

Sapphire Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee Annual Report for 2022

CCC / Project Name:	Sapphire Wind Wind Farm CCC	Reporting Period:	March 2021 to September 2022
Independent Chairperson:	Lisa Andrews	Proponent Contact:	David Williamson

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 June 2021 and September 2022 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
- Community Enhancement Fund Program

As the project is now in its operational phase and therefore minimal concerns from the community, accordingly, CCC members agreed to reduce meetings to 1 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	Outcome
Aviation Lighting	Aviation lighting was initially a big concern for CCC members and the broader community.	Reduced candela on the turbines was trialed and impacts reduced.
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.
Proposed Solar and Battery Projects	The date for construction of the battery project is not confirmed, however targeting the beginning of next year (2023). The solar project is still in pre-construction tendering and financing process and would not start construction until later 2023 at the earliest.	CCC to receive updates.
Sale of Sapphire Wind Farm	Company has advised that the project is up for sale.	CCC members to be kept informed.

4. Focus for next 12 months

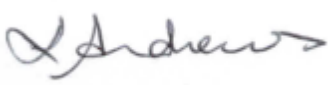
The main priority for members is the management of the Community Enhancement Fund. The CCC receives a full update on the program, including applications received and approved, types of projects and funding granted. Some projects were hindered due to COVID, including trade and material shortages, accordingly, projects have carried over to the following financial year to assist community/sporting groups with achieving their outcomes.

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

The proponent has advised the CCC of its intention for a proposed wind farm west of Guyra in the Boorolong and Dumaresq area and provided information on the Drop-In Community Information Sessions planned.

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:	30 September 2022