

# Meeting Record

<b>Project Name</b>	Mid North Wind Farm	<b>Meeting Date</b>	11 October 2012
<b>Meeting / Subject</b>	Community Liaison Group	<b>Recorded By</b>	AP
	Meeting 6	<b>Total Pages</b>	7

<b>Facilitator:</b>	Georgina House (GH)	Aurecon
<b>Members:</b>	Cindy Nolan (CN)	Regional Development Australia
	Chris Mosey (CM)	Waterloo Landowner
	Andrew Allchurch (AA)	Gilbert Group CFS and Waterloo Landowner
	David Clarke (DC1)	Crystal Brook
	Peter Edson (PE)	Burra Regional Tourism and Business Association
	Pip Edson (PE1)	Burra Regional Art Gallery
	Garry Fieldhouse (GF)	New Member
	Sally Fieldhouse (SF)	New Member
	Trevor White (TW)	Wind Farm Liaison Officer
<b>Guests</b>	Denece Clarke (DC)	Crystal Brook
<b>Observers</b>	Trevor White (TW)	Wind Farm Liaison Officer
<b>EnergyAustralia (formerly TRUenergy)</b>	Michael Head (MH)	Project Development Manager, Business Development, OHS&E (Cathedral Rocks and Waterloo)
	Clint Purkiss (CP)	Project Development Manager
	Sarah Stent (SS)	Corporate Affairs Manager
<b>Apologies</b>	Heidi Hodge (HH)	Black Springs Resident
	Colin Endean (CE)	ACF Climate Project, Transition Action Group
	Glenn Christie (GC)	Barossa
	Yvonne Cloke (YC)	Barossa Lower North Futures Inc
	Cameron Garnsworthy (CG)	Senior Manager, Renewable Development
	Robin Schwartz (RS)	Proxy for Abby Walker-Schwartz
	Abby Walker-Schwartz (AWS)	Waterloo Resident
	John Faint (JF)	Waterloo and District Concerned Citizens Group
	James Stewart-Rattray (JS-R)	Waterloo and District Concerned Citizens Group
	Lis Jones Ingman (LJI)	Burra
<b>Minute Taker</b>	Adam Pfitzner (AP)	Aurecon

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Item	Topic	Action By
1.	<p><b>Waterloo Wind Farm Site Induction and Tour</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A site induction and tour of the Waterloo Wind Farm was conducted by EnergyAustralia prior to the commencement of the sixth CLG meeting.</li> <li>Note: This week TRUenergy officially became EnergyAustralia (EA). MH will explain more about the name change in his presentation.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies – Georgina House</b></p>	
2.1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GH welcomed members and guests to the sixth Mid North Wind Farm Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting.</li> </ul>	
2.2.	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robin Schwartz, Abby Walker-Schwartz, Colin Endean, Glenn Christie, Yvonne Cloke, Lis Jones Ingman, Heidi Hodge, James Stewart-Rattray and Cameron Garnsworthy.</li> </ul>	
2.3.	<p><b>Agenda and Housekeeping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GH outlined today's agenda and thanked EnergyAustralia for the site induction and tour.</li> </ul> <p><b>CLG Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GH informed members that John Faint has resigned from the CLG. Georgina has received a letter from John and has spoken to John to discuss his reasons and to invite him to reconsider at any time. John's main reasons relate to TRUenergy's decision to appeal Goyder Council's decision relating to the proposed Stony Gap Wind Farm Development Application and ongoing concern for community and environmental effects associated with the Waterloo Wind Farm. John indicated that the other Co-Chair of the Waterloo District Concerned Citizens Group, James Stewart-Rattray, is likely to join the CLG.</li> <li>GH invited all members to consider current membership of the CLG and look at our coverage across different areas of interest as well. This will be a topic of discussion at the December 2012 meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Q. CN - Is there a form to fill in when bringing new members into the Group? A. GH – Yes, I will provide at the December CLG Meeting.</p> <p><b>Evaluation of CLG Meetings and Planning for Future Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GH asked how members were finding the CLG meetings and suggested that the December 2012 meeting would be an appropriate time to have some further discussion and evaluation of how the CLG meetings are going, what we might want to change and what is working well that we want to keep doing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CN would like to see actions come from the community initiative suggestions made in previous meetings, something tangible, such as the initiatives suggested by Yvonne Cloke. The first year has been largely talking, in the second year would like to try to implement projects.</li> <li>SS has had discussions with Yvonne, particular interest is being considered in relation to sponsorship of the 'trade shed'. We would like to partner with the community to build community capacity.</li> <li>PE1 enjoys attending the meetings and talking to the community in Burra (which has a lot of misconception). PE1 appreciated that the effectiveness of some of the community initiatives depends on the outcome of the Stony Gap Wind Farm. Extent of interest by Burra community potentially depends on the Stony Gap Project going ahead as well.</li> <li>DC1 has found the meetings to be very educational (speakers in particular).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>All</p> <p>GH to provide additional Nomination Forms to all members at December meeting</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GH handed out a sheet with prompts such as “Stop doing ....., Start doing ....., Do less of ....., Do more of .....” and invited members to consider what they would like to see more of, less of, etc. at future meetings. <b>GH indicated that she would email / post an evaluation form out with the minutes and request all members to complete prior to the December 2012 Meeting. GH will review all comments and present to the group at the December Meeting as a basis for discussion.</b> The purpose being to assist the CLG members plan the agendas and formats of future meetings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Frequency of Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GH suggests that the number of CLG meetings could be dropped next year, from 1 every 2 months (6 per year) to 1 every 3 months (4 per year) if members agree.</li> <li>○ Consensus at the meeting seemed to believe that 1 meeting every two months was preferable to maintain momentum, especially if the Stony Gap Wind Farm does receive the go ahead at some stage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communication and Complaint Lodgement Methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Following a recent newspaper article GH raised that the appropriate methods for lodging complaints may not be clear and that EnergyAustralia have an opportunity to assist the local community understand the method for lodging complaints, comments and the like. MH will cover this in his presentation.</li> <li>● Members agreed that the best practice for lodging complaints and comments was not clear, and that a clear process is needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TW suggested that people are encouraged to lodge complaints with their local Council, but that often the developer is not made aware of the complaint. It would be good if a process of forwarding complaints on to developers was possible.</li> <li>○ It is understood that privacy clauses may be the barrier to complaints being forwarded on to developers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Thanks to Gally's for catering this meeting.</li> <li>● GH made special mention that Clint, Mel and Abby have all had babies since our last meeting and members wished them Congratulations.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Review Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GH advised that there were no actions from previous meeting minutes.</li> <li>● Members accepted the previous minutes as a true representation of the meeting.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><b>Mid-North Wind Farm Update – Michael Head</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MH thanked everyone for attending</li> <li>● MH provided an update on Waterloo and Waterloo 2 Projects.</li> <li>● CP provided an update on the Stony Gap project.</li> </ul>	
4.1.	<p><b>TRUenergy becomes EnergyAustralia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This week, TRUenergy officially became <i>EnergyAustralia</i> (EA).</li> <li>● Other than the name change, the relationship with the CLG and community won't change. We will continue to update the CLG about our projects as usual.</li> <li>● Why the name change? In March 2011, TRUenergy acquired NSW retailer, <i>EnergyAustralia</i></li> <li>● Our new brand better reflects our national portfolio as well as our intent to help our customers become more energy efficient.</li> </ul>	
4.2.	<p><b>Energy Production Figures Aug-Sep 2012, sourced from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On 5 Sept, 55% of the electricity used by SA was generated by the state's wind farms.</li> <li>● On same day, wind energy peaked at 80% with excess energy exported to Victoria.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a result of wind, emissions in SA have dropped 27.4% over last 5 years.</li> </ul>	
4.3.	<p><b>Waterloo Wind Farm Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wedge Tailed Eagles nesting near wind farm for 3rd year in a row.</li> <li>Noise Summary Reports have been provided to residents who requested additional noise monitoring.</li> <li>One OHS incident to report. Vehicle accident on public road. Reported to SAPOL. No injury to personnel.</li> <li>University of South Australia Student Tour – 60 visitors. MH impressed by the level of intelligence and the good diversity of students.</li> <li>Sponsoring Saddleworth Christmas Party 2012.</li> </ul>	
4.4.	<p><b>Waterloo Wind Farm Stage 2 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPBC Referral advice received – Non Prescriptive Action. Advice was in regard to the condition of existing vegetation and the level at which the proposal is impacting the vegetation. It was found that the proposal is not impacting on the vegetation. MH stated that an exclusion zone will be implemented to prevent people accessing the land.</li> <li>EPA SA request for clarification (Noise Impact Assessment) – EA/Marshall Day clarification delivered to EPA and Clare and Gilbert Valley Council.</li> <li>Awaiting other Government Agency responses to DA.</li> <li>Public notification potentially Nov/Dec 2012. Full DA will be uploaded to our website at this time.</li> </ul>	
4.5.	<p><b>Stony Gap Wind Farm Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Council of Goyder refused the Stony Gap Development Application (DA).</li> <li>In the opinion of EnergyAustralia, DA for Stony Gap project met all State &amp; Federal planning guidelines.</li> <li>Project will deliver economic benefits to the Mid North and deliver a cleaner energy supply to SA.</li> <li>EnergyAustralia has appealed the decision of refusal to the Environmental Resource &amp; Development Court and is working through this process.</li> <li>Process timing dependent on the success of this approach.</li> </ul>	
4.6.	<p><b>Approach to complaints handling and communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EnergyAustralia (EA) follows a structured approach to complaint handling.</li> <li>All complaints received by EA are investigated. Once the investigation is completed, we provide a response to the person/s that raised the issue.</li> <li>Easier to resolve issues if they are raised with us. Complaints made to Council are not necessarily passed on.</li> <li>Independent experts and/or statutory bodies (e.g. EPA) are asked to investigate any complaints if needed.</li> <li>Our response will include investigation results and any recommendations.</li> <li>Recommendations have seen the installation of satellite dishes to fix reception issues.</li> <li>MH stated that he will always answer a call (will return a call if in a meeting at the time of the call).</li> <li>MH gave an example of a noise complaint, which triggers EA to inform EPA (on principle, not because they have to), then a discussion with EPA on how to resolve the issue will take place. The process may take 3 months.</li> <li>MH stated that EA will not 'shy away' and that we always aim to be compliant</li> <li>Members raised the suggestion of whether the complaints process could be communicated to the local community in some way (e.g. in local newspaper).</li> <li>Members wanted to know whether there is a central phone number/email address that people could contact EA with complaints and comments, and whether a separate</li> </ul>	

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	<p>section on the website could relate to complaints and comments. MH referred to the <a href="mailto:talktous@energyaustralia.com.au">talktous@energyaustralia.com.au</a> email address.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AA – There is not enough information on the positives of what the Waterloo Wind Farm does for the immediate community.</li> <li>● Members suggested that a fact sheet could be issued to the community explaining the positives of wind farms.</li> <li>● Members discussed the opportunity that wind farm operators have to publish more information on the benefits of wind farms. The Wind Industry could release positive information into the public realm to counter some of the anti-press.</li> <li>● Members suggested that the Wind Farm operators should constantly be in discussions with the local newspapers and if someone complains about a wind farm development, the wind farm operator should be able to put in a response.</li> <li>● TW – TRUenergy (<i>EnergyAustralia</i>) are getting negative air-time on radio.</li> <li>● SS asked the members whether anyone received the TRUenergy Newsletter that were mailed out (about 3,000 copies) in the community. As well as the half-page advertisement that ran in several of the local newspapers?</li> <li>● Some members recalled the half-page advertisement but not the Newsletter that was mailed out. Members agreed that a half page advertisement every 6 months would be a useful way to communicate.</li> <li>● AA added that the negative aspects always get in the media.</li> <li>● GH suggested that <i>EnergyAustralia</i> review their current communications methods. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CM stated that he is sick of people telling him about the 'myths' associated with Wind Farms – quotes from landowners and others could be useful</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
4.7.	<p><b>Bushfire Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>EnergyAustralia</i> and the CFS work together on bushfire planning.</li> <li>● There are several myths that need to be busted.</li> <li>● <b>Myth:</b> Wind turbines considered high fire risks by CFS.</li> <li>● <b>Fact:</b> CFS involved in planning stages of Waterloo Wind Farm - direct input into the fire safety plan. Included improved access to site and automatic fire suppression system within nacelles (nacelle is the housing which covers the generation mechanism of the wind turbine).</li> <li>● <b>Myth:</b> CFS refuse to attend bushfires at wind farms.</li> <li>● <b>Fact:</b> CFS have worked with EA on 2012/13 bushfire planning and have full access to Waterloo Wind Farm. EA has provided gate, compound and building keys to enable full emergency response.</li> <li>● <b>Myth:</b> Aerial water bombing not allowed near wind farms.</li> <li>● <b>Fact:</b> CFS have no specific policy regarding aerial water bombing near wind farms.</li> <li>● <b>Myth:</b> Wind farms interfere with CFS pager systems.</li> <li>● <b>Fact:</b> No substantiated evidence.</li> <li>● MH – The CFS do not see Wind Farms as causing an increased fire risk.</li> <li>● CLG Members raised the query as to whether the CFS are required to undertake the Site Induction prior to entering the site?</li> <li>● MH – CFS could have immediate access if required. MH agreed that a site induction for CFS would be beneficial as part of 2012/2013 bushfire season planning. MH will liaise with AA and CFS generally.</li> <li>● TW added that during a fire, the aerial bomber is not the first point of call, the situation is only assessed (by the CFS) on site (at the location of the fire). There is no issue with aerial bombing (water) on Wind Farms.</li> <li>● MH stated that <i>EnergyAustralia</i> has an agreement with the CFS. In the case of a fire (or similar emergency) the Wind Turbine Generators are located a maximum distance apart (manually rotated to achieve this) and that all turbines are turned off.</li> </ul>	MH/AA

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members queried whether turning the turbines (to achieve maximum separation) will impact/affect the turbines in any way?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CP stated that the blades can be damaged, but it can be managed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● AA stated that aerial bombers (water) never fly over smoke or over a tower (be it a telecommunications tower, ElectraNet tower or wind turbine).</li> <li>● A member questioned how many lightning strikes have occurred on the Wind Farm?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CP stated that a metallic conductor is located in the tip of the turbine blades. Four (4) lightning hits have been recorded in the lifetime of the Waterloo Wind Farm.</li> <li>○ GH recommended that <i>EnergyAustralia</i> should place 'myth-buster' type information through its communication channels (website, local newspaper, etc).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
4.8.	<p><b>Other Information</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CP stated that MH attended a PVA (Population Viability Analysis) conference. The conference focused species viability.</li> <li>● MH states that a University student has approached the Waterloo Wind Farm with an expression of interest to undergo a Work Placement (as part of the student's course). MH accepted the responsibility of taking the student for his Work Placement and will provide an update of his work at the next CLG meeting.</li> </ul>	
	<b>SUPPER WAS PROVIDED DURING THE PRESENTATION</b>	
5.	<b>Other Business</b>	
5.1.	<p><b>Further discussion of potential community initiatives and opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SS advised that requests for <b>sponsorship</b> is acceptable at any time by EA. SS added that small sponsorship amounts can be approved locally, while larger amounts need to be considered by head office.</li> <li>● A member requested a copy of the sponsorship assessment process               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Following the meeting, SS recommended members visit the EnergyAustralia Webpage, <a href="http://www.energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/what-we-do/sponsorships/local-community-sponsorships">http://www.energyaustralia.com.au/about-us/what-we-do/sponsorships/local-community-sponsorships</a> for more information.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● EA is considering a <b>potential retail offer</b> for discounted electricity to the local community. TW also interested in working on this with EA. There is a direct financial benefit to land owners with a turbine on their land, but not for a land owner who is a neighbour to a turbine. A retail offer could assist to some extent.</li> </ul>	MH/TW
5.2.	<p><b>Wind Farm Planning Policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GH suggested that TW present at the next CLG meeting in regard to planning policy, providing a simple explanation of the past the present and future.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TW accepted the opportunity to speak and stated that 30 minutes would be required at the next meeting (in December) to run through the process.</li> <li>○ Members agreed this presentation would be valuable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	TW
5.3.	<p><b>Other Business and General Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GH advised that a <b>CFS</b> spokesman is unlikely to be available for a presentation at the next meeting (in December) due to other commitments (fire season) but that this topic has been covered to some extent at today's meeting.</li> <li>● GH asked whether members had any other comments or business to raise?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SS added that she encourages everyone to provide <b>feedback</b> through the evaluation form Georgina will circulate with the minutes.</li> <li>○ DC1 – in regard to the <b>price discounts</b>. We are likely to be unaffected as we have solar and our account is minimal, accordingly others with solar may see no advantage with a discounted electricity offer by EA.</li> <li>○ DC1 stated that the Yorke Peninsula Wind Farms make it difficult for <b>crop spraying</b> although appreciated that farming practices on the Yorke Peninsula differ from Waterloo in the Mid North.</li> <li>○ DC1 stated that the Victorian Wind Farms <b>organise walks/runs</b> through the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<p>Wind Farms and suggested this would be a good idea for Waterloo Wind Farm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o MH stated that the southern group of turbines at Waterloo Wind Farm stretch approximately 7- 10 kilometres, then there is a gap before the northern group of turbines starts.</li> <li>o MH added that an organised walk/run would require land owner approval.</li> <li>o GH suggested the idea of holding walks/runs could be discussed further at a future meeting, along with potential local and regional interest groups (e.g. Friends of Heysen Trail).</li> <li>o <b>GF and SF will become members of the CLG</b> given their interest in the topics under discussion. They were both welcomed to the group.</li> <li>o <b>CN will continue as a member</b> in a new capacity and will recommend that another <b>member of staff from the Yorke and Mid North RDA</b> continue to attend as well.</li> <li>o SF stated that the <b>Clare Valley Flying Group</b> is looking at building a terminal building (but the cost of the building is an issue) – are they able to put in an application for funding assistance?           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o CN stated that they can apply for a Grant through the RDA (which is a 50% grant).</li> <li>o GH suggested that CN discuss this further with SF.</li> </ul> </li> <li>o CM stated that he likes the idea relating to “<b>myth-busting</b>”</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Topics for the next meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Evaluation of CLG Meetings and Planning for 2013 CLG Meetings</li> <li>● Overview of Wind Farm Planning Policy by Trevor White</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Questions and Answers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noted throughout the meeting minutes</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Next Meeting and Close</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GH thanked all for their attendance</li> <li>● Minutes of this meeting will be distributed to all to review (allow 2 weeks to receive members comments) and once finalised minutes will be placed on the EnergyAustralia Website</li> <li>● Next CLG Meeting – Thursday 6 December, 2012 – 4.30pm to 6.30pm at Gally's, and will include a Christmas Supper</li> <li>● Meeting Closed</li> </ul>	

**Attachments include:**

- Agenda for CLG Meeting #7.
- CLG Member Feedback Form (due back to Georgina House by Friday 16 November 2012)

**Georgina House Contact Details:**

[Georgina.house@arecongroup.com](mailto:Georgina.house@arecongroup.com) Ph: 08 8237 9600. Mobile: 0414 454 105. Fax: 08 8237 9778.

Postal Address: Georgina House, Aurecon, 55 Grenfell Street, Adelaide SA 5000.