



Delburn Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee Minutes Meeting #4

**Thursday 18 April 2024
MCDI Board Room, Mirboo North
6:00 - 7.30pm**

Attendees:

- Anne Forbes (Secretariat/OSMI)
- Trevor Hoare
- Chris Milne
- Wendy Farmer (online)
- Tony Wolfe
- Marty Sinemma
- Elizabeth Radcliffe (OSMI)
- Matt Curtain
- Lorraine Bull
- Michelle Slater
- Alex Godina (Cubico)
- Heather Butler

Apologies: Barry Rogers (Chair), Sam Maynard, Chris Milne

Minutes

1. Procedural Matters

Elizabeth Radcliffe: Acknowledgement of Country

Anne: Apologies and online attendees

Conflicts/perceived conflicts of interest

Actions arising from previous meeting:

- I. Redevelopment of Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR are now complete and have been emailed out to all CCC members and updated on the website.
- II. Project team to investigate questions raised by the CCC and advise at the next meeting. Answers to queries will be investigated and placed on the website and in e-News update.

Q: A resident asked about the installation of a bus stop on Smiths Rd near Strzelecki Highway.

A: We will discuss the possibility of this with the Dept of Transport. The patronage and need must first be determined and if the bus can stop along the route.

Q: A resident asked about the possibility of horses getting 'Turbine Foot', which was reported in Texas when a young horse's tendons were affected by nearby turbines.

A: This was discussed and examined during the 12-day Delburn Wind Farm Planning Panel Hearing. There was no evidence there would be any damage to horses or cattle as a result of the wind turbines. There is no proven scientific evidence of Turbine Foot.



Q: A resident asked if bike paths would be incorporated into the plantation when the wind farm is constructed?

A: The plantation is owned by HVP and they would need to grant permission for this to be constructed. A feasibility study would need to be undertaken to determine the local interest, options and costs. In 2021, the Delburn Wind Farm provided a pre-development grant for a community group to undertake a feasibility study to build a mountain bike trail. However, the community group did not go ahead with the feasibility study. This project could still be pursued at a later date.

Conflicts and perceived Conflicts of Interest

Nil.

2. Community Feedback and Questions

CCC members shared feedback and questions they received from residents:

Q. Will there be apprenticeships offered as part of the wind farm construction to assist young people?

A. There is a local economic and employment program that will ensure local contractors get as much work at the wind farm as possible. This includes a range of criteria including apprenticeships. There will also be electrical apprentice opportunities with the wind turbine manufacturer who will maintain the operations of the wind farm.

Q. There have been many comments made about the road works by VicRoads along the Strzelecki Hwy and at the corner of Creamery Road. Concerns are about the tree removal and impacts to Koala habitat. Will there be any trees replanted?

A. These works are separate to the Delburn Wind Farm works and have been planned by VicRoads for years. An update on these works is being delivered later in the meeting tonight. There is a double up of the native vegetation offset obligations for the Creamery Road site as both VicRoads and the Delburn Wind Farm had submitted planning approvals to remove some native vegetation around Creamery Road.

ACTION: Project team to investigate questions raised by the CCC and advise at the next CCC meeting. Answers to queries to be placed on the website and in e-News updates.

3. Terminal Station Panel Hearing

Our application to amend the planning permit for the Terminal Station was approved by the Minister for Planning. This is the last statutory approval required for the wind farm construction.

DWF applied for an amendment to the wording of some conditions to improve the language and interpretation and to provide certainty around the bushfire conditions. CFA supported the proposed amendments and the expert evidence from Fire Risk Consultants were accepted by the panel.

4. VicRoads works on Strzelecki Hwy

A discussion was held around the works Regional Roads Victoria are doing to construct an overtaking lane along the Strzelecki Highway and to upgrade the intersection of Creamery Road.



The works are scheduled to start in May with the overtaking lane fully operational by mid-2025.

The Regional Roads works have nothing to do with the windfarm. The Victorian Government allocated budget to do this work several years ago to improve traffic flow and provide a safe overtaking opportunity.

The majority of the wind turbine component deliveries will happen from the north of the wind farm site and will not utilize the part of the Strzelecki Highway where the overtaking lane is being constructed. The works do not benefit the wind farm project but will improve road user safety.

Further information on the Regional Roads works can be found at:
regionalroads.vic.gov.au/map/gippsland-improvements/strezelecki-highway-between-morwell-and-mirboo-north

Construction and Road Upgrades

A decision on the location of the port where the turbines and components will be delivered has not yet been determined. It could be Hastings Port or Barry's Beach Port.

Road upgrades will be undertaken along Deans Rd, Varys Track, Golden Gully Rd and Smiths Rd. The roads require adequate width, bearing capacity and slope for the delivery of large components. Safe turning movements are required for construction traffic and over-dimensional loads to deliver the blades.

A Traffic Management Plan will be prepared in conjunction with the three surrounding local Councils and the Department of Transport. This will highlight where additional traffic will be created. Road works and traffic information will be shared with surrounding communities and road users prior to and during construction works.

We are committed to keeping the community updated especially with the over-dimensional route deliveries occurring, as we want to minimise disruption and arrange deliveries at night.

5. Environmental Management Plans

Our priority is to protect flora and fauna, and how we will do this is identified in our Environment Management Plan and Flora and Fauna Management Plan.

Under the planning approval requirements, native vegetation impacts include where native trees are impacted, cleared or adjacent to a piece of land where tree root zones may be compacted or where trees need to be trimmed. The overall amount of native vegetation considered to be impacted under Victorian guidelines is 14 hectares and 54 large trees; however, not all vegetation will need to be removed as some is only impacted in the root zone or by aerial trimming. The total amount to be directly impacted or removed is approximately 6 hectares and 20 large trees. We are purchasing environmental offsets for the native vegetation and tree removals. There are Strzelecki Gum located around the project but the design has been amended to reduce impacts to them.

We will purchase native vegetation offsets and secure a piece of vegetation in perpetuity. A site for offset purchase has been identified in Boolarra and the land will be actively managed and maintained, as determined by the Victorian Government requirements.



There are sections of the project that cross waterways that require protection. The construction of a water crossing or culvert will be constructed to comply with the Growling Grass Frog guidelines.

When construction starts, some plantation areas will be cleared. If the trees are of good quality, HVP will cut them down in accordance with their standard timber harvesting process. If the trees are too small, we will cut them down, most likely mulch them and any excess spoil will be offered to the quarry operators for rehabilitation of their site.

There are no Bluegums in the plantation where the wind farm is being built. However, we will use best practice thermal camera drones prior to work commencing to identify koalas.

Flora and Fauna Management Plan

Our Bat and Avifauna Management Plan aims to mitigate and manage bird and bat strike events.

A study undertaken by Environment Heritage Partners found there is a minor risk of four bird species being impacted: The Australian Painted Snipe, the Regent Honey Eater, the Swift Parrot and the White Throated Needle Tail. The likelihood of these birds being onsite is low. There is a moderate risk of the White Striped Free-tail Bat being impacted, and a moderate likelihood of them being located onsite.

Birds and bats will be monitored over the first two years of the project. If it is found that impacts are high, then mitigation measures will be introduced. The turbines can be slowed down or turned off under certain conditions.

Road speed limits within the plantation will be in place to protect the Swamp Wallabies that reside in the plantation forest.

6. Meeting Closure:

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 20 June 2024 from 6:00-7.30pm at MCDI Co Space, 96 Ridgway, Mirboo North. Members are requested to RSVP to Anne Forbes.

Alex Godina from Cubico will present at the next CCC meeting. If you have any questions, please forward them to contactus@delburnwindfarm.com.au

Actions arising

- The Project team to investigate questions raised by the CCC and advise at the next CCC meeting. Answers to queries to be placed on the website and in e-News updates:
 - Will there be apprenticeships offered as part of the wind farm construction to assist young people?
 - There have been many comments made about the road works by VicRoads along the Strzelecki Hwy and at the corner of Creamery Road. Concerns are about the tree removal and impacts to Koala habitat. Will there be any trees replanted?

Cubico
SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS



Delburn Wind Farm - CCC Meeting #4

18 April 2024

Procedural matters

- Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners
- Apologies & online attendees
- Actions arising from previous meeting
- Conflicts/perceived conflict of interest

Community Feedback & Questions

- Questions, concerns
- Observations



Terminal Station Panel Hearing

- Terminal Station Planning Permit amendment approved
- Go ahead to start construction in the third quarter of 2024
- Thanks to those residents who participated in the amendment process
- Planning Panel Members visited site on 6 March 2024
- Panel Hearing held 14 March 2024 to listen to community submissions

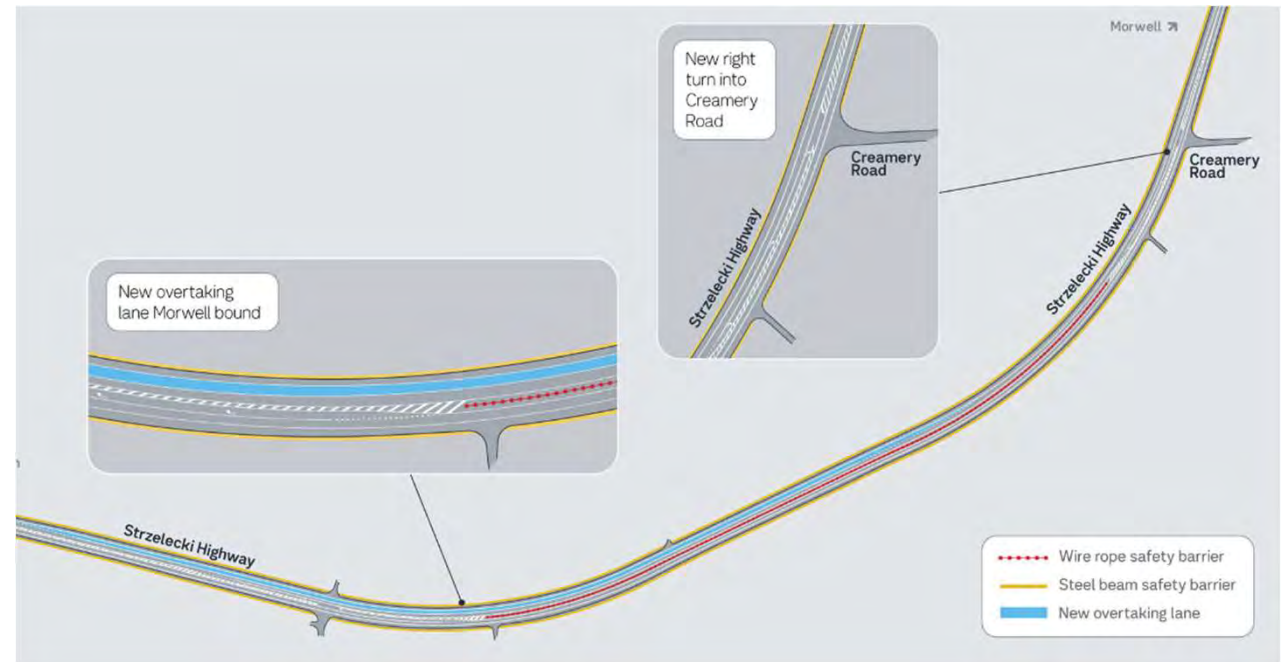


Concept of 220kV terminal station

VicRoads works on Strzelecki Highway

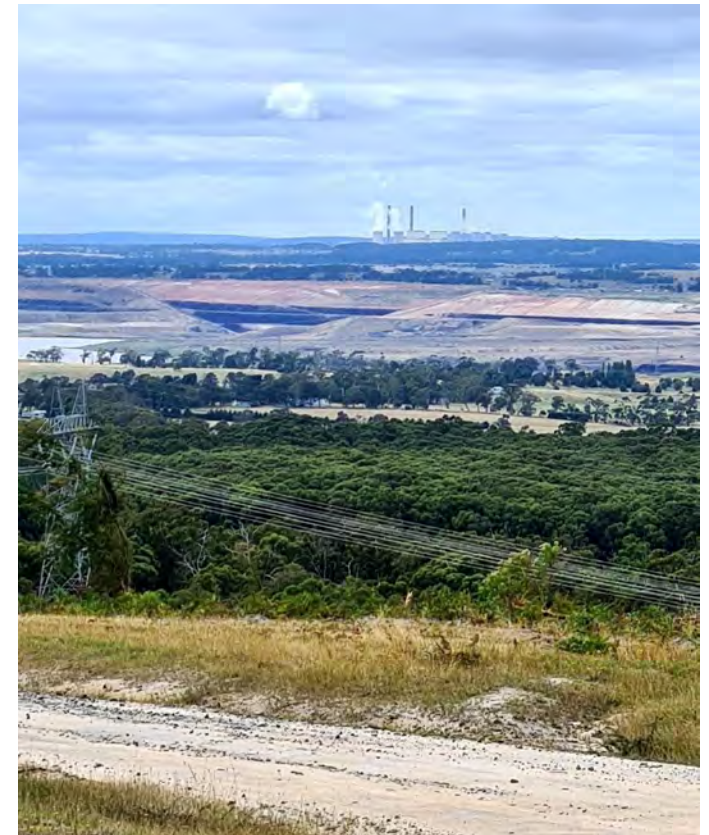


- Construction of a northbound overtaking lane on Strzelecki Highway
- Right-hand turn lane into Creamery Road
- Improving traffic safety
- DEECA Environment Act protocols
- Entirely separate from the wind farm works



Wind Farm Construction & Road Upgrades

- Road upgrades along Deans Rd, Varys Track, Golden Gully Rd & Smiths Rd
- Roads require adequate width, bearing capacity and slope for large component delivery
- Safe turning movements for construction traffic & over-dimensional loads to deliver blades
- A Traffic Management Plan will be prepared with three local Councils & Dept of Transport. Will show where additional traffic will be created
- Information shared with community & road users prior to & during works
- A detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan will be developed.



Golden Gully Road, Driffield

Environmental Management Plans

- Native vegetation impacts – 6 hectares, 20 large trees
- Environmental offsets of native vegetation and trees
- Priority to protect flora and fauna with Management Plan
- Strzelecki Koalas – no bluegums in plantation. Thermal drones identify koalas and wombats prior to work commencing
- Bat and Avifauna Management Plan to mitigate bird and bat strike events
- Minor risk of bird 4 species impacted, low likelihood
- Moderate risk of 1 bat species impacted, moderate likelihood
- Birds & bats monitored over first 2 years – if impacts high, turbines to be turned off at specific times



Strzelecki Koala

Contact Us

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