

**MINUTES OF CRUDINE RIDGE WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)**

17 March 2026 at Pyramul Hall, Pyramul (10.15 am)

Attendees	Initials	Position
David Johnson	DJ	Independent Chairperson
Dr Robert (Buzz) Sanderson	RS	Community Member
Max Price	MP	Community Member
Cr. Marcus Cornish	MC	Mid-Western Council
Kath Elliott	KE	Squadron Energy
Glen Best	GB	Squadron Energy

Observers:

Stacey Carter
Vicki Pilley
Sue Walker

Apologies:

Bathurst Regional Council	
Owain Rowland-Jones	Community Member
Kacee Milnes	Squadron Energy

Item	Details and Actions
1.0 Welcome and Introductions	<p><i>Meeting opened at 10.15am.</i></p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present, and noted the apologies he had received. DJ welcomed Glen Best, now Operations Manager for the wind farm. He also welcomed Stacey Carter who has nominated as a Community Member of the CCC, and Sue Walker and Vicki Pilley who are observers and interested in becoming Community Members.</p>
2.0 Acknowledgement of Country	<p>The Chair acknowledged the Wiradjuri people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is being held and paid respects to their elders past, present and emerging.</p>
3.0 Declarations of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. • DJ noted that he intended to record the meeting on his phone, but that the recording would be deleted after completion of the minutes. There were no objections, however it was agreed that the recording should be deleted within two months of the meeting.

<p>4.0 Correspondence</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DJ email correspondence with DPHI recommending Stacey Carter as a Community Member (no reply to date). 2. DJ email to Mid-Western Council requesting details of Council's allocation of VPA funding to community projects
<p>5.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting</p>	<p>It was noted that the last meeting of the CCC was held on 21 October 2025. There were no comments made on the draft minutes, so they became the finals.</p> <p>ACTION ITEMS:</p> <p>See under Correspondence, above. DJ contacted TC which led to her nomination as a member.</p> <p>No response to either email to date</p>
<p>6.0 Proponent's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB reported that a large crane was established in place at Turbine no. 104 (southern area) in Nov/Dec 2025 for the replacement of a hub. • The weed management program is on-going and spraying of turbine pads, road edges and office areas about to commence. • Recent subdivision of a Price property in the area has meant a couple of new host landowners. • Recent (unfounded) complaint from a property owner re unapproved access on wind farm roads by external persons – probably shooters or prospectors. • For current fin year, energy production up 14% on budget. • KE provided information on VPA funds and allocation to projects. To date, Squadron have paid over \$553,000 to MW Council, but Council have only spent around \$200,000 in the local area (including on Crudine Hall, Windeyer playground and soft-fall at Rylstone Pub School). Therefore, \$384,000 remains to be spent. • MC noted that some community halls are privately owned and others are Council or government owned, which complicates the responsibilities for upkeep and improvements. • Squadron hosted a wind farm site visit on 7 December for 50 local community members; • A group of 120 year 9 science students from Mudgee attending next week, and an industry group from Illawarra visiting in May. <p>Sponsorship contributions included: \$11,000 to Hill End Photography Festival, \$13,000 to Mudgee 'Max Potential' program, \$11,000 to Pyramul Sports Club, \$5,000 to Hargraves RFS, \$2,500 to 'Windeyer Fest' and \$3,000 for an Int Womens Day lunch. (Total \$41,000).</p>

<p>7.0 General Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC asked whether community members could be reimbursed by Squadron for attending meetings, such as via a per km travel allowance or similar. DJ explained that the <i>CCC Guideline</i> from the DPHI outlines how these committees operate and there is no system for payments or allowances payable to community members for attendance at meetings. • DJ raised the subject of end of life planning for wind farm components and infrastructure, a subject of increasing interest for wind farms everywhere. The decommissioning and recycling of wind farm components is really a big-picture issue, requiring to be addressed as such features approach end of life stage. • Discussion followed on the subject & BS noted that what may have been acceptable for end of life disposal/treatment of components a few years ago is probably not the same today, and particularly in the future. Turbine blades are particularly a potential problem, and on a huge scale in future years. • GB offered to provide a status on current thinking regarding recycling & resource recovery with redundant wind farm infrastructure. This is proposed for the next CCC meeting. (ACTION ITEM). • KE asked BS to provide an update on the proposed establishment of a concrete museum at Rylstone/Kandos. BS noted that it is still in the early planning stages, with a business case prepared and preliminary budgets estimated, based on both industry & government involvement. Much work still required, but the aim is for an opening in 2032 if possible. • It was agreed that the next meeting of the CCC should be scheduled for <u>Tuesday 8 September</u>, at 10 am at Pyramul Hall. If this date is unsuitable, members are requested to advise the Chair as soon as possible so another date can be chosen.
<p>9.0 Next Meeting</p>	<p>The date for the next meeting was selected as <u>Tuesday 8 September 2026, at 10 am</u>, unless there is a good reason to change that.</p>

Meeting closed at 11.20am

Action Items:

1.	DJ to send Nomination Form to Vicki Pilley for community member.	GB
2	GB to prepare a status report on industry practice and planning for de-commissioning of wind farm infrastructure & potential for recycling/re-use of components (intended for next meeting)	DJ