

SEC Delburn Wind Farm CCC Meeting Minutes

Thursday 30 April 2026 (6PM) – SEC Hub Morwell

Attendees

Marty Sinemma
Trevor Hoare
Lorraine Bull
Wendy Farmer
Matt Curtain
Ivor Awty
Chris Milne
Tony Wolfe
Peter McCarthy

Michelle Slater
Barry Rogers (Chair)
Anne Forbes (OSMI & Secretariat)
Dale Wiessner (SEC)
Lisa Nicholls (SEC)
David Moo (SEC)
Oscar Machen (SEC)
Vincent Qiao (SEC)

Apologies: Sam Maynard, Karen Pedretti, Melita Ludekins, Graeme Wilson, Elizabeth Radcliffe.

Minutes

1. Procedural Matters & Governance

- Chair Barry Rogers Acknowledged the Traditional Owners
- Introductions
- Actions from previous meeting: SEC to investigate the impact on yellow-tail black cockatoos, IdentiFlight technology, and how bats will be affected by wind turbines. This will be answered in the Bat and Avifauna Management Plan section
- Conflicts of interest – nil to report

2. Community Feedback and Questions

The CCC members shared community feedback, concerns and queries on behalf of the community and themselves:

- One CCC member attended a land care talk focused on microbat species where they said there are 7 different species of microbats in the region. The Delburn Wind Farm wasn't specifically mentioned at the land care talk. This prompted previous questions about the bats and was noted bats would be discussed in the section on the Bat and Avifauna Management Plan.
- A member attended a two-day conference called Union Town that discussed transition. Delburn was mentioned a couple of times in the context of looking at what's coming and potential jobs.
- One member said they believe some people are unhappy about the wind farm as they had noticed signage in Narracan and in Budgeriee.



- A CCC member commented on a recent Latrobe Valley Express article that criticized the Victorian Government's commitment to renewable energy and Minister Lily D'Ambrosio. The member felt it was negative for the local paper to present this to the community that is undergoing transition and will rely on renewable energy.
- A member referenced a survey published in The Age on attitudes towards renewable energy in regional areas. The findings highlighted most residents believed fewer than half of their neighbors supported renewables – comparatively, 60-65% of regional Victorians support renewable energy. Western Victoria returned a higher support figure than the regional average.
- A discussion was held on the number of batteries proposed around Hazelwood Switchyard. Some residents are now using electricity price apps such as Amber to observe daytime wholesale power prices compared to evening prices.
- A website called Gippsland New Energy has a map of all potential renewable energy projects in Gippsland.

Q. Are there going to be extra batteries installed when the wind farm comes online to make up for the shortfall when the coal power stations close?

A. The SEC Delburn Wind Farm team confirmed that a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) was not approved in the planning permit and won't be built as part of this project.

The increase in proposed BESS projects however was noted as being significant in the Latrobe Valley more broadly, and other parts of the state.

3. Construction Update – Dale Wiessner SEC

The main compound facility is under active construction at the corner of Smith's Road and the Strzelecki Highway. Key activities that have been completed or are underway include:

- Pine trees being felled and stumps removed
- Mulched material blended into topsoil to render it as non-combustible which is a fire mitigation measure
- Numerous rock deliveries from the Jeeralang Quarry, which supplies a type of rock required for compound surfaces and pavement layers. The quarry located at the end of Smiths Road will provide materials for other parts of the project.
- A temporary compound has been established on the left side of Smiths Road. The larger, permanent Operations and Maintenance facility will be built on the right side of Smiths Road, where the bulk of the earthworks are currently occurring
- Five 130,000 litre fire tanks have been constructed onsite

Dale explained the mulching process is to use a large purpose-built machine that grinds stumps and organic material and then blends it into the soil until it becomes non-combustible.



Construction working hours were highlighted, from Monday to Friday 7am – 6pm, and Saturday 7am – 1pm. An extension beyond these hours must be for safety rules or for specific critical works.

Access road upgrade works have commenced on Golden Gully Road Driffield through the HVP forestry area. The road is closed between Varys Track and McDonalds Tack for approximately six months, with detours in place.

Key compliance activities occurring onsite were outlined:

- Fire risk management
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan requirements
- Safety compliance

The next steps for construction include:

- Turbine site excavation and construction of large underground reinforced concrete foundations
- A crane hardstand adjoining the foundation
- Support areas for auxiliary cranes, boom assembly and component storage

The current phase includes establishing subgrade levels across a large area before road platforms are built up. Cable route clearing and mulching will also be required as well as turbine pad and road preparation.

4. Trainees/Cadets Anne Forbes

Approximately 55 people are currently working on site, including ten local trainees/cadets. The roles of the trainees/cadets include:

- OSMI – 1 Trainee (Project Management)
- Delta has 3 cadets and 3 trainees working on the project. Two are engineering cadets, there are two business cadets, an accounting cadet and one bookkeeper.
- Dakota – 2 Trainees (Plant Operators)
- Vestas – 1 trainee (OHS)

5. Bat and Avifauna Management Plan (BAMP) - Dale Wiessner SEC & Anne Forbes OSMI

An overview of the Bat and Avifauna Management Plan (BAMP) was provided. As part of the planning permit conditions, all flora and fauna impacts must be assessed. The BAMP outlines the bird and bat species present in the project area and any potential impact on the species.

The plan includes potential collision risks in the rotor swept area of the turbine blades, as well as establishing a mortality monitoring program, where record keeping of carcasses is required for the first couple of years when the turbines become operational.

Highly trained dogs locate bird and bat carcasses via smell. There are different records that need to be kept for certain bird species, such as species that are significant or protected. Mortalities of conservation listed species must be reported to DEECA within 7 days. If it's found that these impacts continue over time, then DEECA will go back to the wind farm

owner to determine changes that can be implemented, such as mitigating impacts on bat and bird species through migration periods.

SEC provided an overview of impacts to the Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos, advising they are a significant species due to community interest, but are a non-threatened species. As a result of bird surveys undertaken in 2018-2019, Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos were recorded as 1.1% of birds observed flying in the rotor swept area. Two species were recorded to fly within the rotor swept area with frequency – Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos and Wedge-Tailed Eagles. Over 90% of bird observations occurred outside the rotor-swept area.

CCC members discussed how Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos are very wary, noting they are highly sensitive to unfamiliar noises and structures. Members commented the combination of low frequency in the rotor swept area and the birds' natural wariness suggested the risk is low.

Anne spoke on the impact on bats, outlining that five bat species were recorded in the surveys from 2018-2019. Among these 5, the White Striped Freetail Bat is the most likely to be impacted, as it has been observed flying above forest canopies at heights of 50m and above. It has a higher likelihood of flying into the rotor swept area. Monthly reports of bat strike mortality of any species are required under planning permit conditions.

CCC members discussed the effectiveness of carcass detection and whether video surveillance might help with ground searches. It was noted the pine tree cover would limit the camera effectiveness. SEC confirmed the monitoring protocols as outlined in the BAMP (such as the detector dogs, onsite personnel and survey windows) is what is required.

A CCC member noted that because turbines operate 24/7, including nighttime, interaction with nocturnal bats should be considered. Another member queried whether turbine lighting would attract insects and in turn attract bats closer to the blades. SEC confirmed there will be no external lighting on the turbines. Another member noted that vibration monitoring might be an efficient way for detecting blade strikes. This observation was noted.

6. IdentiFlight Technology – Dale Wiessner & Vincent Qiao

A discussion was held regarding IdentiFlight technology. This is a system that can be deployed on turbines to identify specific bird species in real time, which deactivates/curtails the turbines to avoid impacting the bird.

IdentiFlight technology was not a requirement under the planning permit conditions or the BAMP. It is known to be ineffective over forested areas and has never been deployed on a Vestas turbine in Australia. It was outlined as a cost-prohibitive system and would be a phenomenal/significant investment in a system that would not be effective in the context of the Delburn Wind Farm.

7. Balds Hills Tour

- CCC members were reminded of the Bald Hills Wind Farm tour on Sunday 3 May 2026.



8. Next CCC meeting

- Thursday 11 June, 5:30pm Microsoft Teams
- CCC agreed that a two month gap was appropriate given the detail of information at this meeting

9. Summary of actions

- Locate the survey on community attitude to renewables (CCC member)
- Follow up with ABC Gippsland Radio regarding cement usage information (SEC)
- Clarify survey schedule and methodology for BAMP (SEC)