



Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Friday 9 August 2024

Meeting time and location 11am, Union Station Hotel - Woolsthorpe

1. Welcome

2. Attendees

Cr Jim Doukas (Chair)
Glenn Britnell, Community Representative
Terri Barnes, Community Representative
James Taylor - Development Manager, Enerfin
Katelyn Nash – Planner, KLM Spatial

Vicki Askew-Thornton, Senior Energy Projects Liaison Officer, Moyne Shire (non-member)

3. Apologies

John Murphy, Community Representative
Simon Poynton, Community Representative

4. Declarations of interest

Nil.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Terri Barnes, seconded by Glenn Britnell that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 28 June 2024 be accepted. **CARRIED**

6. Business arising from previous Minutes

Responsible	Action
Proponent	Confirm whether or not night-time lighting is required for the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm turbines. Response: As per the Permit, turbine night-lighting is not required for the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm.
Proponent and Glenn Britnell	Arrange to discuss the Fire Emergency Response Plan with CEC members, and with local brigade representatives at a time that suits.

	This meeting will be held following today's CEC meeting.
Proponent	<p>Ask the turbine supplier for information on blade wear and tear and whether the particles could affect water quality.</p> <p>Response: The turbine manufacturer GE has advised it is not aware of any such issues.</p> <p>Council noted that at a recent Ryan Corner Wind Farm CEC meeting, The following information was provided by James McKenzie, Teacher, Engineering Composites, Federation TAFE Ballarat, about Bisphenol A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are 2 types of blades - Epoxy (Polyepoxyide) and Polyester, which are both types of polymers. Epoxy blades contain more Bisphenol A. - When it is used properly to make a resin, it becomes a new product – a compound, and the risks are very much reduced. - 70% of Bisphenol A is in plastic drink containers, take away containers etc. - Turbine blades erode slowly, and small amounts of Bisphenol A particles will be released as a result. - Epoxy based resins are very fire resistant. - There haven't been enough peer-reviewed studies done to ascertain if Bisphenol A particles released can affect beef cattle meat, waterways etc. - Bisphenol released as dust whilst blades are being repaired and eroded is dispersed widely.

7. Correspondence Incoming

Responses from the EPA to questions taken on notice during its presentation to the June meeting. **(Refer to Attachment 1)**

8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil

9. Reports

9.1 Project Update (Enerfin/ICA):

- Since the last CEC meeting, further management plans have been endorsed including the Environmental Management Plan and the Complaint Investigation and Response Plan. These are available on the project website.
 - The CEC noted that it will be important for the community to know what the general and exceptional-circumstances work hours are, which are contained in Section 3.2 of the Environmental Management Plan:
[6a122b 31e92b96383d4856ad25727c1bdbc443.pdf](https://www.woolsthorpewindfarm.com/6a122b31e92b96383d4856ad25727c1bdbc443.pdf)
[\(woolsthorpewindfarm.com\)](https://www.woolsthorpewindfarm.com)
- And
- Clear information on how complaints can be made, which is set out in the endorsed Complaint Investigation and Response Plan:
[Complaint Investigation and Response Plan \(woolsthorpewindfarm.com\)](https://www.woolsthorpewindfarm.com)
- James and Katelyn will provide further information following the meeting.

- The Traffic Management Plan is still under discussion with Department of Transport and Council.
- Zenviron will be the 'balance of plant' contractor for the civil and electrical construction works. Zenviron was involved in the construction of the Salt Creek and Dundonnell Wind Farms in Moyne Shire.
The Construction Manager can attend CEC meetings as a guest whilst the wind farm is under construction.
- Turbines 3,5 and 8 may be micro-sited (within allowable limits in accordance with the Permit), and some sections of internal track reoriented upon advice from Zenviron.

9.2 Community Representatives

The CEC discussed a range of suggestions for regular communication with the public leading up to and during construction, such as:

- Hard copy newsletters provided to the community and placed in the general store.
- Electronic updates to a subscriber list and placed on local community Facebook pages and in the school newsletter.
- Bi-monthly newspaper updates.
- Weekly 'construction news' section on the project website.

9.3 Council

CEC community representatives will shortly receive an email from Council regarding the process of community representative 'spilling'. The letter will also explain the process going forward.

10. General business

Nil.

Next meeting date – To be advised

Confirmed this 17 / 4 / 2015

Chair [Signature]

Minutes are to be registered in Moyne Shire's electronic document management system by the committee reporting officer immediately following the Minutes' confirmation and signing

Attachment 1

Responses from the EPA to questions taken on notice from the presentation to the June CEC meeting:

- 1) Has the EPA identified any concerns related to pollution in the surrounding environment caused by particles either distributed or shed from wind turbine blades?

The EPA has not identified and is not aware of any concerns related to pollution from particles either distributed or shed from wind turbine blades.

- 2) Why is the assessment of Wind Energy Facilities (WEFs) in Australia based on the New Zealand Standard? What is the rationale?

The assessment of WEFs in Australia is based on the New Zealand Standard (NZS) for several reasons:

- *Geographical and Environmental Similarities - Australia and New Zealand have similar geographical and environmental conditions, which makes the NZS relevant and applicable for Australian WEF projects*
- *Consistency over time – prior to the EPA being made the primary regulator of windfarms, the NZS was adopted as the assessment standard in individual permits issued by councils and by the Minister. These facilities were then designed and built for compliance with this standard. If DEECA had adopted a different standard when they made the regulations which EPA now enforce, many wind farms could have had their compliance targets changed even if they discharged their compliance responsibilities sufficiently when originally commissioned.*
- *Proven Framework – The NZS is a well-established and widely accepted framework for assessing wind farm noise. By adopting this standard, Australia benefits from the expertise and experience embedded in the New Zealand guidelines.*

To summarise the above - The use of NZS for assessing WEFs in Australia provides a practical, efficient, and internationally recognised approach to managing wind farm noise and ensuring environmental and community standards are met.