



SEC Delburn Wind Farm CCC Meeting Minutes

Thursday 11 June 2026 (5.30M) - Via Teams

Attendees

Chris Milne
Trevor Hoare
Lorraine Bull
Peter McCarthy
Matt Curtain

Graeme Wilson
Michelle Slater
Barry Rogers (Chair)
Dale Wiessner (SEC)
David Moo (SEC)

Lisa Nicholls (SEC)
Elizabeth Radcliffe (OSMI)
Thomas Williams (OSMI)

Apologies: Melita Ludekins, Anne Forbes, Vincent Qiao.

Minutes

1. Procedural Matters & Governance

- Chair Barry Rogers acknowledged the Traditional Owners.
- The Chair called for declarations of conflict of interest. No conflicts were declared by any attendees.
- Actions arising from previous meeting:

Action 1: Community Attitude to Renewables Survey

Anne Forbes previously distributed a news article on 'Community attitudes to renewables survey' to CCC members via email.

This Action was noted as complete and closed.

Action 2: Concrete/Cement Usage Clarification

Dale Weissner provided an update following a query about cement usage in wind farms as reported by ABC Gippsland Radio:

The design of the turbine foundations is well advanced. Anticipated concrete volume is approximately 860 cubic metres per foundation. Dale noted cement is commonly named when people are referring to concrete, as cement is a component of concrete.

This Action was noted as complete and closed.

Action 3: Bird and Avifauna Management Plan: Survey Schedule and Methodology

Dale provided a summary of the Mortality Monitoring Program as outlined in the Bird and Avifauna Management Plan:

- The Mortality Monitoring Program is a two-year post-commissioning program designed to quantify bird and bat mortality at operational turbines.
- Monitoring will occur monthly at 11 representative turbines (approximately 30% of the wind farm).

- Carcass searches will be conducted primarily within a 60-metre radius of turbines and up to 120 metres where required.
- Each survey includes a primary search, followed by a secondary pulse search to reduce error.
- Standardised survey methods include human searches and where appropriate detection dogs. There are detailed recording, handling, storage and reporting protocols.
- The program is supported by calibration trials, including a pre-operation plantation impact trial to assess vegetation effects on detectability (e.g., the impact of scavenging by foxes or dogs) and detectability trials concurrent with searches using GPS-tagged or surrogate carcasses across size classes.
- Data will be analysed to estimate mortality rates, the species affected and seasonal variation, with reporting to regulators including the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

No further questions were raised on this item and the Action was closed.

2. Community Feedback and Questions

CCC members reported feedback from local community members since the last meeting:

- One CCC member said the majority of questions they received were about when the wind farm would be completed, along with some interest in job opportunities.
- One member said community members who had seen the site depot but were unaware that turbines would be constructed or what the project involved. They had not visited the project website.
- A CCC member said there had been a significant number of inquiries from local businesses and potential contractors about when packages would be released and if contracts would genuinely be awarded to locals (rather than to Melbourne-based firms). The member estimated he had received a dozen inquiries.

Lisa advised that Delta, the Balance of Plant civil and electrical contractor, had confirmed that approximately 90% of their current on-site workforce are local employees. They recently awarded sub-contracts to a number of local companies, covering environmental monitoring and reporting, weed management, fencing and miscellaneous works. These works are scheduled to commence mid-June 2026.

- One member knew of an apprentice electrician who was waiting to hear back from Delta regarding a potential position. Lisa will request Delta maintain communication with applicants, even where roles are not yet confirmed.
- Another member noted some local businesses had expressed interest in tendering but had not been invited to submit bids, nor had they seen relevant packages advertised. Lisa will follow this up and connect with the CCC member to clarify the procurement process.



- One member reported general enthusiasm from community members who had noticed early site activity and were looking forward to seeing major construction milestones — particularly the arrival of large equipment and turbine components.

3. Project Update – Dale Wiessner, SEC Project Director Delburn Wind Farm

Dale provided an update on the construction works happening on the wind farm site.

Site Compound Construction

- Construction of the main site compound is nearing completion.
- Site offices have been installed, and electrical and plumbing works are nearly complete.
- A large undercover area has been assembled, which will be used for daily pre-start worker safety briefings.
- The project team will relocate from the temporary caravan accommodation (currently visible from the Strzelecki Highway) to the permanent compound in the coming week.
- CCC Members were asked to avoid visiting the site compound unless formally invited. A site visit for CCC members is being planned for the near future.

Footprint Clearing and Pine Timber Harvesting

- HVP Plantations is nearing completion of the bulk harvesting of merchantable pine timber within the wind farm footprint.
- Clearing of native timber is continuing within the designated civil areas.
- Mulching is ongoing, predominantly in Civil Area 3 near turbines D7-D13.

Civil Works and Earthworks

- Bulk earthworks for access roads, crane hard stands and turbine foundations are underway primarily in Civil Area 2 near turbines D1-D7.
- Civil Area 1 (the substation area) has been cleared. AusNet is currently undertaking geotechnical investigations at the terminal station location, situated to the north of the wind farm substation.
- Surveying is ongoing in Civil Area 4, south of the temporary construction compound.
- Overhead transmission towers are visible to the north of the substation; the project will connect to the existing transmission line at this point.

Questions and Discussion — Construction Update

Q. What happens to the material excavated during earthworks?

A. Dale advised the target is a balanced cut-and-fill approach. Excavated material is used to fill lower areas on site, with the objective of not having to remove any material off-site. Topsoil is stockpiled for reuse in site rehabilitation. Any surplus topsoil will be made available to HVP under a separate agreement. It has been observed an average topsoil depth of approximately 280 millimetres across the site so far.

Q. What is the destination of the native timber from trees cleared on site?

A. Liz advised the project team is engaging with local sawmills for logs of sawlog quality to ensure the timber is milled and put to local community use. Smaller timber that is not suitable for milling is being made available as firewood for community use, with a similar



process to what followed after the 2024 storms in Mirboo North. Organisation and logistics of the wood milling is still in progress.

Q. What was the reference to predatory animals (foxes, dogs) raised during the bird and avifauna update?

A. Dale clarified this related to calibration surveys, specifically pre-operation plantation impact trials, which are designed to assess how scavenging animals may affect the detectability of bird or bat carcasses during mortality monitoring searches.

Q. Has the Cultural Heritage team made any findings during site works?

A. Liz advised regular reports are received regarding artefacts found along a number of cable route alignments and that some quite significant material has been uncovered. As these findings are matters for the Gunaikurnai people, and not the project teams to share. However, the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Corporation intends to use the findings to tell stories about the historical use of the country through interpretive displays at the visitor information area.

4. Off-Site Landscape Screening Programme

The CCC received a presentation on the Off-Site Landscape Screening Programme.

Background and Purpose

The Off-Site Landscape Screening Programme is a requirement of the SEC Delburn Wind Farm planning permit. Its purpose is to mitigate the visual impact of the wind farm for eligible dwellings situated within six kilometres of the wind farm.

A qualified landscape architect will be available to work with eligible property owners to design and install trees and vegetation to filter the views of the turbines. The goal is once established, the plantings will screen turbines from the sensitive areas of the dwelling.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the landscape screening programme, a dwelling must meet all of the following criteria:

- The dwelling must be located within six kilometres of a wind turbine.
- A turbine is visible from a sensitive area of the dwelling such as lounge rooms, kitchens, bedrooms and outdoor entertainment or dining areas.
- The dwelling must have existed on or before 31 October 2025, the date the landscape screening plan was endorsed.

Some residential zone dwellings (generally in the townships of Boolarra and Yinnar) are also eligible, however property owners only have the option to receive a flat one-off payment of \$500 in lieu of physical landscape works, provided the other eligibility criteria is met.

Programme Options

Eligible rural dwelling owners have two options:

- Accept a one-off cash payment to carry out their own landscape screening works; or
- Have the SEC Delburn Wind Farm project team arrange a landscape architect to install the planting on their behalf.



Assessment and Notification Process

The programme will proceed through a staged assessment process:

- Step 1 — Viewshed Analysis: A computational analysis determines the theoretical zone around the wind farm where turbines could be visible, based purely on topography. This does not account for existing vegetation or structures.
- Step 2 — Desktop Assessment: Where the viewshed analysis indicates a dwelling may have turbine views, a desktop assessment is conducted to assess whether existing vegetation or structures already screen the turbines.
- Step 3 — Letters of Offer or Visual Assessment Request: Dwellings assessed as clearly having turbine views will receive a Letter of Offer to participate in the programme. Where a desktop assessment is inconclusive, the project team will write to the resident requesting permission to attend the property and conduct a site visual assessment.
- Letters of Ineligibility: Dwellings determined not to have a view of the turbines will receive written notification. If a resident believes an error has been made once the turbines have been constructed, they can submit a photo to the project team for review.

The programme will be delivered concurrently with construction and will be available up until one year after construction is complete. The project team will correspond with property owners within 6kms of the wind farm over the next few months.

Questions and Discussion — Landscape Screening

Q. Will the programme cover situations where a turbine within six kilometres is visible but other turbines beyond six kms are visible from the same property?

A. If the eligibility criteria is met, and a turbine is visible within six kilometres, the landscape screening will be designed to mask that turbine along with any others that are visible from the property.

Q. Will there be flexibility around plant species — can residents request particular species or is there a fixed planting list?

A. Native plants are preferred but not mandatory. Residents can discuss species preferences with the landscape architect. Plants classified as declared weeds cannot be used. The landscape architect will tailor planting plans to the individual property.

Q. Could the project face liability if a tree planted under the programme were to later fall and damage a neighbouring property?

A. This question was taken on notice, and the project team will investigate the answer. The landscape architect's plans involve a formal sign-off process and site-specific factors including existing surroundings and this is taken into consideration during the planning stage.

Q. Maintenance Responsibility After Two Years

A. If plantings die or fail after the two-year maintenance period, will the SEC Delburn Wind Farm project have any obligation to replace them?



A. The project team will maintain and care for the plants for the first two years, in the period where plants are expected to establish. After that period, no further replacement obligation applies. The two-year period is specifically designed to maximise the chances of successful plant establishment.

Q. Is the hilly nature of the area accounted for in the visual impact assessments?

A. The surrounding topography is the primary basis for the initial viewshed analysis — i.e. the turbine view assessment is built on the actual terrain, rather than assuming it is on flat ground.

Other Business

Wind Turbine Blade Incident — Berrybank Wind Farm

A CCC member raised a social media report about a wind turbine blade failure at the Berrybank Wind Farm. Apparently, a turbine blade had reportedly disintegrated and spread debris across a neighbouring property. The member asked what distances were involved and raised the broader question of what would happen if a similar incident occurred near a public road. This item could not be addressed in detail at this meeting and was noted for follow-up.

Next Meeting

The CCC Members agreed to hold the next meeting in two months given early civil works are not expected to change substantially over the coming weeks. The next meeting was scheduled as follows:

- Date: Thursday, 13 August 2026
- Time: 5:30 PM
- Format: Online

Meeting Close

The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and closed the meeting.