

Meeting Record

Project Name	Mid North Wind Farm	Meeting Date	7 March 2013
Meeting / Subject	Community Liaison Group	Recorded By	AP
	Meeting 8	Total Pages	7

Facilitator:	Georgina House (GH)	Aurecon
Members:	Andrew Allchurch (AA)	Gilbert Group CFS and Waterloo Landowner
	Colin Endean (CE)	ACF Climate Project, Transition Action Group
	David Clarke (DC)	Crystal Brook
	Garry Fieldhouse (GF)	Gally's
	Glenn Christie (GC)	Seed collector and revegetation
	Louise McIntosh (RDA)	On behalf of Kelly-Anne Saffin (KAS) - Regional Development Australia Yorke and Mid North
	Sally Fieldhouse (SF)	Gally's
	Yvonne Cloke (YC)	Barossa Lower North Futures Inc
	Heidi Hodge (HH)	Black Springs Resident
Guests and Observers	Cr Sue Wurst	Councillor, Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
	Hannah Farrelly (HF)	Burra High School student
	Trevor White (TW)	Wind Farm Liaison Officer
EnergyAustralia (formerly TRUenergy)	Michael Head (MH)	Project Development Manager, Business Development, OHS&E (Cathedral Rocks and Waterloo)
	Steve Brown (SB)	Head of Asset Services, Operations and Construction
	Cameron Garnsworthy (CG)	Senior Renewables Manager
	Mike Clee (MC)	SA Operations Manager
	Mike de Vink (MV)	Senior Project Manager
	Renee Garner (RG)	Corporate Strategy and Government Relations
Apologies	Chris Mosey (CM)	Waterloo Landowner
	Cindy Nolan (CN)	EGEIA Corporate
	Abby Walker-Schwartz (AWS)	Waterloo Resident
	Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan	Honourable Member for Stuart
	Hon Geoff Brock	Honourable Member for Frome
Minute Taker	Adam Pfitzner (AP)	Aurecon

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1.	Welcome and Apologies – Georgina House	
1.1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GH welcomed members and guests to the eighth Mid North Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting. GH gave a special welcome to guests of this evening's meeting, including Louise McIntosh (RDA), Hannah Farrelly (Burra High School student undertaking a research topic on wind farms), Mike Clee, Mike de Vink, Glenn Christie (who will be presenting on seed collection and revegetation), Trevor White (who will be presenting on wind farm planning policy), and Councillor Sue Wurst (Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council). 	
1.2.	Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> MH's overview of the Waterloo, Waterloo 2 and Stony Gap projects. TW who will be discussing Wind Farm Policy and the Planning System in South Australia. SB who will be providing an update of EnergyAustralia's structure. GC who will be presenting on seed collection and revegetation. GH advised that the next CLG meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd May 2013 and that meeting will remain on Thursday nights and that we have endeavoured to avoid school and public holidays. 	
2.	Review Minutes of Previous Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GH went through the actions of last meeting's minutes. Agenda Item 2 (page 2) – GH will continue to follow up on leads for new members. Agenda Item 5 (page 5) – GH issued meeting schedule for 2013. Other Actions – covered in today's presentations. Members accepted the 6 December 2012 Minutes as a true representation of the meeting. 	
3.	Overview of EA Mid North Wind Farm Projects Update – Michael Head <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MH thanked everyone for attending and provided an update on Waterloo, Waterloo Stage 2 and Stony Gap Wind Farm projects. 3.1 Waterloo Wind Farm Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MH advised the members that the months between meetings (December, January and February) have not been particularly windy. The South Australian EPA recently released a report regarding wind farms and infrasound levels monitored at two wind farm locations compared to normally occurring infrasound in urban and rural environments. The conclusion of the EPA report was: <p>“This study concludes that the level of infrasound at houses near the wind turbines assessed is no greater than that experienced in other urban and rural environments, and that the contribution of wind turbines to the measured infrasound levels is insignificant in comparison with the background level of infrasound in the environment”.</p> Building upon the recently released report the EPA will seek to monitor Infrasound levels around Waterloo area during April and May 2013. The EPA is a key stakeholder in the project and EA will cooperate fully with the EPA. Monitoring will record both infrasound (0-20Hz) and low frequency noise (20 - 200Hz) 	

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	<p>but it is understood the focus will be on infrasound.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Empty/vacant homes will be monitored and noise diaries will be offered to the local community by EPA SA. ● This monitoring does not affect current EnergyAustralia's Development Applications which will be assessed under the current EPA Wind Farm Noise Guidelines. ● For additional context the EPA SA's recent wind farm Infrasound Study is available for your information. ● EnergyAustralia has no reason to believe the results from Waterloo Wind Farm will be any different to those observed in the report provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Other Waterloo News: ● One OHSW incident – Vehicle collision. ● Tour by Farrell Flat Primary School. ● Tour by Burra High School Student – Hannah Farrelly. ● Tour by Renewables SA. ● Tour by Light Regional Council. ● Noise Monitoring at 2 Waterloo Homes following complaints (a total of five complaints have now been received since the project began operating in late 2010). <p>3.2 Proposed Waterloo Stage 2 Wind Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clare Council has all the necessary information to make an informed determination of the Development Application. ● Council will possibly consider the Development Application at the April DAP Meeting (MH added that the date of the DAP meeting is yet to be confirmed). ● EnergyAustralia, along with The Clean Energy Council have made a submission regarding Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council's Strategic Plan which is at odds to the State Strategic Plan with respect to Wind Farm Development. <p>3.3 Proposed Stony Gap Wind Farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EA are still working through the Appeals process with the Environmental Resource and Development Court. ● Unknown timing of the outcome of the Appeals process at this stage. ● EnergyAustralia remain committed to pursuing a positive outcome for this project. <p>3.4 Other News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undergraduate Vacation Employment Position provided to local person - James Endean. ● Updated Contact Details for Waterloo Wind Farm – 0408 547 869 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A member questioned what the mobile reception was like at Waterloo? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MH stated that EA has constructed a repeater and therefore there is a very good signal. ● Sponsorship Activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ EA organised Swimming Australia to visit Clare Pool to run training clinics. ○ EA provided support to Saddleworth Christmas Street Festival. ○ EA will be sponsoring the Clare Races at Easter (Saturday 30 March 2013). ● SB added that the EPA monitoring will go for a 2 month period and will require turbines to be shut down on occasion. The monitoring is a worthwhile undertaking and EA will co-operate by shutting down the turbines to enable background levels to be taken. ● AA questioned whether the vacant houses are identified in confidence (for the EPA 	

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	study)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MH confirmed that the identity of the houses will be confidential. MH added that the EPA study is a scientific study, which requires EA to shut down turbines for a specified time period (the EPA will determine the timing of the shutdowns) and that EA needs to put confidence in the EPA. 	
4.	Update on EnergyAustralia's Structure – Steve Brown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SB thanked everyone for attending and provided an update of EnergyAustralia's organisational structure. ● SB advised that Mike Clee (formerly Manager of Hallett operations) has now been appointed South Australian Operations Manager. MC lives in Peterborough, and in his new role he will become more involved in the Waterloo and Stony Gap projects. ● Michael Head remains Project Development Manager, Business Development, OHS&E (Cathedral Rocks and Waterloo). ● Mike de Vink will be appointed as Project Manager for Stony Gap Wind Farm if it goes ahead. ● SB will remain involved and will be undertaking safe access audits every few months. ● EA believe the new structure will be better for SA operations. 	
5.	Moving from Talking to Taking Action – Register of Suggestions and Initiatives - All <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GH brought attention to the handout provided to CLG members and explained that the table was a register of suggestions and initiatives. The register is grouped into four themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community ○ Environment ○ Economy ○ Communications ● The register includes suggestions provided by CLG members and EA's work in this theme, having regard to member suggestions. GH ran through some of the key points in the register. Community (Build community pride and support local community) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GH asked members whether anyone remembers seeing or hearing about EnergyAustralia's presence at the Saddleworth Christmas Street Festival. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MH added that he received feedback from the community via SMS and that they were all positive (community was quite happy). ○ GH added that good feedback was received from members at the previous CLG meeting and acknowledged the value of supporting local community as well as the wider region. ● GH raised the Clare Races as an event that EnergyAustralia will be supporting in 2013. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MH added that the Clare Races is a meet and greet opportunity for wind farm landholders. ● Some interest was shown for an organised bike ride through the Waterloo Wind Farm (a bike ride has been previously run at a Wind Farm near Canberra). It was considered a positive idea given its ability to promote the local area and the wind farm, and the support the event would have for tourism in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AA agreed with the notion, adding that it is an excellent idea and a great opportunity to get people to see the turbines. ○ DC also agreed. ○ MH indicated that the ability to provide opportunities such as a bike ride is dependent on a number of factors including management of safety, permission of landowners to access their land, and cost. 	

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	<p>Environment (Benefit the environment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MH indicated that there are opportunities on the Stony Gap project for biodiversity conservation. ● GH suggested there may, for example, be opportunities to create a biodiversity corridor. <p>Economy (Benefit the local and regional economy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GH highlighted that an internship is one way that EnergyAustralia could assist with training and employment in the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MH reinforced that James Endean's time at the Waterloo Wind Farm as an undergraduate training position was a valuable exercise. MH also added that another traineeship is being undertaken in SB's team (engineering student). ○ MH added that the Universities are putting out good students (high standard, intelligent), good to get local people as trainees. ● Another opportunity being considered by EA is the potential employment of a local education officer. ● GH stated that investment in local roads (\$2 million over 10 years for Waterloo Wind Farm) is an example of another contribution by EnergyAustralia to the community even though required as part of the approval. ● GH indicated that EA is considering a retail offer for local residents and that an update would be provided to the CLG. ● GC suggested looking at a power purchase agreement based on loyalty to staying with one retailer. ● YC indicated that the Clare Trade Shed is officially opened this week and that this is a great local community project which EA has contributed to. YC added that there are a range of ways Barossa Lower North Futures Inc. can assist local industry build partnerships with the local community. ● YC indicated that the Agricultural Academy is set to start up this year. <p>Communication (Provide clear communication)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GH indicated that there has been a lot of activity in the local papers in recent times. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MH reinforced that the outcome of the October CLG meeting was to get out there in a positive way (in the local papers). ○ HH indicated that the latest article in the Northern Argus had fabulous exposure but may have missed the mark. People went to town in the 'letter to the editor'. ○ CE stated that it was an independent piece which is the role of a good journalist and it was good to draw interest in the topic from community. ○ MH added that it is important not to guide the reporter. We don't influence journalists. ● GH informed the CLG of a video that has been produced by EA as a way of informing and educating community (Video will be played at the conclusion of today's meeting but can also be viewed via EA's website http://www.energyaustralia.com.au/video-resources) ● GH asked members if they saw value in maintaining the register of suggestions and initiatives as a reference point from which EA can draw ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The group agreed that it would be useful. 	<p>EA to provide an update on the potential retail offer for local residents</p>
	<p>SUPPER BREAK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● During the supper break GH invited thoughts from members for topics for future CLG meetings. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Some ideas for CLG meeting topics were discussed during the Supper Break, these included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spend time in the next meeting discussing and expanding on some of the ideas in the Register, particularly those with a focus on community and environment. ○ Invite Dr Mark Hutchinson, SA Museum expert on Pygmy Blue Tongues to talk at a future meeting – this would be particularly relevant if the Stony Gap Wind Farm goes ahead. ○ Discuss the recent interstate Family Law case which considered land value impacts of wind farms. ○ Invite the EPA and University of Adelaide to attend and outline their studies of noise and infrasound and compare the methodologies. 	
6.	<p>Overview of Wind Farm Planning Policy – Trevor White</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TW provided an overview of the South Australian Planning System and Wind Farm Planning Policy. TW's presentation is provided as an attachment to the minutes, and his presentation addressed the following headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is Planning ○ Where do Planners Work ○ Planners Tools ○ Why do I need Approval? ○ Types of Development ○ Complying Development ○ Merit Development ○ Non-Complying Development ○ Public Notification – Category 1, Category 2 and Category 3 ○ Federal Government and Renewable Energy ○ State Government and Renewable Energy ○ Impact of the Statewide Windfarm DPA ○ Category 2 Public Notification of Wind Farm Development ○ Management of Visual Impact ○ Setback Distance ● TW indicated that he is currently undertaking his PhD with UniSA. He has found that Copenhagen has a very different attitude to Wind Farms than Australia (more positive). ● CE questioned on how many actions have come out of the Federal Guidelines. ● TW indicated that the Federal Government has not acted on any of the 7 issues. ● RG added to the point about setbacks; stating that the efficiency of the turbines can be affected by locational (siting) requirements. This in turn can result in the more expensive operation of a wind farm, which in turn can flow to higher consumer electricity prices. ● MH added that the cost of getting the electricity back to the grid is expensive with increased distance from the grid as well. ● A member questioned as to whether TW's presentation could be sent out with the minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GH confirmed that they will be included with the minutes. 	
7.	<p>Seed Collection and Revegetation Project – Glenn Christie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GC provided an overview of his role collecting seeds and revegetating areas of Waterloo Wind Farm with native species. ● GC refers to himself as a “repair worker “. ● GC stated that there are only approximately 20 “repair workers” in South Australia. ● GC presented seeds to the CLG members and said he had collected approximately 	

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	<p>1.2 tonnes of seed in the past year, largely collected from road verges, to assist with the revegetation of land around the State.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GC stressed the need to grow and collect more seed generally. ● GC stated that he is putting back perennial natives on land at Waterloo Wind Farm. GC added that perennial are better than annual natives, as annual natives are denser, thus a greater fire risk. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AA agreed on the fire risk associated with annual natives. ● GC's goals for his business are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase biodiversity ○ Decrease fire risk ○ Keep people employed ● SF questioned what species are being planted at the Waterloo Wind Farm? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MH/GC advised that the following species were being planted (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chloris truncata ▪ Enneapogon nigricans ▪ Austrodanthonia sp. ▪ Austrostipa sp. ▪ Bothriochloa macra ▪ Themeda triandra ▪ Vittadinia sp ● SF queried how the biodiversity will be impacted on the Waterloo Wind Farm? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MH advised that the net overall environmental benefit will be as good as or better than before the wind farm was established. MH added that native grasses equate to increased biodiversity. ○ MH added that perennial natives also assist hold soil together, reducing the chance of erosion. 	
8.	<p>Next Meeting and Close</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GH thanked all for their attendance. ● A short video, produced by EA, was played. ● Minutes of this meeting will be distributed to all for review. ● 2 weeks 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 2 May, 2013 – 4.30pm to 6.30pm at Gally's. ● Meeting Closed. 	

Attachments include:

- Agenda for CLG Meeting #9 (Thursday 2 May 2013).
- Meeting Calendar 2013.
- Moving from talking to taking action – Our charter for 2013 – Register of Suggestions and Initiatives.
- Trevor White's Presentation.
- Link to video – <http://www.energyaustralia.com.au/video-resources>
- EA Group Charter.

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