

**THUNDERBOLT ENERGY HUB WIND FARM**  
**COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING 8**

**MONDAY 30 JULY 2024**  
**5:00PM – 6:30PM**

**LOCATION**  
**Uralla Church Hall -29 Maitland Street Uralla**

Chair:	Dr W.E.J. Paradise AM
Members	
Community:	James Croft; Chris Page; Phillip Roberts
Councils:	Clr Eric Noakes; Clr Sarah Burrows; Emily Sims Uralla Council – by invitation
Neoen:	Aaron Gutteridge
Guest Speaker:	
Minute taker:	Aaron Gutteridge

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Time</b>
1 Welcome and Introductions	Chair	5 min
2 Apologies	Chair	1 min
3 Declaration of pecuniary interest	Chair	1 min
4 Minutes of the previous meeting	Chair	5 min
5 Business Arising	Neoen	30min
6 Project Update	Neoen	15 min
7 Questions and clarification	Chair	10 min
8 Issues for future meetings	Chair	10 min
9 General business – Updated CCC guidelines	Chair	10 min
10 Next meeting(s)	Chair	3 min
11 Meeting close	Chair	

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1 Welcome and Introductions	Chair

The Chair welcomed all Committee members and Aaron Gutteridge (Project Manager) from Neoen.

2 Apologies	Chair
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Wayne Ames, Sam Lobsey and Angus Carter were apologies. Anne-marie is not attending and can join as a community member through appropriate CCC guidance.

3	Declaration of pecuniary interest	Chair
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The Chair made it clear to the committee that he is an independent chair appointed by the NSW Department of Planning, but the proponent pays expenses related to the role.

4	Minutes of the previous meeting	Chair
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The Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated and declared final via email as discussed at the first meeting.

5	Business arising	Neoen
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The previous meeting actions we're circulated and discussed with the committee.

6	Project Update	Neoen
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**Neoen provided a project update on planning:**

- Project overview, including the size, location, connection and infrastructure that was approved in the planning committee.
- Update on the planning process and the result of the independent planning committee.
- Discussion on the result of the public meeting, and how it was interpreted by the local community.
- Discussion on the next steps for the project. Neoen went into detail on the works needed for construction to commence and secondary approvals that are needed prior to commencement of work.
- Discussion on the jobseeker opportunities for local industry. Neoen will host a jobseeker day with the selected contractor to establish locals jobs/workforce in the area.

7	Questions and clarification	Chair
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Several topics were discussed by the committee with a range of actions resulting from the open discussion:

1. USC mentioned the impact of local mobile coverage for the project area. **Action:** Neoen to provide the mitigation measures for any impacted EMI services/links, and to share the DNV report on EMI on the project area. Focus was mainly on the northern area of the project where reception is poor/limited.
2. **Action:** Chair to send Muswellbrook VPA initiatives to USC to review.
3. **Action:** Neoen to share previous project community initiatives to the CCC as examples that could be used for the local residents for Thunderbolt.
4. USC and Walcha Council mentioned the CBF values for the project are low. **Action:** Neoen to share \$/MW of benefit sharing to the community and compare to the new draft community guidelines for wind energy.
5. Walcha provided commentary on the sale of power with EnergyCo. The purpose being to facilitate power to large businesses.
6. Barotrauma for birds and bats we're raised as a concern from USC, and that there is active mitigation measures used already in the industry to reduce bird strike. Neoen raised that the Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan accounts for this, but those mitigation measures are not used immediately and is a risk-based assessment. **Action:** Neoen to share mitigation measures and the prescribed impact for birds and bats on the project.
7. The committee highlighted their concerns of the construction project using local roads. Neoen confirmed that the traffic impact is only associated with the New England Highway, and deviation of that will have to be approved by the Planning Secretary. **Action:** Neoen to provide both councils some potential quarry suppliers for the project. Neoen is to notify both Councils on when more information on this topic is available.

- a. The committee also mentioned the use of dredging the sand run-off from Uralla river as an option for fill material.
- 8. It was unclear to the committee what was reportable/auditable for the construction and operation of the Wind Farm. Both in terms of compliance and ecological surveys, and if they will be publicly available. **Action:** Neoen to provide all auditing reports to the committee as per the DA Conditions.
- 9. Topic of biodiversity offsets was raised. Neoen told the committee that we're planning to use local stewardship sites for most of the offset requirements (~90%) for the project. **Action:** USC to provide contact details for possible Carex Sedgeland TEC off market credit supplier.
- 10. Neoen raised the topic of the local shopfront, and USC mentioned using the local co-op for furnishing the shop with second hand goods. USC provided the contact information for the community member running the co-op.
- 11. Neoen raised the topic that they are actively looking for a CLO role for Thunderbolt Wind Farm.

8	Issues for future meetings	Chair
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There was some discussion regarding when the next meeting should be. It was agreed that it should be in the next 4-6 months, depending on when the IPC is held. Agenda items can be emailed to the Chair.

9	General Business	Chair
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The chair discussed governance, TOR and administrative requirements of the CCC.

10	Next Meeting (s)	Chair
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A meeting date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> October was scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> CCC meeting. The discussion of frequency of meetings determined that quarterly is suitable for now, and likely to be yearly once construction is finished.

11	Meeting close	7:10pm
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**ACTIONS:**

- 1. Neoen to provide the mitigation measures for any impacted EMI services/links, and to share the DNV report on EMI on the project area.
- 2. Chair to send Muswellbrook VPA initiatives to USC to review.
- 3. Neoen to share previous project community initiatives to the CCC as examples that could be used for the local residents for Thunderbolt.
- 4. Neoen to share \$/MW of benefit sharing to the community and compare to the new draft community guidelines for wind energy.
- 5. Neoen to share mitigation measures and the prescribed impact for birds and bats on the project.
- 6. Neoen to provide both councils some potential quarry suppliers for the project. Neoen is to notify both Councils on when more information on this topic is available.
- 7. Neoen to provide all auditing reports to the committee as per the DA Conditions.
- 8. USC to provide contact details for possible Carex Sedgeland TEC off market credit supplier.