



SEC Delburn Wind Farm CCC Meeting Minutes

Thursday 26 March 2026 (5.30M) - Via Teams

Attendees

Ivor Awty	Barry Rogers (Chair)
Trevor Hoare	Lane Crockett (SEC)
Sam Maynard	Dale Wiessner (SEC)
Peter McCarthy	David Moo (SEC)
Matt Curtain	Lisa Nicholls (SEC)
Wendy Farmer	Anne Forbes (OSMI & Secretariat)
Graeme Wilson	Elizabeth Radcliffe (OSMI)

Apologies: Michelle Slater, Karen Pedretti, Marty Sinemma, Chris Milne, Lorraine Bull, Tony Wolfe, Melita Ludekins.

Minutes

1. Procedural Matters & Governance

- Chair Barry Rogers acknowledged the Traditional Owners
- Actions arising from previous meeting: Invitation sent to CCC members for a site tour of the Bald Hills Wind Farm
- Previous meeting minutes: Confirmed as true and correct
- Conflicts/perceived conflicts of interest: Barry Rogers reminded the group he is a Board Member of the Gippsland Community Foundation. Nil other conflicts reported
- David Moo introduced Dale Wiessner, SEC Project Director

Dale Weissner has worked for the last 16 years in wind farm construction and management on several projects in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and SA. He has been employed by turbine manufacturers, contractors and wind farm owners. Dale has experience working on major projects and construction roles and is a qualified civil engineer.

2. Community Feedback and Questions

CCC members shared community feedback, concerns and queries on behalf of the community.

Q. What happens when the wind turbines are struck by lightning?

A. Each turbine will be equipped with a lightning protection system. This creates a safe, conductive path for lightning to travel from the tip of the blade to the nacelle, down the tower and into the ground. The lightning protection unit reduces bushfire risk and any damage to the infrastructure. They also have built-in fire suppression systems in the nacelle to extinguish fire.



Q. How does the power get from the section where the lightning strikes down into the earth when it goes through the bearings?

A. The turbines have conductor rods that run through the tip to the end of the blade. They have systems to conduct the energy through the hub with a continuous transfer all the way to the ground.

When they're building the large concrete foundations, earthing rods and an earthing system are attached to the reinforcing within the foundation. The conductor rods transfer the electrical energy down into the ground. Earthing tests are performed to confirm they work prior to the concrete foundation being poured.

Q. Are there opportunities for other community members to join the Community Consultative Committee?

A: Delburn Wind Farm had an open invitation for community members to join the CCC. This was advertised regularly across many communications channels including the eNews, website, media releases and social media. Residents living in Yinnar and Thorpdale were encouraged to join and provide perspectives and feedback from their communities. This open invitation continues with the SEC acquisition.

Q: Is data from the AI fire cameras sent overseas?

A: Data from the AI camera is stored in the cloud. The AI fire camera data management adheres to the high security and compliance standards required for government and utility infrastructure.

Q. Has there been any thoughts on painting one of the turbine blades black? Apparently, there's research that suggests this reduces bird strikes.

A. Painting a turbine black to deter birds is more effective in slightly smaller turbines than what will be installed on this project. The planning approval requires that the wind turbines for this project must be a grey colour.

An ecologist's assessment determined the risk of bird strike at the wind farm was low. The turbine blades will be 85 metres above the ground at their lowest point, meaning only bird species that fly higher than 85 m have the potential of being impacted.

Q. How will Wedge Tailed Eagles and Black Yellowtail Cockatoos be impacted?

A. Generally, eagles tend to fly over cleared land and not go into plantations looking for food. We will investigate the impact on the Yellowtail Black Cockatoos and follow up on this at the next meeting.

Q. A CCC Member inquired about a petition they saw at the Thorpdale Bakery claiming the SEC purchase of the wind farm was a bailout for the developer.

Another CCC member advised the Strzelecki Community Alliance is trying to get 2000 signatures to have this matter raised in question time in Parliament. They are asking why the government is investing \$700 million dollars on a project that was originally quoted at \$400 million.

A: Lane Crockett said the SEC was in a unique situation to bring the project to market as a retailer of energy to the Victorian government. He explained there is a market to effectively sell energy and write a revenue contract for the wind farm. This project is forecast to earn a



return which is beyond the minimum rate which has been set by the SEC independent board. The SEC is very comfortable that the project is a good investment for the state.

Q. Several people have asked if the SEC will consider purchasing the Identiflight technology that detects sensitive birds and avoids collisions with wind turbines?

The ecologist's assessment was that the risk of bird strike was low and it was not a requirement of the planning permit to get Identiflight installed. SEC is happy to look further into this technology and report back on this in the next meeting.

3. Meet the Contractor Sessions – Lisa Nicholls, Community Engagement Manager SEC

SEC held a number of Meet the Contractor sessions in Yinnar, Boolarra, Morwell and Leongatha a couple of weeks ago. The sessions were specifically targeted to reach community including neighbours of the project, people with a general interest in the project and people wanting jobs. Industry briefing sessions were targeted for businesses in the region around supply chain opportunities and procurement on the project. The majority of attendees were really interested in jobs and supply chain opportunities and there was a big turn out from project neighbours. In total, over 200 individuals attended the sessions. It was good to be able to share information with the near neighbours living within two kilometres of the wind farm.

Questions were asked about the SECs ownership of the project, the role of OSMI and other delivery partners. There was a lot of interest in construction and operations and what the project will do in terms of fire mitigation with the perceived fire risk. Questions were also asked about the impacts of birds and noise.

It was interesting that suppliers currently maintaining turbine equipment at the coal-fired power station were looking to pivot to renewables. They wanted to understand what future scope there is to support renewables down the track, particularly wind turbine generators. It was heartening to see the level of positivity and excitement and curiosity about the project.

4. Project Update – Elizabeth Radcliffe, OSMI Executive Director Operations and Compliance

Twenty people have been working on the site at the corner of Smiths Rd and Strzelecki Highway, where the construction compound will be established.

The five 130,000 litre concrete fire water tanks have been poured and are being commissioned and filled with water for wind farm and emergency service use. This is a requirement before full mobilization and commencement of construction. The water tanks have standard CFA couplings and are located where CFA tankers or other emergency response appliances can refill for fire suppression activities.

The larger construction team will start on site from Monday next week and commence full induction with safety and bio security checks on plant and machinery prior to use. The main work will be to build the construction compound on the corner of Smiths Road.

HVP continue to harvest the plantation and footprint of the wind farm to collect timber that is of commercial value. Timber from the juvenile pine trees and residue from the commercially harvested pine will be mulched on site and mixed in with the soil to reduce fire risk and used for sediment control across the site.



Fire crews with suppression units are working with contractors on site and are very focused on providing coverage for any high-risk activities that may be undertaken.

After Easter, people will start to see the level of activity increasing across the plantation.

Q: What protections are there for any fauna such as echidnas and wombats that happen to be in the way of the bulldozers?

There are a range of fauna controls for timber harvesting that HVP follows. If native vegetation is cleared, which is where wildlife are more likely to be located, their fauna protocols are followed to assess and detect the presence of wildlife. This includes the use of thermal drones to check for wildlife in the canopies of native trees that need to be removed. In relation to earthworks, the noise and activities associated with construction activity tend to alert the fauna and they move on.

Meeting Close

The next meeting will be held in person at 5.30PM Thursday 30 April 2026. The address is the SEC Morwell Hub at 248 Commercial Road Morwell.