

Meeting Record

Project Name	Mid North Wind Farm	Meeting Date	13 February 2014
Meeting / Subject	Community Liaison Group	Recorded By	AP
	Meeting 13	Total Pages	10

Facilitator:	Georgina House (GH)	Aurecon
Members:	Abby Walker-Schwartz (AWS)	Waterloo Resident
	Andrew Allchurch (AA)	Gilbert Group CFS and Waterloo Landowner
	Cindy Nolan (CN)	Clare
	Chris Mosey (CM)	Waterloo Landowner
	David Clarke (DC)	Crystal Brook
	David Busch (DB)	Waterloo Landowner (attended in Lisa's place)
	Garry Fieldhouse (GF)	Gally's
	Glenn Christie (GC)	Seed collector and revegetation
	Kelly-Anne Saffin (KAS)	Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North
	Lis Jones Ingham (LJI)	Burra
	Peter Edson (PE)	Burra Regional Tourism and Business Association
	Pip Edson (PE1)	Burra Regional Art Gallery
	Sally Fieldhouse (SF)	Gally's
Guests and Observers	Cr Sue Wurst (SW)	Councillor, Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
	Trevor White (TW)	Planning Consultant + PHD Candidate
	Kerry Ward (KW)	Member NRM Board
	Donna Kelly (DK)	Burra
	Ian Falkenberg (IF)	Department Environment, Water and Natural Resources
	Amanda Redden (AR)	Economic Development Officer, Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North
EnergyAustralia	Mike Clee (MC)	SA Operations Manager
	Mike de Vink (MV)	Senior Project Manager
	Clint Purkiss (CP)	Project Development Manager, EA
Apologies	Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan	Honourable Member for Stuart
	Hon Geoff Brock	Honourable Member for Frome
	Heidi Hodge (HH)	Black Springs Resident
	Colin Endean (CE)	ACF Climate Project, Transition Action Group
	Paula Jones (PJ)	Burra Visitor Information Centre
Minute Taker	Adam Pfitzner (AP)	Aurecon

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Item	Topic	Action By
1.	Welcome and Apologies – Georgina House	
1.1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GH welcomed members and guests to the Mid North Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting. ● GH gave a special welcome to first time attendees and guests of this evening's meeting, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ian Falkenberg, Department Environment, Water and Natural Resources ○ Amanda Redden, Economic Development Officer, Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North ○ Donna Kelly, Burra Hospital. 	
1.2.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apologies received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Colin Endean (CE) ○ Heidi Hodge (HH) ○ Paula Jones (PJ) ○ Hon Dan van Pellekaan ○ Hon Geoff Brock. ● Apologies were noted. 	
1.3.	Agenda and Housekeeping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GH outlined today's agenda, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EnergyAustralia Update ○ Group Discussions (CSIRO, SEB, Open Day Planning) ○ Initiatives Update ○ Other Business. ● GH advised that the next CLG meeting will be held on Thursday 8 May 2014. 	
2.	Review Minutes of Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Actions arising from the minutes have been addressed or will be in today's agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Page 4 – Item 4.1 – Update CLG on the Retail Offer ○ Page 5 – Item 4.2 – Update CLG on Wind Farm Tours ○ Page 6 – Item 4.3 – Further develop Terms of Reference for the Waterloo Community Participation Fund ○ Page 6 – Item 4.4 – Update and test ideas with CLG on the Waterloo Open Day ○ Page 6 – Item 5 – Report on Christmas Party at Waterloo ○ Page 7 – Item 6 – Update on SEB Grant ○ Page 7 – Item 7 - CLG feedback and summary of key themes ○ Page 9 – Item 9.1 – GH to consult the CLG further on CSIRO findings ○ Page 9 – Item 9.2 – GH to prepare and circulate CLG Meeting Calendar. ● GH asked if any comments or questions regarding the minutes? ● Members accepted the 7 November 2013 Minutes as a true representation of the meeting. 	
3.	Overview of EnergyAustralia Mid North Wind Farm Projects – Mike Clee and Clint Purkiss	
3.1	Waterloo Wind Farm Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MC provided an update on Waterloo Wind Farm. Energy Production Figures July 2013 to January 2014 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Waterloo Generation has been solid over the seven months to date. ● MC stated that the production figures show an increase of 8 percent above EnergyAustralia's set Year to Date Target. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC stated that the generation started down due to termination faults in August; however, favourable winds brought the generation back up. <p>Waterloo Wind Farm Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Turbine Blade was damaged by lightning on 6th December. Initial inspections showed the blade could not be repaired in-situ and had to be removed for an in depth ground inspection. • Ground inspections confirmed the damaged blade structural spar can be repaired, with a repair procedure currently being prepared. • The blade exchange (3 new balanced blades) was performed safely and without incident during the period of the 13th to the 23rd of January. • A question was raised as to whether the lightning strike was forceful? • CP confirmed that due to the damage taken it can be assumed that it was a significant strike. • A member questioned how EA found out that the lightning had hit the turbine? • MC stated that EA have numerous precautions which include undertaking visual inspections of the turbines and alerts that signal whether a turbine has been damaged or interrupted. • A follow-up question was raised as to how many days had passed before the damage was discovered? • MC stated that the damaged blade was identified the day after it had occurred and added that the Wind Farm has shutdowns in case of an emergency. <p>Waterloo Information Signage and Christmas Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Waterloo Township Wind Farm Information Shelter held an opening / Christmas Party on the 11th December 2013. • MC indicated that there was a very good attendance, also gaining positive local media coverage. • EnergyAustralia were proud to present a cheque for \$7,500 to the Waterloo CFS to assist with the purchase of their much required portable generator set. • AWS mentioned that the Christmas Party was successful with approximately 130 people in attendance including people from wider regions (i.e. Saddleworth) and received lots of positive feedback. • A CLG member asked: Who is responsible for the continual maintenance of the new information shelter? • AWS stated that the shelter is located on community land and is therefore the responsibility of the community to maintain the grounds. She continued by stating that SA Power Networks supplied a team to assist in landscaping and making the grounds presentable and fire safe. • MC acknowledged and appreciated SA Power Networks efforts/assistance. • AWS stated that the information Shelter will be used to provide information on the history of the Waterloo as well. 	
3.2	<p>Proposed Waterloo 2 Wind Farm Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP provided an update on the Waterloo 2 Wind Farm Development Application. <p>2014 – SA Development Outlook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Energy Target (RET) & Health Generation V Retail Mix – CP mentioned that the target was to provide 20 percent of demand when policy was put in place. EnergyAustralia is currently above that figure. • CP announced that EnergyAustralia is the joint major partner of the Port Adelaide Football Club (Port Power) for the 2014 Season. • CP stated that EnergyAustralia is looking at the potential feasibility of solar energy near the existing gas station at Hallett. <p>Waterloo 2 – Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA is engaging with their Investment Partner to progress the project. • EA is progressing connection studies with ElectraNet and Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) – model validation phase awaiting R2 testing at Waterloo. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Negotiations and design aspects are progressing with Vestas, civil and electrical companies. ● Also addressing reserve matters from the Development Application – final layout and design once grid studies and investment structure is finalised. ● EA finalising EPBC related actions. ● Negotiations include analysis of a more efficient quieter machine such as the V100 and V112. 	
3.3	<p>Proposed Stony Gap Wind Farm Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CP provided an update on the Stony Gap Wind Farm Development Application. ● As a reminder, CP stated that the original Development Application (DA) was lodged in November 2011. ● Joinders remain and the process continues in the ERD Court. ● Council committed to EA compromise. ● December direction hearing narrowed argument significantly. The key focus areas include - Acoustics, Health & Ecology. ● Expert Witness reports have been exchanged and to be lodged on 19th February. ● ERD Court Directions set for 20th February. ● Question - How costly is the ERD Court process? ● CP stated that you could look at it from a number of viewpoints: EnergyAustralia needed to engage legal, barristers, expert witnesses; Council needed to engage lawyers for the conferences/hearings over a 5 day period of Court hearings; and the Joinders engaged their own lawyer and local experts in ecological and acoustic topics. Overall an expensive process. ● A CLG member questioned the off-take on the Stony Gap proposal (in light of a recent news article in The Advertiser in regard to the recent approval of the Wind Farm on the Yorke Peninsula)? ● CP stated that EnergyAustralia provide for their own off-take. 	
4.	<p>EPA Noise Study Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MDV provided an overview of the Noise Study undertaken by EPA. <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EPA- SA conducted a 10 week study starting on the 13 April 2013 into low frequency and infrasound noise sources in the vicinity of Waterloo Wind Farm. ● Specific study aims were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is there a physical basis for descriptions of noises supplied by members of the community? ○ Are there particular environmental conditions that evoke complaints? ○ Are low frequency & infrasound components present & do they contribute to these described effects and complaints? ○ Do the criteria in the current EPA Wind Farm Environmental Noise Guidelines need to be reviewed? ● Study not designed to investigate impacts on human health. ● Community noise diary program run over the same time period to correlate community complaints with potential noise incidences. ● Study concluded and results presented to local community and media 26 Nov 2013. <p>Methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EPA undertook noise & weather monitoring at six locations at distances of 1.3-7.6km & a range of directions from WLWF. ● At 2 locations, indoor & outdoor monitoring undertaken for noise in both the infrasound (0.25Hz to 20Hz) and audio (20Hz to 20kHz) frequency ranges. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At 3 locations, indoor & outdoor monitoring undertaken for noise in the audio frequency range (~12Hz to 20kHz). ● At 1 further location, outdoor monitoring undertaken for noise in the audio frequency range (~12Hz to 20kHz). ● EA also provided operational & meteorological data to EPA & performed six shutdowns on request under conditions when power would normally be generated. ● NSW EPA conducted technical peer review - found study to fundamentally be of a high technical standard. <p>Key Findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noise events attributed to WLWF periodically audible at 4 locations, no attributable events recorded at 2 remaining houses. ● Where detectable, noise levels from WLWF complied with EPA Wind Farm Environmental Noise Guidelines. ● Wind farm operation was shown to contribute to low frequency content of noise under some operating/environmental conditions. Background noise resulting from wind & other noise sources however, contributed to increases in low frequency noise that were comparable with, or higher than contributions from the wind farm. ● In houses where infrasound monitored, 'blade pass frequency' component measured at levels significantly below the accepted perception threshold of 85dB(G). ● In many cases, EPA unable to attribute events in noise diaries to turbines; at times reported events coincided with shutdowns. ● Some degree of modulation detected, which may have been perceivable at times by residents. ● On Health - "Rumbling and other low frequency characters not generally audible to a typical listener, but possible people living within this very quiet area may hear them. This could cause annoyance to some people if exposed to the noise for prolonged time periods". <p>Waterloo Township subset</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EPA measured at locations within township of Waterloo, including households who have made previous noise complaints to EPA or EA. ● Subject house approx. 3.5km and downwind from nearest wind turbine generator. ● Extensive analysis of sound records was performed for this site. Generally noise levels were low and audio records analysed with significant amplification. No periods were detected when wind farm noise could be audible. ● Noise diaries from owner and two neighbourhood residences utilised to find possible links between objective assessment and adverse effect records. Particular attention was paid to audio records when there were consistent responses from the neighbours. ● Descriptions such as 'thumping', 'rumbling' or 'vibratory' could not be confirmed by listening to the audio records. ● Township diary respondents recorded an extremely high number of occasions when they considered the wind farm to have had adverse impact on amenity in the area. ● Analysis of the relevant audio records however, did not indicate any periods when the wind farm noise was audible. <p>Compliance points to note for EA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-compliance of noise guidelines VERY UNLIKELY as noise impact at the site met current regulatory requirements, even without correction for background noise. <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comparison of data from wind farm shutdowns with data from operating periods with similar conditions indicate that the wind farm contributed to low frequency noise under particular environmental conditions (downwind, crosswind), during the study. This may 	

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	<p>have caused non-compliances with the conservative Danish EPA and UK DEFRA low frequency criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is possible that operation of the wind farm may cause increased annoyance to a sensitive listener at this site, if exposed for a long time period, possibly exacerbated by the presence of some degree of amplitude modulation. ● Analyses of spectral data indicated a prominent component at 50Hz 1/3 octave central frequency at times. Objective testing and analysis of audio records did not indicated the likelihood that a tonal character may be detectable in the noise; however, it is possible that the 50Hz component could increase annoyance to a sensitive listener, in conjunction with potential modulation of noise at this 1/3 octave band. <p>Response to Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EPA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EPA satisfied WLWF meets relevant South Australian and international standards. ● Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SA Government has indicated satisfaction with study results. ○ Federal Health Minister Peter Dutton to request NHMRC to conduct fresh research into health impacts of wind farms. VIC government to provide \$100k towards study. ● Media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Study results covered locally, nationally. Coverage focused on EPA explanation of results with some commentary from opponents. ● Opponents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waubra Foundation issued an Open Letter to SA Govt & Regulators accusing EPA of falsifying results – called for Public Enquiry into WLWF. ○ Adelaide University's Professor Colin Hansen, as well as The Acoustic Group from Sydney have carried out simultaneous side by side monitoring with the EPA at several of the sites during the 2 month study and will also review the EPA data. ● Reference: http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental info/noise/wind farms/waterloo wind farm environmental noise study. ● AWS stated that the EPA announced that when the Wind Farm was turned off, the background noise increased by 10dB. ● GH asked the CLG what the level of awareness is surrounding the EPA findings? What is the community saying? ● MC stated that the shutdowns were helpful to the EPA as they were able to understand if noise was actually coming from the Wind Farm. ● One CLG member stated they had heard a community member say that if the Wind Farms are consistently meeting the guidelines, then the guidelines needed to be changed. ● AWS suggested that the Wind Farm noise was more apparent at night due to limited number of other noise sources (i.e. trucks, farm equipment, traffic, etc.). 	
5.	<p>Group Discussion on Themes raised in CSIRO Research and CLG Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GH provided an overview of the CSIRO work and introduced the small group discussion exercise. <p>Background</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CSIRO 'Social Licence to Operate for Wind Farms in Australia' study. ● The study aimed to work with wind industry developers, community members and other key stakeholders to understand, create, test and evaluate a working model of a Social 	

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	<p>Licence to Operate for wind farms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EnergyAustralia's proposed Stony Gap wind farm was used as a case study. Preliminary results have been provided to EA based on initial interviews with a cross-section of the community. Study currently suspended due to a lack of confirmed wind farm case studies but preliminary work provides useful themes. <p>Concerns about Wind Farms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key community concerns include - Health, Community Division, Noise, and Financial Equity. <p>Benefits of Wind Farms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSIRO asked all interviewees what they thought were the benefits of wind farms. The table below lists the top three benefits of wind farms as perceived by community and wind developers. <table border="1" data-bbox="480 920 1121 1144"> <thead> <tr> <th>Community views</th> <th>Wind developer views</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Renewable energy</td> <td>Local business benefits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community funding</td> <td>Community funding of local organisations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Economic benefits and financial gain</td> <td>Financial input to the local area from employment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Group Discussion of Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GH divided the CLG into four (4) groups to discuss the themes of the preliminary results from the CSIRO research. In the small groups, the CLG were invited to consider the key themes, identify additional themes, and consider themes that EA and or the CLG might focus on during 2014. Key points raised in the small group discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual landscape + potential over build (otherwise referred to as "Cumulative Effect") another area of interest, little work has been undertaken by government on cumulative effect planning policies Rental market (boom + bust) – preparedness for major development. A member of the CLG stated that the project in Gladstone (QLD) caused big distortions and mentioned that it is now predictable and able to be planned for in advance Preference for early and continuous engagement, including local participation and local funding initiatives Whilst the CLG is an open forum and representatives of different interest groups are welcome to attend and participate it was appreciated that this offer may not be taken up by all interest groups. Where this is the case it is important that other ways are considered for feeding views of unrepresented groups back to the CLG. GH will monitor meeting agenda and arrange topics to suit key themes during 2014. <p>CLG Feedback – November 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GH provided a summary of feedback received from CLG members in November 2013. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide updates on Waterloo and Stony Gap Wind Farms Continue to offer opportunities for CLG members to interact, learn and make contacts (e.g. scientific reports) Provide more discussion opportunities for CLG members Focus on positive benefits for community, return for community 	Community views	Wind developer views	Renewable energy	Local business benefits	Community funding	Community funding of local organisations	Economic benefits and financial gain	Financial input to the local area from employment	<p>Members and observers to monitor community opinion and feedback to CLG Meetings</p>
Community views	Wind developer views									
Renewable energy	Local business benefits									
Community funding	Community funding of local organisations									
Economic benefits and financial gain	Financial input to the local area from employment									

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Find ways to unify the region, grow and enrich the community ○ Keep informing the community and continue to find ways to mitigate myths ○ Increase membership and diversity of the CLG (e.g. DEWNR staff, Pygmy Blue Tongue Conservation & Recovery Team, Health, more landholders and neighbours). 	
6.	<p>SEB Grant Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KAS provided the following status update on the Significant Environment Grant (SEB) opportunity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Looking at a Landscape Scale Project centred between Tothill to Hopkins Corridor ● Likely to follow the Heysen Trail ● Attempt to incorporate the Burra Creek restoration ● Important that the project include interpretative signage (aboriginal, flora, fauna) and link to economic benefit ● Auspicing body can be Northern and Yorke Natural Resource Management Board, Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North, Clare and Gilbert Valley Council and/ or Regional Council of Goyder ● Combine CLG ideas with the Lower North NRM Group who have set aside funds to put application together and Sub-committee help ● Matching funding (in-kind and cash where appropriate) ● Council through Burra Creek and \$1M tree initiative ● Greening Australia ● Potential volunteer hours planting ● Grant due 31 March 2014 and attached to biodiversity outcomes ● A few questions/statements came out of the discussion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SF stated that it is fundamental to preserve prime habitats and landscapes (i.e. Tothill Ranges, etc.); however, it will need extensive consultation. ○ CM stated that a large portion of the subject land is already occupied by private landowners and it is crucial to discuss the proposal with these landowners, particularly if wanting to access trails, etc. through their properties. ○ GH stated that the consultation with landowners could be difficult within the timeframe (before 31 March 2014). Does the group have a strategy for the consultation? ○ SF suggested that the project needs to be a balance between habitat management and farming practices. As an example, IF suggested that the use of perennial grasses can benefit farming land as it can benefit grazing and biodiversity. ○ KAS and AR to continue to progress SEB Grant. 	KAS and AR to continue to progress SEB Grant
SUPPER BREAK		
7.	<p>Initiatives Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MC provided an update on: <p>Retail Offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The EnergyAustralia Waterloo Wind Farm retail offer was launched in early February. Letters with details of the offer have now been distributed to all residents and businesses in the eligible postcodes (5413, 5414, 5415 and 5416). ● Objectives: 	

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8.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>Low Carbon Preferences Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgina explained and canvassed interest of members in attending a workshop. Yorke & Mid North Regional Alliance have recently undertaken a “Low Carbon Preferences Survey”. Part of a larger project to determine how to best prepare the region for renewable energy and other low carbon technologies. Organisers are keen to hold discussions with groups and individuals to test the findings of the survey and work through some of the issues / opportunities in further detail. Would members be interested in participating in a 1-2 hour workshop planned for April/May 2014? Workshop will be facilitated by Dr Darien Simon, University College London (based in Adelaide). Georgina passed around a list and invited members to indicate interest in the workshop. <p>CLG Member Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Georgina welcomed feedback from CLG Members at any time. <p>Focus of May 2014 Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterloo Wind Farm Community Fund – consideration of short-listed applications. Initiatives Update, particularly Waterloo Wind Farm Open Day. EA Biodiversity Register Presentation. Stony Gap Construction Planning (dependant on progress of the project). 	GH to pass on contact details of interested members to organiser
9.	<p>Next Meeting and Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GH thanked all for their attendance. Minutes of this meeting will be distributed to all for review. 1 week will be provided for members to review draft minutes and provide any feedback to Georgina House. Once finalised, the minutes will be placed on the EnergyAustralia Website and circulated to other key stakeholders. Next CLG Meeting – Thursday 8 May 2014 – 4.30pm to 6.30pm at Gally’s. <p style="text-align: center;">Meeting Closed</p>	

Attachments include:

- Agenda for CLG Meeting #14 (Thursday 8 May 2014)

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