

Bodangora Wind Farm

CCC Meeting – Minutes

Date: 15.4.20 **Time:** 18.00 **Location:** Teleconference

Participants – CCC Members		
Name	CCC Member	E-mail
Clr Anne Jones	Wellington Ward Councillor	clranne.jones@dubbo.nsw.gov.au
Ian Rogan	Chair	ian.rogan@bigpond.com
Mr. Cameron Tomkins	Mid Macquarie Landcare	cstomkins@gmail.com
Mr. Simon Barton	Host landowner	simcarbart@harboursat.com.au
Mrs. Pip Smith	Community representative	pip@lovemerino.com.au
Mr. Joe Mason	Community representative	joelimason@hotmail.com or joekristymason@bigpond.com
Participants – Non CCC Members		
Name	Invitee	E-mail
Mr Michael Bullock	Infigen Energy	Michael.bullock@infigenenergy.com
Apologies		
Name	Role / Position	E-mail

Minutes	
1.0	Welcome & Apologies
	Chair welcomed all committee members
	No apologies received
	Chair indicated that the primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss and attempt to get an improved understanding of the DRC proposed changes to processes for the BWF Community Benefit Fund
	Minute taker for this meeting-Ian

2.0	Wind Farm Operations Update
	<p>Michael gave the committee an update on wind farm operations, Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An Open day had been held in November; positive feedback received from community - A visitor to the site in March tested positive for Covid 19, leading to a shutdown of the site and the Infigen team going into quarantine - The site was run remotely during this shutdown until 26 March - An annual maintenance program has commenced with increased team numbers
3.0	BWF Enhancement Fund
	<p>Michael gave the committee an update on local sponsorship in the current year from the Bodangora Wind Farm Enhancement Fund. Recipients to date are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wellington Golf Club \$500 - DRC Communities for Children \$1000 - Lions Club drought relief BBQ \$1000 - 4x Wellington Schools science awards \$250ea - Vintage Fair tractor pull \$2000 - Wellington Show \$1500 - Binjang Community Radio \$2010 - Wellington District Cricket Club \$500 - Man from Ironbark event sponsorship \$1500 - Wellington Boot sponsorship for Breast Cancer \$1000 <p style="text-align: center;">These sponsorships total \$12010 ytd from an annual allocation of \$17000. If the remaining balance is not committed in the current year it will be added to the funds available in the following year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Committee members expressed support to Infigen Energy for the community support provided and the organisations being targeted.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michael requested that CCC members pass on to him any suggestions for targeted organisations for sponsorship in future.</p>
4.0	Community Benefit Fund
	<p>Infigen contributes \$50,000 per year to this fund which is administered by DRC. In the past there have been 2 rounds of applications to the fund per year, with applications sent to the CCC for assessment, ranking and submission of recommendations of funding to DRC. In the last round (mid 2019), DRC rejected two of the applications recommended for funding by the CCC and allocated funding to two lower ranked applications without consultation with the CCC. The CCC submitted a communication to DRC with concerns about the process and requested a meeting with the Council GM.</p> <p>CCC members expressed concern that no applications for Community Funding had been called in the 2019/20 ytd.</p> <p>In early April this year, Infigen had been notified by DRC of proposed changes in the processes associated with management and allocations of the Community Benefit Fund. Major points in the proposed changes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There would be one round of applications called per year (next one proposed in June 2020) - There would be a new committee of DRC established to assess applications to a number of Community Benefit Funds for several wind farms and solar farms across the DRC region - The BWF CCC would continue to have some role in providing feedback on applications for BWF Community Benefit Funds, but this role was not clearly defined. <p style="text-align: center;">Councillor Jones provided an update to the CCC on the formation and membership of this proposed new DRC Committee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Michael provided an update from Infigen, indicating that under the VPA, funds allocated to Council (then Wellington Shire Council/now DRC since the amalgamation) under the Community Benefit Fund were distributed at the discretion of Council. Community Benefit Funds from other major projects could</p>

	<p>potentially be pooled. However, Infigen maintains a strong conviction that BWF Community Benefit Funds should only be allocated to Bodangora and Wellington district community organisations.</p> <p>Committee members expressed concerns about a number of matters relating to the ongoing “management” of the BWF Community Benefit Fund, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There have been no funds allocated to the community in the current year, despite the contribution of \$50k to the fund by Infigen. - There is a perceived risk that these funds could be dispersed to organisations across the whole DRC region, not just to community organisations in the Bodangora/Wellington district - That the role of the BWF CCC in the assessment of applications to future Community Fund rounds, requires clarification - That reasonable accountability standards for use of these Community Funds must require acquittal reports from recipient organisations, and Council, on the use of funds allocated and outcomes achieved. <p>It was resolved by the CCC that the Chair write to council expressing these concerns and seeking clarification on future processes to be followed. The Chair agreed to circulate to CCC members a draft of this communication, prior to submission to DRC.</p> <p>It was also suggested that Infigen communicate directly with DRC on the types of issues raised at the meeting.</p>
5.0	AOB
	<p>It was assumed that if no rounds of application for Community Funds were conducted in the current financial year, that the amount of funds available next financial year would be increased. If so, CCC would recommend that the current application limit be raised.</p> <p>It was resolved that the next CCC meeting would be held after we receive responses from Council to our concerns and clarification of proposed new processes.</p>
	Close meeting 7.05pm

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