

MINUTES

COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING #27

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|------|-------------|
| Chair | Ian Gibson | Time | 4 pm – 6 pm |
| Minutes | Jason Pickering | Date | 2024-07-04 |
| Location | Korumburra Community Hub, Flexispace | | |

Attendees

| CAG Members | CAG Members | Project Team | Apologies |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Ian Gibson | Peter Mooney | Dr. Erin Cumming | Marcus McKenzie |
| Ken Fraser | Glenn Stagg | Mandy Elliott | Darren McCubbin |
| Anne Roussac-Hoyne | Nicki Jennings | Paul Johnson | Deb Lucas |
| Nick Dudley | Jack Winterbottom | Jason Pickering | Jonathon Pintus |
| Allan Rogers | Harry Mitchelson | | Wendy Farmer |
| Tony Wolfe | Jenny Smith | | Travis Dillow |
| Julianne Peavey | Glen McColl | | |
| Tony Cantwell | | | |

Key discussion points

| Item | Outline |
|------|--|
| 1 | Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country |
| 2 | Standing items and actions from previous meeting |
| | Focus topic: Environmental approval update |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Status of Environmental Impact AssessmentStatus of Birds Environmental Impact Assessment |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Refer to presentation for key updates |
| | Dr. Erin Cumming, Environment & Approvals Manager (Marine) and Mandy Elliott, Environment & Approvals Manager provided an Environmental approval update for the Star of the South project. |

Questions taken on notice.

- Glenn asked what can be shared from the impact assessment modelling with potential Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) penetration intensity and what are the implications? Mandy explained there are only draft impact assessments and would take this question on notice.
- Glenn asked with specific reference to macro-avoidance, does SOTS know why the crane species in the international example avoided the entire site by flying around it? Was it noise, motion or perhaps a magnetic field that caused their deviation? Erin offered to take this question on notice.
- Tony W asked that if some species of birds are attracted to lighting, does this create an opportunity to provide additional lighting on a substation that doesn't pose a risk of bird strike to act as a deterrent away from the turbines. Erin answered she will take on notice and investigate international studies.

Action

- Ian asked if some of the international studies highlighting bird avoidance behaviour are readily available for the public and if so, could some links be shared? Erin will circulate links to share with the CAG.

4 Break

What's happening on the project

- 5 – [Refer to presentation for key updates](#)

Paul spoke of recent events and presentations delivered by the project team.

What's happening in the community

Community updates, open to all members.

- Paul shared that tickets are now on sale for the Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC), held on 3 and 4 September at the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon.
- Ken shared that South Gippsland Shire Council has collaborated with Latrobe City Council to develop the 'South Gippsland and Latrobe City Renewable Energy Impact and Readiness Study 2024'. The Study will be presented at the next South Gippsland Shire Council meeting and following this, at GNEC. The CAG was interested to hear more about the Study and Jason suggested that the Study could be a future focus topic at a CAG meeting.
- 6 – Tony W asked if there had been any collaboration with Bass Coast Shire Council, as there would be learnings to gain from the Victorian Desalination Plant project at Wonthaggi. Ken advised that Council had sought learnings from Bass Coast Shire Council.
- Nick shared that Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) has a clear directive for their small renewable energy team to upskill the community. Yarning sessions are being conducted fortnightly on the topic and this will also inform future opportunities.
- Paul and Tony W promoted the new Virtual Reality goggles that Gippsland Climate Change Network now have available at their Renewable Energy Trailer that typically visits events and schools. This technology allows children or other users to experience what it's like working on a wind turbine.

Other business

- Next meeting – Wednesday 21 August 2024
- 7 – Raised the potential for the next CAG meeting to be a site visit to Ausnet's Terminal Stations at Loy Yang and Hazelwood on 21 August 2024. Representatives from Southerly Ten's transmission team could also attend and highlight the similarities between Ausnet's terminal station and VicGrid's proposed Giffard grid connection. The proposed site visit was widely supported by the CAG. Further details will be provided on the site visit.

8 Meeting close

Actions

| No. | Action | Owner | Due |
|-----|---|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Share links international studies that highlight bird avoidance behaviour of offshore wind projects. Link to paper is here: Unique study: birds avoid wind turbine blades - Vattenfall | Dr. Erin Cumming | 2024-08-12 |
| 2 | Confirm detail for CAG site visit on 21 August to Ausnet's Terminal Stations at Loy Yang and Hazelwood. | Paul / Jason | 2024-08-12 |

Questions taken on notice

| No. | Action | Owner | Due |
|-----|---|------------------|------------|
| 1 | Can information be shared from project impact assessment modelling regarding potential Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) penetration intensity and its implications? | Mandy Elliott | 2024-08-12 |
| 2 | Can Dr Erin Cumming provide further information on macro-avoidance and the crane species provided in the international example? | Dr. Erin Cumming | 2024-08-12 |
| 3 | Could providing additional lighting on infrastructure that doesn't pose a bird collision risk offer a measurable deterrent to infrastructure that does? | Dr. Erin Cumming | 2024-08-12 |

Responses

Question 1: No modelling has been undertaken as part of the impact assessment to date. Southerly Ten is currently investigating overseas examples for how Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) has been assessed and how this may be applied to the Australian context.

Question 2: The study indicated that migrating flocks of cranes are largely able to recognise offshore wind farms and to avoid colliding with the turbines. Link to the study here:

[enoe_wsp_wpg_te001_v1.0_final_resting_migrating_20240515.pdf\(ens.dk\)](#)

Question 3: Question is noted. Unable to find an example of this alternative lighting design in practise but the offshore approvals team will forward a report to the CAG if a report is available.