minimum 3000m distance between any wind turbine and residence, it is very unlikely there would be any noise impacts; however the project will do noise measuring prior to construction.  Infrasound impacts have been heavily studied and there are regulations that the project must comply with. If new conditions are added by the government, the project will amend the design accordingly and in consideration of the project's social licence.
Will shadow flicker be an issue?	The wind farm project area and the minimum 3000m distance from any residence to a wind turbine means that shadow flicker is not an issue for this project.
Will the project impact television reception?	Electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) can impact television reception. If communities experience a negative impact, the project will need to work with residents for a resolution.

**Action:**

FW to provide a summary of the project's community engagement strategy for CRG feedback

**Action:**

FW to share the proposed plan to undertake noise measurement for CRG feedback

**Action:**

FW to provide a summary of the studies that have been completed and an overview of the conditions the government imposes

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## 6 Business arising from previous CRG

- a. **“Where we got to in 2021” - Presentation by Madeleine Page (MP)**
  - What we have covered as a CRG
  - Ongoing areas of interest

Presentation slides providing a project overview were available for reference (refer **attached**).

MP introduced herself and explained her role on the project as Director of Development. She acknowledged that some of the issues raised during the meeting's discussions are already noted by the team as being outstanding matters from previous meetings and that the team will report back on as information becomes available.

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## Item

### 7 Plan for the Forest Wind CRG going forward

- **Meeting frequency – align with Milestones, updates**  
Group agreed to fixed quarterly meetings with the meeting times adjusted to align with key project milestones as required.  
**Action:**  
FW to provide a meeting schedule for 2024
- **Setting agendas, priorities**  
Group agreed to include a fixed agenda item for open forum discussion for members to raise issues/concerns.  
**Action:**  
FW to ensure a fixed agenda item for open forum discussion in all future meeting agendas
- **Key upcoming development activities that involve community engagement**  
FW confirmed EPBC community consultation will be the next key project milestone with a plan to also deliver a series of community information sessions
- **Observers to the CRG Meetings**  
There was general agreement to include observers where appropriate. It was agreed that conduct guidelines should be prepared and given to any observers prior to their attendance.  
**Action:**  
FW to prepare draft conduct guidelines for observers for CRG feedback
- **Project site visits or other Tilt sites**  
There was strong support for a site visit of Coopers Gap. It was confirmed that a technical expert would be present to answer questions.  
**Action:**  
FW to arrange a site visit for all CRG members

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### 8 General business

Des O'Hare enquired about Native Title considerations.

JP explained the boundary between the Butchulla and Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners and that discussions are ongoing to resolve an Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) and Cultural Heritage Plans with each Traditional Owner group. JP confirmed the project has a positive relationship with both groups and they have an open invitation for membership of the CRG, if desired.

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### 9 Next meeting date and location – TBA (noting agreement for quarterly meetings)

The preference is for all meetings to be attended in person; however, this can be reviewed again in future meetings.

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### 10 Meeting close – 5:45pm

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**Forest Wind**