

Pottinger Energy Park - Community Consultative Committee Minutes

Meeting date: 2-3pm, Tuesday 9th June 2026

Location: Hay CLC, Tafe NSW, 218 Pine Street Hay or Online

Chaired by: Ian Colley

Chairperson	Ian Colley
Committee members	Alison McLean (Hay Shire Council) David Crew Ellie Danckert (Edward River Council) Sandra Tassell Simone Hughes Tertia Butcher
Pottinger Energy Park Representatives	Felicity Stening (Someva) Han Tay (AGL)
Observing attendees	Andrew Garratt (AGL) Jeff Boulous (Someva) Larissa Shashkof (Someva)
Apologies	David Sandow Tara Dixon

1. Welcome and introduction (Ian Colley)

- Apologies: received by David Sandow and Tara Dixon.
- Minutes approval: members approved the minutes of the previous meeting which will now be published on the project website. [Project Updates - Someva](#)
- Actions arising: members who were at the meeting confirmed they were happy to have their names and contact details included on the CCC webpage.
- Correspondence: nothing outstanding.

2. CCC: Purpose, roles, responsibilities and process (Ian Colley)

The Chair reiterated the purpose of the CCC:

- Provides a forum to discuss the project
- Not a decision-making body
- Insights into community values and potential impacts
- Share feedback and updates with the wider community

3. Pottinger Energy Park Update (Felicity Stening and Han Tay)

a. Planning.

- Project team have undertaken early consultation on the planning modification which covers the transport route and accommodation camp.

- Early consultation has occurred and we are preparing a modification report which will be submitted to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) late June/early July 2026.
- b. Transport route
- The wind turbine blades for Pottinger are approximately 85 metres long, and tower components are up to 5.5 metres wide.
 - The original approved route was from Adelaide via Broken Hill and Hay to the site, covering more than 1,000 kilometres for both blades and tower components.
 - Since then, the project team has engaged the wind turbine manufacturer, which has a relationship with the Port of Geelong.
 - Under the current proposal, blades would travel around the Melbourne ring road and through Tocumwal, while the wider tower components would travel through Echuca and Deniliquin.
 - The project team has completed route surveys, early consultation, and ecology and archaeology studies. Traffic assessments and ongoing stakeholder consultation are currently in progress.
- c. Coordination with Transport for NSW
- The project team is continuing to work with Transport for NSW on route options.
 - Transport for NSW's preferred route is via Darlington Point. This option is still being considered; however, the additional distance from the site raises concerns about driver fatigue and would increase project kilometres.
 - The team is also considering the cumulative impacts associated with the transport route.
 - Transport for NSW is assisting with identifying stopover areas at the border, which will support project logistics.
- d. Transport logistics
- Each wind turbine is expected to require up to 13 oversized components, including blades, nacelle components and seven tower sections.
 - Transporting blades and other large components requires complex manoeuvring, but the original equipment manufacturer is highly experienced in this type of logistics.
 - A range of factors is being considered in finalising the transport route as part of the planning process.
 - A bookend trailer may be used for wider tower sections, allowing loads to be lowered as much as possible to manage height restrictions.

Members raised questions following the presentation and responses have been summarised below.

- The total number of wind turbines for Stage 1 of the project is 118. Members commented that this would generate a considerable number of Over size over mass (OSOM) transport movements in the local area.
- Confirmation that air transport is not feasible for this project. Further information on the concept of air transport and limitations can be found in the Renew Economy

article ["Wild idea:" Could zeppelins really be used to air-ship huge wind turbine parts?](#)

e. Accommodation camp

- A modification is being made to DPHI to remobilise and use the approved Cobb Highway Accommodation Camp. The accommodation camp site is still being assessed, with the project team indicating that the area is expected to be sufficient for project needs.
- The camp is expected to accommodate approximately 430 workers during peak construction. The recently appointed Balance of Plant contractor will work through the detailed accommodation requirements and site planning.

f. Native Title and cultural heritage

- The project team is continuing to work with a number of Registered Aboriginal Parties, including Yarkuwa, Deniliquin Local Aboriginal Land Council, Hay Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Nari Nari Tribal Council.
- A Native Title claim has recently been made by the Southern West Yiradyuri People. The group has indicated an interest in participating in cultural heritage surveys. They have also expressed interest in broader partnership opportunities and project involvement.
- As part of the conditions of consent for Pottinger, Cultural Heritage Management Plans are being prepared and will be published on the project website.
- Members noted that the current claim is registered though has not had a determination made and said it would be valuable to bring Registered Aboriginal Parties together to discuss community benefits and cultural heritage matters.
- Members highlighted community concern arising from damage at other REZ sites and the need for localised guidelines, stronger confidence-building measures and better recognition of First Nations stories, knowledge systems and significant water landscapes across the South West REZ.
- It was noted that further work is needed to determine how local stories and the history of the land can be respectfully shared.
- Members raised concerns about proposed methodologies for archaeological survey future work, short response timeframes, the role of archaeological consultants and how feedback is incorporated into project processes.
- The discussion noted that another Native Title claims exist in the broader region. Members also noted that Native Title can be a contested issue within the community and that some local families consider they have not been consulted on recent claims.

g. Community funding (Felicity Stening)

- The project team advised that community funding agreements totalling approximately \$515,000 would be announced the following week as part of a South West REZ success funding initiative. Eleven of the 15 agreements have been completed. The funding priorities were identified through consultation with community groups and the Social Impact Assessment.
- Separate long-term community funding of approximately \$23 million is planned to be shared between Edward River Council and Hay Shire Council over the life of the project.

- The minutes note a planned First Nations Fund of approximately \$4 million, with further details on the governance structure to be confirmed in consultation with stakeholders.

h. Indicative timeframes

- Financial close is anticipated by the end of the year. The project team is currently raising funds and reviewing contracts with the three main contractors. Construction would commence following financial close. Access road upgrades will be required between the Cobb Highway and the site, with the final transport arrangements still under consideration.
- Construction of the accommodation camp is currently expected to occur between January and March 2027.
- Over size and over mass (OSOM) transport movements are expected from November 2027, subject to final approval of the transport route and any required road upgrades.

4. Business opportunities

- The main contractors have now been selected, with contracting arrangements to be finalised over the next few months.
- The project team will share details of the ICN Gateway process and support connections between local businesses and contractors.
- Project obligations include targets relating to education and training and opportunities for underrepresented groups.
- The team intends to strengthen these connections before formal procurement and engagement activities commence.
- Over the next six to eight weeks, the focus will be on finalising contracts and then moving into broader engagement.
- The project team will work with EnergyCo and other South West REZ project developers to create opportunities for local businesses and workers to meet contracts.
- Coordination between TAFE NSW, EnergyCo and other stakeholders will be important, particularly in relation to civil construction opportunities.
- David Crew noted that the Deniliquin workforce group, through Workforce Australia, is working with Yarkuwa on a forward plan. The first workshop is scheduled for 8 July, and broader participation from local businesses and stakeholders was encouraged.
- The project team has also been in contact with Workforce Australia and is keen to support a coordinated local workforce approach so the region can maximise project benefits.

5. TAFE NSW Introduction (Sandra Tassell)

As a new member of the CCC Sandra Tassell, representing TAFE NSW, provided an overview of interest areas.

- TAFE NSW is seeking clarity on the skills that will be needed, when they will be required and how training can align with the project timeline.
- TAFE campuses in Hay and Deniliquin are well located to help support local training delivery.

- Sandra noted the value of working closely with contractors, local contacts and stakeholders as training needs are further defined.
- Early workforce needs are expected to include civil construction, fencing and related trades. Electrical trades are expected to become more relevant from 2028 onwards.
- TAFE NSW is already working with EnergyCo to better understand the available training pathways and opportunities.
- Pottinger Energy Park will share details of 25 work packages (seeking Expressions of Interest) through ICN Gateway to help clarify the types of work expected on site.

6. Questions and key issues

Members raised and discussed key issues which have been summarised below.

- Some local businesses have raised concerns with Council about using the ICN business gateway system, including the level of detail requested and the 150-word limit for describing capabilities across multiple work packages.
- In response, the project team advised that once the head contractors confirm how they intend to engage local subcontractors, this information can be used to support more targeted facilitation.
- The approach to engaging local contractors remains a priority, and all three main contractors have local participation targets. It was also noted that using local contractors would provide practical benefits, and that EnergyCo is also exploring ways to support this work.
- Yarkuwa Indigenous Knowledge Centre provided an update on the Deniliquin Aboriginal Working Group, which is being re-established to strength regional response to economic and workforce coordination. It was confirmed that TAFE NSW and other stakeholders would be invited to participate.
- It was also noted that an EnergyCo First Nations working group is in place and that there would be value in connecting this work with related regional initiatives beyond the immediate South West REZ boundary.

7. Next meeting (Ian Colley)

Next meeting confirmed 2-4pm, Wednesday 26 August 2026 to be held online.

8. Acknowledge of Country. (Ian Colley)

Meeting closed at 3.00pm.

9. Action Items

	Action Item	Responsible	Timing
1	Chair to reach out and confirm time preferences and publication of name/email for David Sandow and Tara Dixon who were not present.	Ian Colley	Prior to next meeting
2	Project team to bring together Registered Aboriginal Parties to discuss community benefits and cultural heritage matters.	Project team	Prior to next meeting

3	Pottinger to share ICN registered businesses with Edward River Council and Hay Shire Council.	Felicity Stening	Complete
4	Pottinger to provide information on work packages Gateway by ICN - Project details to TAFE NSW to provide insights into the employment and training opportunities for the project.	Felicity Stening	Complete