

Community Engagement Committee

June 2023 Minutes

Date, Location and Time:

- Monday June 5th, Wallinduc CFA at 10am

Attendees:

- Garry Moorfield – Corangamite Shire Council – Community Development Officer
- Nicholas Cole – Corangamite Shire Council – Councillor
- Derek Scott – Golden Plains – Senior Economic Development Officer
- Peter Ridsdale - Coordinator Economic Development
- Philip Beattie – GPG (Chair)
- Haridian Fuentes Cabrera GPG Local Community & Stakeholder Engagement Manager
- Luke Hatherell – GPG Berrybank Site Manager
- Robyn Alexander – Community member
- Peter and Brenda Rumler - Community Members
- Malcolm and Jane Cooper– Community Members
- Avon Buchholz – Community visitor

Apologies:

- Max Kerr- Community Member
- Malcolm and Jane Cooper- Community Members

Chair of Meeting

- Philip Beattie

Declaration of pecuniary or other interests:

- N/A

Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting:

- **Moved:** Robyn Alexander
- **Seconded:** Garry Moorfield
- **In favour:** All

Business arising from previous minutes - response to issues raised or provision of additional information requested:

- After fulfilling the obligations to join the CEC Avon Buchholz was accepted as a member.

Correspondence:

- N/A

GPG update:

BERRYBANK 1 UPDATE

- Availability 98.5%
- Vestas have now completed the 2 yearly service on 35 of 43 turbines. Up from 16 last meeting
- Oversize load delivered June 1st for a blade replacement
- Landscape Screening program documents are being prepared for distribution to eligible residences

BERRYBANK 2 UPDATE

- Final testing of Hold-point.3 which is full power 109MW
- 26 Turbines in full production completing 5 day reliability test
- Expected BB2 operations date is imminent and now will be in the coming weeks
- Corangamite Shire Berrybank-Wallinduc Road maintenance has begun

GPG COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Federation University Scholarship Program

- GPG provides up to 13 Scholarships annually in both Higher Education and TAFE which have direct relationship to workforce demands in the renewable sector
- The inaugural round of 11 scholarships were presented in Ballarat at the University on 3rd May.
- Luke and Phil were in attendance to individually present the scholarships to the students
- It was pleasing to speak to the students and understand the difference the scholarships made to their lives

Deakin University Scholarship Program

- Deakin University has announced two successful recipients of the Berrybank Development Scholarships for 2023.
- These scholarships are available to students looking to study at the Warrnambool campus in the first and second year of their courses
- Luke and Phil attended the *Dkin Difference*, a special event that allows the University to acknowledge community members and organisations who have contributed to the regions educational and research opportunities

Robyn asked what is local in regards to scholarships?

Phil answered that proximity to the windfarm was a key component of the eligibility process although finding "local" people was difficult due to numbers.

RMIT ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION PROGRAM

- With further support from GPG and a partnership between RMIT Activator and Meredith Sharing Shed , the Mini Tech Hub came to life on the 11 May 2023. Community now have access to: 3D printers & 3D scanner, 3D milling machine, Vinyl plotter/cutter, VR headsets, Library resources
- Free interactive workshops are planned for the last Thursday of each month.
- The first 2 workshops were run last week and were well attended
- Next workshop is on June 29 with the topic being “**How to market in the digital world**”

Issues and comments identified by the community or local government representatives:

Corangamite Shire report: Garry Moorefield

Berrybank Wind Farm Grants | Round 2

Applications for the second round of the Berrybank Wind Farm Grants program closed on Sunday 28 May 2023. There was another strong response, with applications up on the already high level of interest shown in 2022.

Berrybank Leverage Grants 11 applications to a total value of \$308,800
(This compares to 10 applications to a total value of \$212,335 last year.)

Berrybank Project Grants 17 applications to a total value of \$167,543
(This compares to 13 applications to a total value of \$113,015 last year.)

A meeting of the Grants Committee will be held soon to review and assess the applications. Recommendations will be put before Council in late July 2023

Berrybank Wind Farm Grants | Round 1

So far three of the six projects funded through Round 1 have been completed. One has been acquitted and two other acquittals are pending. These are the smaller projects:

Installation of basketball half-court at the Skipton Swimming Pool

Improving ecological connectivity through revegetation around Lismore

Restoration of the Thomas Seymour memorial gates at the Lismore Rec Reserve

Of the three larger Leverage Grant projects one is expected to be completed shortly:

Construction of ramps, handrails and shelter at the Lismore Mens Shed.

The **Cressy Water Tower Public Art** project is expected to be completed early next year.

The project to **Restump of the Darlington Hall** has not advanced to date. Quotes are being sought from two contractors, but they keep postponing their scheduled site visits due to other work commitments.

These last three projects were offered three years in which to fund/complete.

Community Benefit Deed

There is little to report on the finalisation of outstanding projects supported through the Community Benefit Deed. Eleven of the 15 projects have been completed, with 4 more close to being finalised.

Darlington hall roof replacement

Installation of run-off French drain pending (\$5,000). Waiting on plumber.

Glenormiston South Hall upgrade

Exterior painting and gravel to be laid (no report on progress).

Bradvale Hall upgrade

Project completed, but plumber certification of septic system yet to be supplied.

Derrinallum Change Rooms

Work is progressing on first stages of this \$300,000 project after delays in securing a builder (and after the first appointed builder pulled out). Project has been broken up into smaller stages, to be tackled progressively by the Committee of Management. Corangamite Works staff are providing guidance.

Larger local projects

Community members are being supported to develop some larger high-impact local projects for which Berrybank Wind Farm funding support will/ may be sought. These include:

Derrinallum Skate Park at the Derrinallum Rec Reserve

Design specification and cost estimates completed by CONVIC, supported by local donations and a Corangamite Shire Enabling Grant.

Browns Water Holes footbridge replacement

Structural engineer has inspected – yet to provide quote for development of design specification for wooden replacement footbridge.

Berrybank School renovation

GPG/ BBWF arranging for a building assessment as part of preparations for scoping assessment.

Golden Plains Shire: Derek Scott/Peter Ridsdale

Berrybank Windfarm Community Grants

Funding is now open for the Berrybank Windfarm Community Grants in the following two categories:

- Economic Development, Tourism Projects and Events
- Community Projects and Events over \$10,000, with one off and recurring funding available.

- The grant round opened on 1 June and will close on 30 June where \$68,000 will be available comprising \$8,000 unallocated from the first year of funding adding to the \$60,000 year two budget. Enquiries have been received from a number of community groups seeking one-off and recurring funding to support their programs and activities. Grant workshops have been

arranged to grow and develop competency and capacity for community groups that will reduce reliance on Council staff in identifying and applying for grant funding. A successful Grant workshop was held in Bannockburn in May with 10 attendees. A second grant workshop will be held in Smythesdale on Friday 9 June.

- Guidelines have been issues on the Council website with the updated sections to promote consideration of environmental, climate emergency, sustainability and accessibility projects. Projects located closer to the Windfarm are entitled to a 5% uplift in scoring to promote and encourage applications. Applications are also invited from outside of the Shire provided they demonstrate significant economic or tourism benefit.
- Of the grants offered in 2022, two multi-year projects have completed their first year activities, one single year funded project has been completed and the remain single year project is progressing well for completion by October 2023.

Wallinduc Community Project Support

- The group will submit a grant application for a new mower, exterior fencing, external lighting and a new oven with a total request of over \$10,000. Council are supporting the group with their application.

Streetscape project funding

- Peter reported that the Council were using the funds as leverage for a Federal funding application and has asked for options if this application is unsuccessful.

General business/feedback from the community

- GPG to again contact Wendy at Corangamite shire get approval for Berrybank School building assessment on 16/6/23
- As the building has a heritage overlay the fireplace should not have been removed in the previous GPG works on the building
- Proposed building assessment date for Wallinduc church and Berrybank school is 16/6/23
- Robyn provided an update on the Cressy Water Tower project that has been a long term project (2017) and is planned to be finished this year.

Meeting closed – 10.55

Next meeting:

- Monday 7th August 2023, Wallinduc CFA 10am