

## Burrendong Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

**TIME / DATE:** 12 noon-2PM, Thursday 17 November 2022

**VENUE:** The Horatio Motel, 15 Horatio St, Mudgee NSW

### ATTENDEES:

**Chairperson:** Garry West (GW)

**Community Members:** Heather Gough-Fuller (HG-F) by video conference, Justin Gard (JG)

**Council Representatives:** Cr Sam Paine (Mid-Western Regional Council), Cr Jessica Gough (Dubbo Regional Council)

**Stakeholder Representatives:** Brad Bliss (BB) by video conference, & Chris Pilley (CP)

**Ark Energy Representatives:** Andrew Wilson (AW), Daniel Jacobs (DJ)

**Minute Taker:** Daniel Jacobs

Meeting opened at 12:16 pm

#### 1. Apologies:

- James Mort (JM), Melissa Pisani (MP), Jacqui Coates (JC), Nathan Coates (NC)

#### 2. Welcome

- GW opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country.
- No correspondence received since the last meeting
- GW discussed the recent formation of a stakeholder action group opposed to the project – Burrendong SOS and highlighted the need for transparency for group member participation in the CCC. Subject to confirmation from the Department of Planning, an existing member of the CCC could nominate to represent the group. GW does not anticipate that any new members of the CCC will be approved. **Action:** JG to check with group and advise proposed nomination as the group representative on the CCC.
- AW discussed decommissioning obligations at the end of the operational life of the wind farm noting that the wind farm owner is responsible for decommissioning, that a decommissioning fund or facility will be established and that all above ground infrastructure will be removed.
- **Question JG:** asked a question on behalf of NC asking how much it will cost to decommission each turbine. AW responded that the costs are not known yet, but draft decommissioning plans for other projects with estimates of decommissioning costs are available. **Action:** AW to circulate example wind farm decommissioning plan
- **Question JG:** asked how the wind turbine blades will be disposed of once they need to be replaced, noting potentially harmful chemical composition of some of the resins used. **AW** noted that used wind turbine blades are currently disposed of in

landfill, but that the use of alternate resins will allow blades to be recycled in the future.

### 3. Project update

- Completion of the acquisition of Epuron by Ark Energy in May 2022 with no impact on the development of the Burrendong Wind Farm. Retirement of the Epuron brand and website completed in October 2022.
- **Question GW:** asked whether the project would be sold to a new owner on completion of development. **AW** noted that it was possible the project could be sold to a new owner or that ownership could remain with Ark Energy.
- **Question JG:** asked regarding the status of one of the project landowners and impacts on the site layout. **AW** noted that there were likely to be changes to the project layout during the current assessment and preparation of the EIS.
- **AW** discussed updated SEARs and additional requirements required to be addressed as part of preparing the EIS.
- **Question JG:** asked on behalf of NC and JC whether the flora and fauna assessments would be conducted within 2km from each turbine. He also raised concerns regarding the threat of moving rotor blades to wedge-tailed eagles that inhabit the project area. **AW** confirmed that the biodiversity assessment is carried out in accordance with the requirements issued by the NSW Department of Planning and Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate guidelines. The focus of the survey effort is on the land that will be directly impacted by the wind farm infrastructure, but fauna habitat and movement in the broader area is also assessed.
- **AW** provided an overview and expected timeline for the current environmental assessments, EIS preparation/exhibition and planning approvals.

### 4. General business and questions

- **AW** encouraged CCC members and members of the community to contact the project team if any queries or issues arise in the periods between CCC meetings.
- **GW** indicated that another meeting would need to be held prior to exhibition of the project EIS.
- **Question HG-F:** asked how the company will support the community during development and construction of the project. **AW** discussed the proposed project benefit sharing and community fund with examples of local projects that could benefit from project community funding.
- **Question JG:** asked whether the local fire-fighting capability has been considered for support from the project. **AW** indicated that this has been considered and that other practical cooperation will be implemented. eg access to wind farm access tracks, water supplies and shut down of turbine operations during use of aerial fire fighting
- **Question CP:** discussed the impact to local employment and noted further information will be required in due course. **AW** noted that MWRC has raised similar

concerns and encouraged coordination with other renewable energy project developers in the area.

- **Question HG-F:** asked whether there is an opportunity to train locals for the construction of the windfarm. **AW** confirmed that the aim is for locals to be trained for operation and maintenance roles. The role of Energy Co and the NSW government in coordinating training and job opportunities for projects located in the Renewable Energy Zone was acknowledged.
- **Question JG:** asked about how many positions will be available during the construction compared to completion. **AW** noted that a peak construction work force of around 150 to 200 workers would be required together with 10 – 15 roles during operation of the wind farm.
- **Question JG:** asked how many property owners will be impacted. **AW** noted that 16 private landowners are involved with the project.
- **Question JG:** asked what the wider benefits considered for the community are, also noting that the project spans over multiple councils and which councils these kinds of funding will go to. **AW** confirmed that the project is located within Mid-Western Regional Council and Dubbo Regional Council LGAs. Allocation of community funds is focussed on the areas immediately surrounding the wind farm site with the intention that allocation of funding is managed by representatives of the community.

#### 5. Next meeting

- To be advised, but likely to be February or March 2023

**Meeting closed 1:13PM**

### Actions

#	Actions	Action by
1	Check with group and advise proposed nomination as group representative on the CCC	JG
2	Circulate example wind farm decommissioning plan	AW