

**MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
OF BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL
HELD ON 4 JUNE 2025**

1. PUBLIC FORUM

MINUTE

Louisa Unlay - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to the 30 members in the gallery in opposition to the Wind Farm. Asked whether Councillors have met with the proponent and State Forest?

MAYOR advised yes.

Spoke to the numerous community meetings and invited Councillors to attend. Noted she believes there is an injustice for the proposed development. Discussed their upcoming meeting with Hon Paul Scully. Spoke to research undertaken and noted the low numbers of impacted homes for other proposals, different to the Sunny Corner Wind Farm. Spoke to the position Council which should be to not support the proposal.

Carla Graham - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to the adverse health effect from the wind farms, noting the impacts can be between 5-10kms, affecting Portland and up to 4500 people. Spoke to the impacts from noise to people and animals. Spoke to the risk of fire from the towers and the inability to fight the fire from the air. Spoke to her research discovering that toxins are emitted from the towers and the taxpayer is left to clean up the site after they are decommissioned.

Emanuel Purdis - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against the proposal. Spoke to the need for the highest level of scrutiny. Noted the scoping report does not deal with the adverse weather effects nor alpine weather conditions of Sunny Corner. Noted that the location of the towers are on former mining areas and there is no mention of the remediation of the land prior to construction. Spoke to enforcement of compliance and noted Council should undertake the enforcement actions. Noted there is little discussion in the scoping report about the cumulative impacts from the proposal, electromagnetic impacts and noted the detrimental impact to the viewscape.

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER provided a response on the compliance matters and scoping report.

DES provided a response about infrastructure impacts.

Tracy De-Valcoe - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to the impacts from the turbines including CCTV, red lights and the like. Asked why would the soft pine plantation be sacrificed for the turbines? Spoke to the differential between their feed in tariff compared to consumer feed in tariff. Spoke to the proposal being a burden and noted that Council should not be swayed by the community benefit funds. Seeking Council's to support the community.

Michael Welfare - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke about the impacts of the proposal on their property in Portland. Spoke to concerns about inability to fight fires from the air. Noted that there are other better locations for the proposal. Spoke to the loss of property values from the proposal. Understands Council cannot stop the proposal, however Council should support residents and the broader community.

Evelyn Staff - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to the impacts of the proposal on their property, noting her objection. Noting the impacts of the proposal on the community including Portland, Yetholme, Dark Corner and Sunny Corner. Spoke to the subsidies the companies receive including the feed in tariff. Spoke to the precedent the proposal is given the proximity of the towers to homes.

Lisa Cannon - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to the negative impacts of the proposal on their property. Asked what the impacts from the proposal on Bathurst will be? Asked whether there will be impacts on the local economy?

Melinda Mills - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to the negative impacts of the proposal on their property. Spoke to the impacts from degradation of the blades and the potential impacts on drinking water.

Graham Foyle - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to the impact of the proposal on the Winburndale Dam and the potential impact on Bathurst water supply.

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER noted that Council raised it in respect to the scoping report.

Olivia Mills - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against the proposal. Spoke to similarity to offshore wind turbines.

Mrs Webb - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against all renewable proposals. Concerned that residents have to fight against the proposals. Spoke to the impacts of the proposal on their property. Noted the wider Bathurst Community should be made aware.

Nino Defalco - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to his experience as an environmental scientist. Noted his experience about fighting fires in state forests and the difficulties associated with this. Spoke to the Government's Renewable Energy Zone and considers the proposal should not be considered because it is outside that zone. Noted the few benefits outlined in the scoping report, but the scoping report noted many more against.

Kiralee Scott - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against the proposal.

Veira Chickev - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to the impacts against the proposal. Spoke to the privacy concerns about the turbines and the CCTV cameras mounted on them.

Margy Arrow - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Asks why the cameras are needed?

ACTING GENERAL MANGER provided a response.

Asked who is going to fight the fires?

ACTING MAYOR advised that will be passed to SUMEVA.

Rod Arrow - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke to concerns about microplastics and forever chemicals. Concerned that the community is unaware of the proposal and recent purchasers are not made aware of the proposal. Noted he is uncertain on how many other proposals will be made.

Christina - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against the proposal. Noted the bush fire risk. Spoke to the Forestry Corporation website and the information on the website in support of the proposals.

Amber Clark - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against the proposal. Spoke to the impacts on the wildlife and bird life, and concerns for their impacts.

Gavin Press - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against the proposal. Spoke to impacts from the proposal on their property. Noted the potential impacts from the turbines on the viewscape. Spoke to Cr Fry's Notice of Motion about rural heritage and asked whether the Notice of Motion would be taken into consideration in the assessment.

ACTING MAYOR noted that should be considered but unsure of the weight.

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER provided further response.

Mr Press urged Council to consider the Notice of Motion as a priority.

Geoff Muir - Sunny Corner Wind Farm, Traffic Control and Stormwater Harvesting - Spoke against the Wind Farm. Congratulated the Acting Mayor on his conduct as the Chairperson. Asked about traffic control on a walkway near the river.

DES noted unsure of the specifics but will reply separately.

Mr Muir asked about the cost of Traffic Control?

DES advised that Council spends about \$1 million per year on traffic control.

Mr Muir noted that he considers that it is a waste of money having traffic control. Mr Muir asked about the Stormwater Harvesting and the progress of the project.

DES advised that Council has let 3 tenders to progress the project. Noted that work is about to recommence and finish the project with works aiming to be completed by end of 2025.

Mr Muir asked about asbestos remediation.

DES advised it is ongoing.

Julius King - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Noted that he is against the proposal.

Jane - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against the proposal. Noted the previous attempts and proposals. Noted the other community meetings she has attended and noted the professionalism of this Policy meeting.

Geoff Fry - Council Budget and Questions on Notice - Spoke about transparency with respect to the draft budget. Noted that previously it was advertised well, but not this year. Spoke to the property purchases, and the responses received. Spoke to concerns with Council's land development. Asked about the transfer of \$17m to reserves. Spoke to the response that was received. Noted that only 25 submissions were received. Spoke to questions on notice and the new process.

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER noted the new report in the business paper.

Mr Fry suggested that the Questions on Notice should be more widely available.

Rob Quinn - Bathurst Aquatic Centre - Spoke to the entry fees for the Aquatic Centre. Asked how the entry fees are set.

ACTING MAYOR noted that it is up to the management company. Noted that Council sets the entry fee based on running costs.

DES advised that Council makes the final fee.

Mr Quinn spoke to the renovations and asked about the cost.

ACTING MAYOR advised about \$176k per changeroom.

Mr Quin asked whether Council will hire a forensic accountant to analyse the financial position.

ACTING MAYOR advised that is being considered.

Bob Richard - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Raised concerns about the Sunny Corner Wind Farm proposal. Noted the impacts from the monitoring tower, and the impact on Black Cockatoos.

Katie Scott - Sunny Corner Wind Farm - Spoke against the proposal. Concerned with the impacts from the development. Spoke to the impacts from fires and the inability to fight those fires.

2. MEETING COMMENCES

MINUTE

Meeting commenced at 7:24pm.

Present: Cr N Cranston, Cr B Fry, Cr T Gullifer, Cr N Packham, Cr J Underwood, Cr E West, Cr S Wright

3. RECORDING OF MEETING

4. PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

5. APOLOGIES

MINUTE

MOVED: Cr N Cranston SECONDED: Cr S Wright

RESOLVED:

That the apology of Cr W Aubin be accepted and leave of absence granted.

That the apology of Cr R Taylor be accepted and leave of absence granted.

6. MINUTES

6.1. Confirmation of Minutes

File No: 07.00064

MINUTE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: POL2025-9

MOVED: Cr N Packham SECONDED: Cr E West

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of Bathurst Regional Council held on 7 May 2025 be adopted.

7. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Declaration of Interest

MINUTE

RESOLVED: That NIL Declaration of Interest be noted.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

MINUTE

Cr T Gullifer:

- Asked about how many blocks of land at The Reserve have been sold.
 - **ACTING DCSF** advised 27
- Asked about the balance of the sewer, general and water fund.
 - **ACTING DCSF** advised: \$-3.9, \$72 million and \$76 million restricted (\$10.1m Water, \$7.4m Sewer)
- Asked about the timing of the consultation with village communities about the cemeteries.
 - **ACTING GENERAL MANAGER** advised that planning for late July.
- Asked DES about safety at the intersection of Bridle Track and Turondale Rd. Noted the overgrown tree and blackberries.
 - **DES** advised noted.

Cr E West:

- Spoke to community concerns about not applying for grants. Seeking public register for grants on the website and that is to be updated monthly.
 - **ACTING MAYOR** advised he will take on notice.
 - **ACTING DEPBS** advised the success of a recent grant for Regional Precincts and \$1.7million including CBD revitalisation and Active transport strategy.
- Spoke to the Better Cities initiative and request the General Manager made contact to determine the cost for the initiative and what could be provided.

Cr N Packham:

- Asked about what activities are planned for the celebration of 150yrs of rail in Bathurst?
 - **ACTING DCCS** provided an update including contact with the Transport Museum.

Cr S Wright:

- Congratulated Council on Reconciliation Week Celebrations. Discussed the speech from Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council.
- Spoke to the Cr Wright and Cr Cranston Notice of Motion and noted the discussions with Acting DCSF about internal reform.
- Spoke to the detail requested as part of the Cost Containment Strategy and the Pathway to Sustainability does not contain all of the requested information.
- Spoke about zero cost based budget and different for service reviews.
- Asked what is the unrestricted cash position of the General Fund at end of May.
 - **ACTING DCSF** advised negative \$3.9million.
- Asked why line marking work is completed on weekends in Depot and adjacent carpark?
 - **DES** provided advise that it is completed on Sunday because it is less busy and the job can be done in one pass.
- Notes that she supports transparency with grants being applied for.
- Notes support of the Better Cities program initiative.
- Raised concerns about house on Church Lane with cats.
 - **ACTING GENERAL MANAGER** advised Council is aware but powers are limited for what Council can do.

Cr N Cranston:

- Spoke to the Public Forum topics raised. Asked for clarity on meetings Council has had with SUMEVA and asked for a summary of those discussions. Asked when is Council's investment in the proposal.
 - **ACTING GENERAL MANAGER** noted the discussion was about communication, forever chemicals and fire fighting. Noted that those were raised in the meetings he has had. Noted that DEPBS has had little involvement but noted that SUMEVA are keeping Council staff informed. Noted that Council staff meet regularly with various developers. SUMEVA are now working on developing their Environmental Impact Statement. Spoke about the timeline for the proposal and the further consultation required as part of the approval process. At that point (when there is an actual proposal) Council will determine their position. Council has passed the community concerns that have been received onto SUMEVA.
- Asked whether there is an opportunity for wider Bathurst Community to be consulted and raise awareness. Asked about the process for Council to object against the proposal.
 - **ACTING MAYOR** spoke to mechanics of the process and referral to Independent Planning Commission (IPC).
 - **ACTING GENERAL MANAGER** noted that 50 unique submissions will trigger to IPC. Noted that there is nothing to stop Council from objecting now, but urges Council to wait until the proposal is formalised.
- Spoke to Council meeting to advise community that it is listening.
 - **ACTING MAYOR** requested that ACTING GENERAL MANAGER provide advice to SUMEVA that they raise awareness to the broader Bathurst Community.

9. MEETING CLOSE

MINUTE

The Meeting closed at 7:59pm.

CHAIR:
