**Crookwell 2 and 3 Windfarms Community Consultative Committee** 

Minutes of the meeting of the CCC

Time 4.00PM Wednesday 27 September 2024

**Venue CWA Hall Spring Street Crookwell** 

Attendance: Peter Gordon (Independent Chair), Steve Ward, John Carter and Katrina Nixon. Councillor Paul Culhane. Haridan Fuentes Cabrera, Marco Romero, Alfonso Monedero, Kirsty Levings (on Zoom) and Graham Young representing Global Power Generation and Crookwell Development Pty Ltd.

**Apologies: Nil** 

No new pecuniary or other interests were declared.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of meeting were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

Members noted that the minutes and other CCC records are to be now easily accessed through the company website.

www.globalpower-generation.com.au/projects/NSW/Crookwell 3

Business arising from previous minutes — response to issues raised or provision of additional information requested.

**Correspondence** – nil

**Technical issues**. Covered under the company report below.

Company reports and overview of activities:

#### Crookwell 2

GPG representatives briefed the CCC on operational matters.

Project Update -Electrical power was disconnected 9th April to allow the interfacing connection of the C3Windfarm into the TransGrid 330KV Substation. Project Delays that were out of GPGs control caused the project to be extended from 6 weeks to 16 weeks. Power Restoration date was 26th July - Testing commenced of both farms soon after and still continuing. Hoping to return into full operational production for both farms by October /November General Service Tasks were started February now completed, Minor interruption during the Outage. Major Works Large vehicle & Crane movement will be Active in the next month – Schedule for Blade replacement, Gearbox replacement and 2 X Generator replacement and as we head into low wind periods late October Blade repair works will continue

Fauna and Flora – regular monthly inspections continue. No bird strikes have been detected or found. The odd carcass has been noted close to hardstands and removed . HTE (High Threat Exotic) Pattison's curse was noted in late Autum close to Hardstand and St Johns wort noted in Planting area. Weed Spraying is being controlled presently on the Windfarm and will be re assessed and resprayed during the summer season

Weed management- Conducted in March targeting Blackberry. Contractors are currently spraying within the windfarm footprint targeting Tussock and thistle. Plan to return in the mid summer season to target blackberry & Pattisson's curse. Weed Slashing of all The Onsite Planting areas – 8 in

Civil Maintenance - entrance drain @ Woodhouslee road and internal drain to windfarm required reconstruction and rocking have been repaired. Drains are best checked for effectiveness  $\Box$ 

New O&M Building The New O&M facility has been delivered and installed inside the Substation. This will be a shared facility with our service contractors General Electrics and Vestas. 12M X 12M warehouse was has also been built to store all consumables used for the turbines by the Service contractors

Community Engagement & Benefit Sharing

No complaints have been received in relation to Crookwell II Operations since the last CCC meeting in March 2024.

In June, the Community Enhancement Fund Committee members met to vote on who would be award Community Grants.

Negotiations between ACT Government and Global Power Generation, to redistribute unused funds for the originally planned Outdoor Cinema to the Crookwell Pool and Information Facility have now been finalised and a total of \$380,000 will be provided to the council over the next three years, to assist with the completion of the facility.

As part of the above negotiations, \$5,000 will also be provided to the Bigga Halls Cinema Project.

Crookwell 3 Wind Farm - Commissioning Project Update

Civil works: Completed in August 2023. • Cable Installation: Completed in October 2023. • WTGs Assembly: Completed in November 2023. Current Status • CER (Clean Energy Regulator) has approved the accreditation • Hot Commissioning - Three collector groups have been commissioned:  $\checkmark$  CG6 (19/08)  $\checkmark$  CG7(12/08)  $\checkmark$  CG8(11/09) • The dates for the Hold Points are:  $\checkmark$  HP0 (2WTGs) from 06/08/24 to 26/09/2024  $\checkmark$  HP1 (9WTGs) from 27/09/2024 to 04/11/2024 (approx.)  $\checkmark$  HP2 (16 WTGs) from 05/11/2024 to 20/12/2024 (approx.)

Fire season familiarisation visit with local emergency services

Next Phase • Hand Over to operation team from 20/12/2025

Community Engagement and Benefit Sharing Summary: Construction Phase

Community Engagement & Benefit Sharing Officer dedicated to the project.

New GPG Australia Website will be available in some months – All information and documentation on the project will be available in the new website

Visual Mitigation Program: 14 deeds signed and 4 in process ✓

Crookwell 3 Wind Farm – Under Commissioning Community Engagement & Benefit Sharing 15 ● Handover to GPG Australia's Operations Team: Taking place from December 2024 ✓ Outstanding Neighbour Deeds (3) and Visual Mitigation Deeds (4) Community Grant Program (voluntary agreement) ● Potential Opening Ceremony yet to be confirmed – once the Project is fully operational

Members again raised a number of points regarding transport and roadway issues. It is generally expected that GPG needs to take all steps necessary to minimise disturbance to traffic movements especially in peak times.

The chair reminded the GPG representatives that the CCC is a to be briefed regularly on matters to do with environmental performance and other relevant material at each meeting.

#### Issues identified by the community or local government representatives

The committee asked for a special presentation on the end of economic life issues faced by wind farm operators, what the legal requirements are, approval and consent specifics, how the companies budget for such an expense and examples of turbine removal in other places.

GPG agreed to prepare a major presentation for our next meeting.

## Community complaints and response to complaints

GPG to table a complaints register at future meetings as is required under the CCC guidelines. The company currently has a free call number (1800 457 181) for all community enquiries. The company website also has an enquiry form that will be used for the community complaints process.

### **General Business**

The GPG representatives advised the committee that the development team who have managed the CCC relationship will hand the CCC work over to the Operations team at the end of December. The community representatives along with the chair were very complimentary of the contributions and openness which the development team brought to the work of the CCC.

# **Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 27 March at 3PM at Crookwell.

The venue is the CWA Hall in Crookwell unless otherwise agreed and the meetings will commence at 3.00pm. The meeting schedule, venue and time may be changed subject to availability, and will be notified in advance of the scheduled event.

**Peter Gordon** 

**Independent Chair** 

**Crookwell 2 and 3 Wind Farms Community Consultative Committee** 

October 2024