

Bodangora Wind Farm

CCC Meeting – Minutes

Date: 31.03.21 **Time:** 18.00 **Location:** Cow and Calf Hotel, Wellington

Participants – CCC Members		
Name	CCC Member	E-mail
Ian Rogan	Chair	ian.rogan@bigpond.com
Cameron Tomkins	Mid Macquarie Landcare	cstomkins@gmail.com
Brad Rodgers	Community representative	bradley.rodgers@dcj.nsw.gov.au
Simon Barton	Host landowner	simcarbart@harboursat.com.au
Joe Mason	Community representative	joelimason@hotmail.com
Participants – Non CCC Members		
Name	Invitee	E-mail
Michael Bullock	Infigen Energy	Michael.bullock@infigenenergy.com
Apologies		
Name	Role / Position	E-mail
Pip Smith	Community representative	
Mike Nolan	Wellington Local Aboriginal Land Council	

1.0 Welcome , Apologies, Declarations of Pecuniary or other interests	
	Chair welcomed all committee members and called for any declarations of pecuniary or other interests from CCC members. It was noted that if any CCC members present were a member or office holder of an organisation which was an applicant for Community Benefit Fund funding, to

	be considered later in the meeting, that should be declared and they would not participate in the scoring/ranking of those applications.
	Apologies noted (see above)
	Chair indicated that the primary purpose of the meeting was to review applications received by Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) for Round 6 of the BWF Community Benefit Fund, and to provide recommendations for funding to DRC.
2.0	Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 11/11/2020 were noted-no actions arising
	Minute taker for this meeting-Ian Rogan
3.0	Bodangora Wind Farm (BWF) Operations Update
	<p>Michael Bullock gave the committee an update on wind farm operations, Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site activities have included continuation with annual maintenance of turbines. Infigen has also engaged a third party to undertake end of warranty inspections on all facets of the wind farm. • Numerous visitors have attended BWF during the last period. They include; Cronulla Primary School, All Saint’s College Maitland and Charlestown Rotary Club. • Infigen has provided funding through the BWF Enhancement Fund in the preceding few months to the following events and groups; Wellington District Cricket Club for the annual Australia Day Long Weekend 7 a side competition, Wellington Vintage Fair and annual support and membership to Binjang Community Radio. • Infigen received an enquiry regarding the current status of the CCC. Michael Bullock has been in contact with the enquirer and provided information as necessary. Questions raised included the ongoing functioning of the CCC, how funding was distributed and general questions regarding the operation of the wind farm. • A number of Little Red Flying Fox (LRFF) carcasses have been found at numerous turbines. Whilst this incident is still under investigation, the Office of Environment and Heritage have been informed and kept up to date per the requirements under the Bird & Bat Adaptive Management Plan (BBAMP). Nature Advisory (an independent third party engaged to implement the BBAMP) have been on site undertaking further studies and providing reports. To date 67 LRFF’s have been identified though it is worth noting that preliminary findings suggest there is currently a group of approx. 20 – 40,000 bats in the area. It is also worth noting that this species is not a listed or endangered species though under the BBAMP it is considered a ‘trigger event’. It appears that these migratory bats are following flowering ironbark trees located within the wind farm. Studies suggest that when the flowering ceases the bats will move to another area. Nature Advisory will provide both Infigen and the OEH a final report and with those findings we will work together on a plan moving forward. • The Burrendong Arboretum project is progressing well with Stage 1 beginning in mid-April. This will involve Infigen employees, Habitech, Burrendong Arboretum and the Mike Nolan from WLALC. The first stage will include bird, bat and frog surveys at the site which will allow for a Habitat Supplementation Plan to be compiled. Following this study we will looking to implement Stage 2 which will be guided by the results of the plan, though may include such things as habitat development via use of nesting boxes or other habitat features.
4.0	Community Benefit Fund
	<p>Dubbo Regional Council forwarded the 16 applications received for Round 6 of the Community Benefit Fund, to the wind farm manager (Michael Bullock, Infigen Energy) on 24th March.</p> <p>Applications were forwarded to CCC members on 24th March with the following instructions from the CCC chair for assessment prior to this</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">CCC meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please read and score each application in the following way, prior to the meeting.2. Score each application out of 4 (1 worst; 4 best) for each of the five criteria listed below.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the proposed project deliver social, cultural, economic or environmental benefits to the local communities of the Wellington district• Does the proposed project address an identified community priority• Does the proposal demonstrate that any ongoing or recurrent costs of the project can be met by the community group once grant funding has been expended• Does the applicant organisation demonstrate the capacity to manage funds and deliver the project• Is the proposed project activity based within the Wellington and district community3. At the meeting we will go through each application in the following way:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I will ask if anyone in the room has a "conflict of interest" with that application (ie are you a member or office holder of the applicant organisation?). If so, you will not participate in scoring for that application- I will ask for any general comments/questions anyone has to make about the application or the applicant organisation- I will go around the room and ask each of you for your total assessment score for the application (out of 20-ie the sum of your score out of 4 for each of the 5 assessment criteria) When we finish doing that for all applications we will look at the overall rankings and discuss if there are any suggested changes to funding amounts that we would suggest; or any other "follow up" details that we would suggest that Council make enquiries to the applicant about. <p>The CCC proceeded to an independent assessment of all applications using the criteria and process outlined above. A report would subsequently be prepared by the Chair which summarises the outcomes of the assessment of applications by the CCC, indicating rankings of applications from 1 to 16. This will be submitted to Dubbo Regional Council in coming days as our recommendations for funding from Round 6 of the Bodangora Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.</p> <p>The assessment and ranking of applications proceeded, as outlined above. Details of rankings of project applications will not be included in the minutes for confidentiality reasons.</p> <p>The following issues were raised by CCC members as issues which should be communicated to Dubbo Regional Council for consideration prior to future rounds of the Community Benefit Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The CCC favours single, annual rounds of calls for applications to the CBF in future years• The CCC places a high priority that successful applicants must submit acquittal reports following completion of projects and suggest that in future rounds, those who have not submitted due acquittal reports should be ineligible to be considered for new rounds of funding.• It is noted that several of the applications to the current round had minimal or no detail or quotes to substantiate the funds being requested. This influences our assessment against a number of criteria. The need for this should be reinforced in future rounds.• There is an apparent need for DRC to update the online accessible application forms as evidenced by a number of applicants being unable to insert
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	information in some sections of the form.
5.0	General Business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair advised CCC members that he had received an email from a local representative of the Renewable Energy Alliance and they had indicated a request to meet with CCC members in Wellington to discuss a number of matters related to renewable energy developments and some specific issues relating to the BWF. The chair indicated that he would forward the email to all CCC members and they could respond directly to the organisation, indicating their interest to attend such a meeting. Michael Bullock advised CCC members that there was a proposal to include CCC member contact details on the Infigen/ Bodangora Wind Farm website. A request will be sent to all CCC members to seek approval.
6.0	Next meeting
	Date not set
	Meeting closed at 8.30 pm