



## **Delburn Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee Minutes Meeting #9**

**Thursday 20 February 2025**

**6:00 - 7.30pm**

**Hybrid meeting - In person and online**

Attendees:

- Trevor Hoare
- Matt Curtain
- Chris Milne
- Graeme Wilson
- Lorraine Bull
- Michelle Slater
- Barry Rogers (Chair)
- Anne Forbes (Secretariat OSMI)
- Elizabeth Radcliffe (OSMI)
- Alex Godina (Cubico)

Apologies: Marty Sinemma, Ivor Awty, Heather Butler, Sam Maynard, Wendy Farmer, Tony Wolfe

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Procedural Matters**

- Barry Rogers (Chair): Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners
- Meeting minutes confirmed as true and accurate
- Governance: Invitation to go out for additional members to join the CCC to capture feedback from Thorpdale and Yinnar areas.

#### **Actions arising from the previous meeting**

Questions asked at the last meeting:

#### **How will the wind farm impact the Strzelecki Alpine BioLink?**

The objective of the Strzelecki Alpine BioLink project is to protect and enhance important wildlife corridors from the Strzelecki Ranges to the Baw Baw Alpine Ranges. Delburn Wind Farm (DWF) is part of the BioLink working group and one of the DWF Legacy Projects is being scoped with the aim of supporting the long-term sustainability of the BioLink Project.

#### **Is the project still going ahead? When will construction start and jobs become available?**

The agenda of today's meeting has been drafted to address this question.

#### **When will the Neighbour Profit Share payments commence?**

The Profit Share payments will commence when construction starts. As recommended by this committee, near neighbours will be invited to sign individual Profit Share Agreements to receive the payments.



## **Conflicts and perceived Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

## **2. Community Feedback and Questions**

CCC members shared questions and feedback from community members:

### **When will the road works for the wind farm commence along the Strzelecki Highway?**

A road work and construction timeline will be shared with the community after the lead contractor has been appointed and the works are mapped out.

### **Can farming contractors and other people still apply for employment and sub-contracting opportunities?**

Applications from locals who want to work with on the wind farm as employees or suppliers are welcome. Information on employment opportunities can be found at [delburnwindfarm.au](http://delburnwindfarm.au) or by calling 1800 676 428.

### **Who is supplying the turbines to the Delburn Wind Farm? Will they be safe after the recent blade issues seen in western Victoria?**

In recent months, there have been several blade incidents at wind farms in Victoria. WorkSafe is investigating these incidents and if required will issue guidelines and safety notices to industry at the conclusion of their investigations. DWF will take any WorkSafe recommendations into consideration as part of construction safety management.

### **What would a change in a Federal Government mean for the Delburn Wind Farm and other renewable energy projects?**

The DWF project will not be impacted by any change in government. The wind farm has already been approved by the Victorian Government. The Federal Government has no jurisdiction to amend a Planning approval that has already been granted.

### **Community members are concerned about fire risk, from additional fuel loads around the pine plantations.**

The DWF will be responsible for maintaining the fuel loads within its lease area which includes under the turbines, along new roads that are constructed or widened within the wind farm footprint and along cable routes. Fuel loads will not be increased by the wind farm's construction.

## **3. What we have been working on**

An overview on the work to prepare for construction was provided that includes detailed planning, design and reporting to meet the Planning Permit Compliance. More than 19 detailed plans and reports are being prepared. DWF project team are consulting with subject matter experts and planning authorities prior to the reports going to the Minister for Planning or Minister for Environment for endorsement.



Field surveys and geotechnical investigations are now complete. Where the turbines will be located, drilling has been conducted to a depth of 20 metres and test pits dug out. Geotechnical investigations have been undertaken along new road routes with thermal resistivity testing along the cable route to indicate how far apart the cables need to be spaced underground. This information is used to inform the basic 3-Dimensional civil design layout.

All geotechnical investigation works have been completed under the supervision of GunaiKurnai Cultural Officers as required by the approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan because it involves ground disturbance works.

Construction is an 18 month to 2-year process with approximately the first 12 months being civil works to build roads and cable routes and making sure this is in place before transportation of the towers, components and turbine blades commences. A schedule of road and construction works cannot be provided until contracts are signed by the lead contractor.

### **Fire Detection Cameras**

The Committee was given a demonstration of the fire detection camera system including viewing some footage of incidents that have been detected over the 2024/25 summer period.

The cameras operate 24hrs/day using visual detection during daylight hours and infra-red technology at night. If a fire is detected, DWF employees, CFA District duty officers and the HVP Fire Officer are alerted via text and/or email message. The camera optical zoom can be used to investigate the location and scale of the fire. Emergency services are alerted via 000, in line with all current emergency advice for fire in the state.

Examples of the benefits of this system include the sharing of an incident detection video clip with a local CFA Captain which assisted in identifying the fire location and the use of video footage by Victoria Police arson investigators to investigate several suspicious fires.

When construction of the wind farm is complete, it will include three fire detection cameras that will allow the precise location of the fires to be identified through triangulation. While they may have some secondary benefits, the cameras are not designed as an arson investigation tool – they are being installed to reduce the time it takes for a fire to be detected and to assist emergency response times.

### **Do the turbines contain fire detection and alarms?**

The turbine nacelles will include in-built fire suppression systems that detect heat and fire and activate gas suppression systems and automatic turbine shut down procedures.

### **What happens if a turbine is struck by lightning and the blade flies off, as what happened last week in Berrybank. Will the fire alarms in the nacelle be alerted?**

This incident is currently being investigated by WorkSafe Victoria. Once completed, any recommendations will be issued by WorkSafe Victoria to the industry. If there is a deficiency in the design, that will be picked up in the process. The specification for the DWF turbines includes a requirement to have lightning conductors to dissipate electricity to the ground.



### **Neighbour Profit Share**

An update on the Neighbour Profit Share was provided following the recommendation at the last meeting by CCC members that Individual Agreements be entered into as a less complex way to manage the distribution of funds.

Letters have been drafted and will be sent to the 103 near neighbours to seek their views on this recommendation once the timeframes for the commencement of construction are finalised. Based on feedback from near neighbours, DWF will make the final decision on the Neighbour Profit Share distribution approach and update the community.

### **In the Community**

An update was provided on the community grants and recipients who have now utilised their funding. The Boolarra Football Netball Club have purchased a new defibrillator for their club rooms. The Mirboo North Pony Club are using their new arena rake which is making life much easier for the volunteers. The Friends of Lyrebird Forest Walk have new tools and are using them to maintain the Lyrebird Walk and Rail Trail. Funds have been provided to Mirboo North Market Committee to hire musicians to play at the monthly market.

DWF project team members met with several Federal Candidates running for the seat of Monash. This included Mary Aldred, Liberal candidate for Monash and Deb Leonard, Independent candidate for Monash. Briefings have been offered to a number of other candidates however these are yet to be scheduled.

### **4. Next steps**

CCC members were asked if they had any topics of interest they would like covered at future meetings?

- Members requested a site tour of the wind farm area. This will be scheduled to happen before the end of daylight savings before Easter.
- Some CCC members also expressed an interest in a tour of the Bald Hills Wind Farm.

### **5. Meeting Close**

The next meeting date is To Be Confirmed as it was agreed any evening site visit would need to occur before the end of daylight savings. All CCC members will be canvassed to determine the preferred site tour date and time.

**Cubico**  
SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS



# Delburn Wind Farm - CCC Meeting #9

20 February 2025

## Procedural matters

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



# Community Feedback & Questions

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- Questions
- Concerns
- Observations
- Suggestions



## Project Update

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- Preparing for construction
  - Detailed planning & design
  - Planning Permit compliance
- Pano Camera system demo
- Neighbour Profit Share





## Next Meeting

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Tentative: Thursday 27 March 2025 @ 6pm

Delburn Wind Farm Office  
66 Ridgway Mirboo North  
or via Teams

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