



MR P. COCHRANE: Thank you. Well, good morning, before we begin, I'd like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet. And I'd like also to pay my respects to the Elders past and present and to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may be here today. Welcome to the meeting on  
5 the Proposal Seeking Approval for the Modification of the White Rock Wind Farm which includes changing the dimensions of the wind turbines, changing the layout of the approved turbines and ancillary infrastructure, reducing the number of turbines from 49 to 48, increasing the overall project area and increasing the vegetation clearing limits.

10 My name's Peter Cochrane, I am chair of this IPC Panel. And joining me are my fellow commissioners Wendy Lewin and Adrian Pilton, Kim Strutham, Callum Firth auxiliary and Kane Winwood is helping us with this particular project. In the interests of openness and transparency and to ensure the full capture of information,  
15 today's meeting is being recorded and a full transcript will be produced and made – made available on the commission's website. This meeting is one part of the commission's decision-making process and will form one of several sources of information on which the commission will base its decision.

20 It's important for the commissioners to ask questions of attendees and to clarify issues whenever we consider it appropriate. If you're asked a question and are not in a position to answer, please feel free to take the question on notice and provide any additional information in writing which we will then put up on our website. I'd ask you to introduce yourselves before speaking for the first time. And hopefully none  
25 of us will speak over the top of each other, to ensure the accuracy of the transcript. Um, the commission received the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Referral and Assessment of the Proposal on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August 2019.

30 Since the application was lodged and assessed by the then Department of Planning and Environment, more detailed vegetation surveys have been conducted on the site and have identified impacts of an additional 7.22 hectares of native vegetation. Due to the precautionary assumptions made in the previous assessment, there will be a reduction of impact on New South Wales Threatened Ecological Communities of less than a hectare. The proponent – the proponent's letter dated the 24<sup>th</sup> of  
35 September 2019 advising of the need to increase vegetation impacts and seeking an increased clearing limit and offset requirements was posted on the commission's website that same day, the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

40 The results of the most recent vegetation surveys are contained in a letter from the proponent's consultant dating – dated 8<sup>th</sup> of November, which was posted on the commission's website on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. So there's a slight modification to the proposal as it was originally put forward. So with those introductory comments, I might ask Anthony or George to - - -

45 MR S. BERRYMAN: Well, my name's Stewart Berryman and I'm a - - -

MR COCHRANE: Or Stewart, sorry.

MR BERRYMAN: That's okay. I get called all sorts of things. But my name is Stewart Berryman and I'm an Inverell Shire Councillor but also a community  
5 member of the Sapphire Wind Farm Consultant Committee.

MR COCHRANE: Great. Thanks, Stewart. And Anthony, will you do - - -

MR A. ALLISTON: I'm Anthony Alliston; I'm Manager Development Services,  
10 Inverell Shire Council.

MR COCHRANE: Right. So Inverell's made a submission and comments on the windfarm. So we're keen to hear your – your views on the proposal.

15 MR ALLISTON: Yes. Well, basically, well from – from our submission, you will see that our main – our main concern relates to the aviation lighting.

MR COCHRANE: Yes.

20 MR ALLISTON: The visual impacts, not only of this proposal but also when you add in the impacts of Sapphire Wind Farm.

MR COCHRANE: Yes.

25 MR ALLISTON: So yes, our submission basically relates to, yes, consideration of those – those impacts. And now, that's the feedback that we've got – we've had mainly from – from the community. Stewart might like to - - -

MR BERRYMAN: Yes. From – from my point of view as a community consultant  
30 of – a Sapphire Wind Farm community consultant member, our – our biggest problem with, ah, with that, ah, situation has – has been the lighting. Ah, initially, in – in the, ah, ah, ah, proposal was that it was going to be, ah, flashing lights all the time. Now that – that was, when you sit and look at it from the community's point of view, looking for the higher ridges around town – around flashing lights were just,  
35 you know, if you'd ..... I think they'd probably send you mad. Ah, then – then they made them static. They brought them from full illumination down to 10 per cent, which is tolerable.

40 It's tolerable and the fact that it's, you know, it's not as in your face as what – what the original stuff was. And you can drive around the high ridges around the town and it's – it's people are, ah, a lot happier than what they were. Because when they were flashing - - -

45 MR COCHRANE: Yep.

MR BERRYMAN: - - - ah, the community were just up in arms. And – and that's from Inverell. But the closer - - -

MR COCHRANE: Yep.

MR BERRYMAN: - - - community that live out in that area, ah, they were up in  
arms, as well. Now, look, ah, whilst we can't do anything retrospectively, about that  
5 one - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR BERRYMAN: - - - because it's in operation, ah, I think that what we've got to  
10 do is look at, ah, the future. We've got to go forward, ah, and my – the community,  
my community believe that we should have, should be a part of the proposal and not  
leave it to CASA to make that decision that the – that the Planning Panel - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

15 MR BERRYMAN: - - - should in that thing say, "Right, we have to have, ah, ah,  
radar-activated lighting." So that if there's planes come within the certain area, ah,  
that those lights come on. Ah, now my opinion is that, you know, that's really a lot  
of legislation is we've got to legislate for everyone, including the one or two that do  
20 the wrong thing.

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR BERRYMAN: And they shouldn't be flying at that – those heights, any way.  
25 But I do believe that because of the – the project, the size of the project and that  
there's going to be more and more - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

30 MR BERRYMAN: - - - of these projects down those high ridges - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR BERRYMAN: - - - that if we have lighting on all the time, ah, we're going to  
35 have light pollution - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR BERRYMAN: - - - right through the state. And, quite frankly, our community,  
40 ah, we're the ones that have copped it.

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR BERRYMAN: Ah, and, but we're looking for the future and saying, righto,  
45 well, let's look after the rest of the community by having – and, sure, it's going to  
cost more money - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR BERRYMAN: - - - ah, for the proponents. But the fact of the matter is, ah,  
they're very big projects. There's a lot of Federal money goes into it by the way of  
5 subsidies. And, therefore, I think the taxpayer's got a right to say, righto, let's do it.  
But let's do it the right way. Ah, that might cost them a little bit more money. But  
it's going to be far better for the whole community, in the long run.

MR COCHRANE: Okay. Anthony, the, um, the Shire's comments included the  
10 cumulative impacts of – of lighting, as well. So – the, your Council would be  
supportive, I am assuming of - - -

MR ALLISTON: Yes. Well, we did two submissions. We did the initial  
submission and then a follow-up submission, I think - - -  
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MR COCHRANE: All right.

MR ALLISTON: - - - to the – the response by the proponent.

MR COCHRANE: Yep.  
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MR ALLISTON: And so, I suppose, yes, our – our first preference is to have no  
lighting.

MR COCHRANE: Yep, yep.  
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MR ALLISTON: And then if there was lighting to have it as the – the activated - - -

MR COCHRANE: Yes.  
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MR ALLISTON: - - - lighting.

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: Um, I've read the report that the Department have written. And it  
appears that they are recommending to have the aviation-detection lighting system.  
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MR BERRYMAN: Yes.

MR ALLISTON: One question I'd just have about so – it seems to be clear in the  
Report that that's what they're recommending. But looking at the – the draft  
conditions, it still leaves it a little bit open. That's not very – it's not definitive. It,  
you know, it says the proponent shall ensure any activation aviation hazard lighting  
installed utilises an aircraft detection lighting system unless otherwise agreed by  
45 Civil Aviation Safety Authority. So what does that mean?

MR COCHRANE: Yes.

MR ALLISTON: Does that mean that CASA can then go, “Well, if it’s going to cost you too much for the – the detection system, we’ll just let you do steady-state lighting.”?

5 MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: So I just had questions around that condition. There’s three parts of it.

10 MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: Um, and I believe that if – if there’s a condition that allows flexibility to change where the lighting is or what it is, that should be assessed. It shouldn’t be left open for the Secretary or – or CASA to make a change on the run.  
15 And that was the community’s concern with Sapphire was that there was a condition similar to this on Sapphire that was - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

20 MR ALLISTON: - - - pretty vague - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: - - - and until the lights actually went on, the community weren’t  
25 aware - - -

MS W. LEWIN: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: - - - that there was going to be flashing lights.  
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MR COCHRANE: Okay.

MR ALLISTON: So - - -

35 MR COCHRANE: Our job here is not to debate those things. But just to hear your  
- - -

MR ALLISTON: No, no. Yeah, yeah, so that’s, that’s - - -

40 MR COCHRANE: - - - hear you and take, take that on board.

MR ALLISTON: Yeah.

MR COCHRANE: Thank you.

45 MR ALLISTON: So reading the Report - - -

MR COCHRANE: Yep.

MR ALLISTON: - - - like, yeah - - -

5 MR COCHRANE: Yep.

MR ALLISTON: - - - with all the other issues it – it seems quite, you know, reasonable. And – and as, as we said, from our community it’s mainly just that – and, yeah, the height of the turbines, I don’t think there’s, reading through the report  
10 and my assessment of the information, there’s not a significant additional impact of the height. It’s just the – because of the addition of height, the requirement for lighting – that is what causes the impact.

MR COCHRANE: Yep.

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MS LEWIN: Okay.

MR COCHRANE: Anyone, Wendy or Adrian, have you got, ah, any - - -

20 MR A. PILTON: No.

MR COCHRANE: - - - any questions, issues? No?

MR PILTON: No.

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MR COCHRANE: Nope?

MS LEWIN: No, no.

30 MR COCHRANE: And have you been involved, um, Stewart, in the – the White Rock Wind Farm has a consultative committee as well, had one for stage one.

MR BERRYMAN: Yeah, I wasn’t on that.

35 MR COCHRANE: You weren’t in that one?

MR BERRYMAN: No, only for the Sapphire.

MR ALLISTON: So I’m – I’m a member on both.

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MS LEWIN: Oh, you’re - - -

MR COCHRANE: Oh, you’re - - -

45 MR BERRYMAN: Yeah.

MR ALLISTON: Yeah.

MR COCHRANE: Okay. Excellent.

MR ALLISTON: Yeah. I was with the – yeah, White Rock and the Sapphire.

5 MR COCHRANE: Yep. Okay. And those are the issues, those are the only issues that have been raised, um, through the - - -

MR ALLISTON: Yeah. Like, yeah - - -

10 MR COCHRANE: - - - consultative committee.

MR ALLISTON: - - - oh, with the consultative there's been other issues as we've gone along. But - - -

15 MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: - - - I note that there's that – the acquisition condition about those, those residencies that were deemed to have significant impact. And - - -

20 MR COCHRANE: Yes.

MR ALLISTON: - - - that was a similar issue to stage one.

MR COCHRANE: Yes.

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MR ALLISTON: So I think the Department's dealt with that quite well.

MR COCHRANE: Yes. Yes, that's that voluntary acquisition rights?

30 MR ALLISTON: Yeah.

MR COCHRANE: On two properties.

MR ALLISTON: Yeah, yeah.

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MS LEWIN: Traffic.

40 MR ALLISTON: Well, see the thing is with the traffic, so it's basically Glen, Glen Innes, all the roads; they have all the – the traffic impacts. Where, we basically have the – the visual impacts. So you – I don't believe you can see the Wind Farm from Glen Innes, but you can it from Inverell.

45 MR COCHRANE: Right. Okay. And – and, um, I guess, we'll lastly, maybe, the question of bringing the blades in, which is quite an involved effort, ah, there will be some subsequent road, maybe, some road modifications, I think, required when they come. That's going to be the subject of some further discussions. It's not part of our - - -



MR ALLISTON: Yeah.

MR COCHRANE: - - - decision-making, but it's up to Local Roads, yes.

5 MR BERRYMAN: I think we expect that, yeah.

MR COCHRANE: Yeah. Yep. So I think they come in up through this way, I – I believe.

10 MR ALLISTON: Um - - -

MR COCHRANE: I may be wrong.

MR ALLISTON: No. I believe - - -

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MR COCHRANE: Is it - - -

MR ALLISTON: - - - it's mainly Glen Innes.

20 MR COCHRANE: Yep. Okay.

MR ALLISTON: I think Grahams Valley Road, I think.

MR COCHRANE: Oh, okay.

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MR ALLISTON: Maybe up that way. And there's – there's some, a couple of Council roads that they may have to access.

MS LEWIN: Yeah.

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MR ALLISTON: But very, very minor.

MS LEWIN: Okay.

35 MR COCHRANE: But nothing in Inverell Shire?

MR ALLISTON: Only a little bit.

MR COCHRANE: Yeah. All right. And that's – there's no concern there?

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MR ALLISTON: I believe. No.

MR COCHRANE: Okay.

45 MR ALLISTON: No.

MR COCHRANE: All right. Well, that sounds very straightforward.

MS LEWIN: It's quite simple, yep.

MR COCHRANE: Any, any other comments? Issues that we should take into account that you're aware of?

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MR BERRYMAN: Not – not from a community point of view. Most of – most of it was, was very good, they consulted very well. Ah, but there's no doubt about that. It's just that – that one issue. But, but probably, until it happens - - -

10 MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR BERRYMAN: - - - we really don't know what it's – what it's like. So - - -

MR COCHRANE: Yeah, okay.

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MR BERRYMAN: - - - but it's happened and we went through the problem. And, and we just wouldn't like to see it carry on down that for the rest of the community, you know. We realise it can't be changed retrospectively - - -

20 MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR BERRYMAN: - - - it's a lot of money. And it was - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

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MR BERRYMAN: - - - you know, it was all passed initially. So but we don't want to see it happen down the - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

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MR BERRYMAN: - - - for the rest of the state. Because, I think, you know, once they get to that height, then you've got to have the lighting.

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

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MR BERRYMAN: Well, I think the radar-activated lighting in this day and age is - - -

MR COCHRANE: Mm.

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MR BERRYMAN: - - - is the way to go.

MR COCHRANE: Yep. I – I might ask one more question. It was raised by Glen Innes, not you, but, um, they were concerned about waste and the use of landfills. And that – that there'd been quite a lot of waste into landfill from the earlier projects. And Glen Innes certainly raised that as a – as a concern. And the – the company, the

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proponent has responded to that. But I was wondering if that had been an issue here at all?

5 MR ALLISTON: We – we haven't raised it for – for this particular project.

MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: Because it's – it's mainly in Glen Innes.

10 MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: Where other projects of similar nature in Inverell, we've – we've raised that as an issue.

15 MR COCHRANE: Yep. Okay. All right, all right. Great. No more, no questions?

MS LEWIN: So, thank you.

20 MR COCHRANE: In relation to - - -

MR BERRYMAN: That's it.

MR ALLISTON: No.

25 MR COCHRANE: Great.

MR ALLISTON: Yeah. So I suppose, just in conclusion - - -

30 MR COCHRANE: Thank you. Yep.

MR ALLISTON: - - - I suppose, just to summarise that, so our concern, I suppose, at this point in time, the Report looks fine.

35 MR COCHRANE: Mmm.

MR ALLISTON: What they're saying is fine. It's just having a definitive condition that - - -

40 MR COCHRANE: All right.

MR ALLISTON: - - - makes it clear to – to even, the community, to everyone that that – that's what's required.

45 MR COCHRANE: All right. Yep, thank you.

MR ALLISTON: Yep.

MS LEWIN: Thank you.

MR COCHRANE: I heard that loud and clear.

5 MR ALLISTON: Yep, cool.

MR BERRYMAN: Easy.

MS LEWIN: Thank you.

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MR COCHRANE: Thanks Anthony. Thanks Stewart.

MR ALLISTON: No worries.

15 MR BERRYMAN: Pleasure.

MR COCHRANE: And thank you.

MR K. WINWOOD: Good. That was it.

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MS LEWIN: Thank you.

MR C. FIRTH: Back on schedule now.

25 MR BERRYMAN: I was remiss in not - - -

**MATTER ADJOURNED at 11.57 am INDEFINITELY**