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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

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INDEPENDENT PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

RE: FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM MOD 4

PANEL:

**ALAN COUTTS
PROF ALICE CLARK
PROF CHRIS FELL**

ASSISTING PANEL:

BRAD JAMES

LOCATION:

**BLAYNEY SHIRE COUNCIL
91 ADELAIDE STREET
BLAYNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES**

DATE:

9.02 AM, TUESDAY, 23 JULY 2019

MR A. COUTTS: Ladies and gentlemen, if you'd like to take your seats, we might get started. It's a very loud microphone. Well, good morning. Before we – before we will begin, I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet, the Wiradjuri People. I would also like to pay my respects to their
5 Elders past and present and to the Elders from other communities who may be here today. Welcome to the meeting today. Flyers Creek Wind Farm Proprietary Limited, the applicant, is seeking to modify the existing project approval to facilitate the development of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm, approximately 15 kilometres west of Blayney.

10 These modifications involve changing the dimensions of the wind turbine, raising the maximum height to 160 metres, reinstating the 132 kV transmission line on a different alignment, raising the height of the approved wind monitoring mast up to 32 metres, and updating several conditions from the original approval. My name is
15 Alan Coutts. I'm chairing today's panel and joining me are my fellow commissioner's, Professor Alice Clark and Professor Chris Fells. Also in attendance is Brad James from the commission secretariat and Christina who is organising the recording of today's meeting. Before I continue, I should state all appointed
20 commissioners must make an annual declaration of interest identifying potential conflicts with their appointed role and for the record, we are unaware of any conflicts in relation to our determination of the proposed application.

You can find additional information on the way we manage potential conflicts in our policy paper which is available on the IPCM website. In the interests of openness
25 and transparency, today's meeting is being recorded and a full transcript will be produced and made available on the commission's website. This public meeting gives us the opportunity to hear your views on the assessment report prepared by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment before we determine the application. The Independent Planning Commission of New South Wales was
30 established by the New South Wales Government on 1 March 2018 as an independent statutory body operating separately to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment.

The commission is an independent consent authority for state significant
35 development applications and provides an additional level of scrutiny where there are more than 25 public objections, reportable political donations, and objections by the relevant local council. The commission is not involved in the department's assessment of this project, the preparation of their report or any findings within it. This meeting is one part of our decision-making process. We have also been briefed
40 by the department and have met with the applicant. Transcripts of these meetings are available on our website. After today's meeting, we may convene with the relevant stakeholders if clarification or additional information is required on matters raised.

Records of all meetings will be included in our determination report which will be
45 published on the IPC website. A site inspection took place yesterday at the project site. The applicant and commission attended the site inspection and a summary of

any questions asked and answers given at this site inspection will be available on the commission's website. The commissioners have reviewed the written submissions received by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment, which are published on the department's website. The commission will also accept written
5 comments in relation to the project until 5 pm on 30 July.

Anyone can send written comments to the commission before that time. You can do so by sending your comments to the commission by email or by post. Following today's meeting, we will endeavour to determine the application as soon as possible;
10 however, there may be delays if we find a need to seek additional information. Before we hear from our first registered speaker, I would like to lay some ground rules that we expect everyone taking part in today's meeting to follow. The meeting today is not a debate. We will not take questions from the floor and we will not permit interjections. Our aim is to provide the maximum opportunity for people to
15 speak and to be heard by the commission.

We ask that the speakers today refrain from making offensive, threatening or defamatory statements and I know it would surprise you but that does happen from time to time at these forums. Many people find public speaking very difficult.
20 Though you may not agree with everything you hear today, each speaker has the right to be treated with respect and heard in silence. Today's focus is public consultation. Our panel is here to listen, not to comment. We may ask questions or seek clarification but generally this is not necessary. It will be most beneficial if your presentation is focused on issues of concern to you and in relation to the
25 department's assessment report.

It is important that everyone registered to speak receives a fair share of time. I will enforce timekeeping rules and, as chair, I reserve the right to allow additional time if I consider it appropriate. A warning bell will sound one minute before the speaker's
30 allotted time is up and again when it runs out. Please respect these time limits. I think most people today have five minutes except for Dr Patrick Bradbery who is representing an organisation. He has 15 minutes. If you would like to project something onto the screen, please give it to Brad James before your presentation. If you have a copy of your presentation, it would be appreciated if you would provide a
35 copy to the secretariat after you speak.

Please note, any information given to us may be made public. The commission's privacy statement governs our approach to your information. If you would like a copy of our privacy statement, you can obtain one from the secretariat or from our
40 website. Finally, I would ask that everyone please turn your mobile phones off or to silent and double check because I just thought I had turned mine to silent but I had actually turned it on so – so having said all that, welcome again to today's meeting and I would like to call on the first speaker, which is Megan Richardson.

45 MS M. RICHARDSON: Good morning. I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people here – the traditional custodians of this land. I would also like to pay – is it working? Pay respect to the Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri nation and

extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present. My name is Megan Richardson, and I'm the development manager for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm. I work at Infigen Energy and I'm speaking on behalf of the proponent, Flyers Creek Wind Farm Proprietary Limited. Infigen Energy is a developer, owner and operator of clean energy in Australia and owns 790 gigawatts of installed generation capacity operating across Australia.

We recently constructed the Bodangora Wind Farm located about 100 kilometres north of here, near Wellington. I would like to provide a brief summary of Flyers Creek Wind Farm and the planning modification, as well as mentioning some of the many benefits that the project will deliver to the local community and Australia more broadly. We have been involved in the Flyers Creek Wind Farm project for over 10 years since two of the host landowners approached Infigen with the opportunity to develop the project site. Project approval was granted in 2014 for a 42 turbine wind farm and the project has since undergone three modifications and the existing project approval – approval is for a 38 turbine wind farm.

Planning modification 4 was lodged in July 2018 and seeks to increase the wind turbine envelope so as to accommodate the newer, more efficient turbine models now available and include a 132 kV transmission line and switching station so as to enable the project to connect to the electrical grid. The modification also includes some clarifications to the project components. For modification 4, updated environmental studies and assessments were carried out by the relevant experts, including in visual, shadow flicker, birds and bats, noise, traffic and transport, telecommunications, aviation and biodiversity. The assessments confirm that the changes contemplated as part of modification 4 can be constructed and operated with minimal increase to the impacts identified for the approved project.

Consultation with the local community, project landowners and relevant stakeholders have been carried out throughout the development of the project. Engagement with these stakeholders occurred as part of the planning modification 4 assessment and comments and information from these stakeholders were incorporated into the application. There is significant community and local business support for the project and you will hear from some of the representatives of these groups this morning. The benefits of Flyers Creek Wind Farm to the local community and Australia wide are many. The project will generate an estimated 430 gigawatt hours of renewable energy every year, sufficient to power 58,000 New South Wales homes.

Flyers Creek Wind Farm will help reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, consumption of finite fossil fuels and bring us closer to meeting our national targets by providing 33,000 gigawatt hours from renewable sources by 2020. The project will provide full time employment for a peak of 140 people during construction and up to six to 10 ongoing regional jobs during its operation life. You will be hearing from, um, our turbine manufacturer and construction contractor this morning as well as some members of the Bodangora Wind Farm team, who will provide some information of their experiences, constructions contractors and ongoing operations on an Infigen Energy project, the Bodangora Wind Farm.

The project will result – the Flyers Creek Wind Farm project will result in approximately one million per annum – \$1 million per annum of direct economic benefits to the local community through payments to host landowners, permanent wind farms staff and through community fund contributions under the voluntary
5 planning agreement with Blayney Shire Council. Infigen support the Department of Planning and Environment’s recommendation for approval of modification 4. Thank you for listening.

10 MR COUTTS: Thanks, Megan. Dr Patrick Bradbery.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You could change to the next slide with that one as well.

DR P. BRADBERRY: All right.

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Just warm up.

DR BRADBERRY: Thank you. I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri People, traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and to any other Aboriginal or Torres Strait
20 Islander persons present here today. I’m speaking here today as a representative of Central New South Wales Renewable Energy Cooperative Limited also known as CENREC. I am a director of CENREC which is a community partner of the proponent parent company, Infigen Limited. CENREC intends to be an investor in the Flyers Creek Wind Farm. In speaking here today, I will use my aboriginal voice,
25 if I may, to speak of the Flyers Creek Dreaming. I am a Kamilaroi man from the Taylor mob from Karoonda Wollhollow, so I speak only with the indulgence of the local Wiradjuri People.

I stress that my interpretation of the Flyers Creek Dreaming is a personal one and
30 may differ from the local Wiradjuri one. The Dreaming is a widely misunderstood idea. It is often interpreted as a legend or myth, much like the popular English legend or myth of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. However, it is much more than that. The Dreaming of a place or a person is an amalgam of what has happened there or to that person, what is happening now and what will happen in
35 the future. A modern scientific parallel comes from quantum physics which recognises that the past, present and future all co-exist. At the centre of The Dreaming is the idea of respect. The Dreaming of a place or of a person is something that deserves respect which is to say a perpetual re-examination and reinterpretation as more evidence becomes available.

40 The English word “respect” says it well when broken down to its roots – “re” meaning to repeat and “spect” which means to look, as in spectacle or spectator. So The Dreaming means to look again. The point of looking again is to remember the past, to revere the present and imagine the future. To do so with authenticity requires
45 a kind of metanoia – a radical change of mind. But it also requires a radical change of heart – a metacardia – and a radical change of gut – a metaenteria. To honour The Dreaming we need to think differently, feel differently and have the courage to act

differently, depending upon the evidence before us – especially, for Aboriginal people, the evidence of country. I hasten to add before leaving the generality of The Dreaming that all lands and all peoples have their Dreaming.

5 Indeed, the legend of Camelot that I mentioned before is definitely a part of the English Dreaming although perhaps not honoured as such. My own personal Dreaming includes the legend of The White Horse, as illustrated on the screen, because a number of my ancestors lived in the Vale of the White Horse near Uffington, allegedly the location of King Alfred’s defeat of the invading Danes as
10 well as various other historical events. It would be easy to be distracted by elaborating on my English Dreaming which is just as important as my Aboriginal Dreaming but we are here to examine the proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm so let’s get back on track. At first glance, the site of the proposed Flyers Creek Wind Farm is unremarkably different from many other parts of the Australian landscape.

15 Once the home of the Wiradjuri People for centuries, if not thousands of years, and then as the home of numerous farmers and graziers for the last couple of hundred years, its contemporary features are dominated by the Cadia Gold Mine up in the top left-hand corner of the diagram and the proposed wind farm which is the area
20 surrounded by the red lines. The Cadia Mine is in the top left of the picture and the proposed wind farm is bounded by the if you look at this picture with respect you may see faint outlines or star map-like figures. The most obvious one is down here at the bottom where, if you look at the configuration of the proposed turbines, if you look with imagination, you will see a kangaroo. Above that you may be able to see a
25 tortoise.

In the middle of the picture the arrangement of turbines together with underlying vegetation up here suggests the outline of a mopoke or a tawny frogmouth owl, if you stretch the word owl to mean a tawny frogmouth. In the vicinity of the Cadia
30 Mine up here the vegetation is reminiscent of a miner complete with hat, lamp, digging tools and a sack of gold. Behind the miner is the Cadia pit which shows the outline of a platypus. To make these figures stand out better I’ve superimposed them on a – I’ve lost it – I have superimposed a dot painting on the background features so you can see the kangaroo, tortoise, frogmouth, the miner with his sack of gold and
35 the platypus. Of course, the platypus appears white. It can be surmised that it’s dead.

Now, for interpretation. The sceptics will say that the layout of the turbines has been determined by a vigorous scientific process and has no connection to the land;
40 similarly, the Cadia site as a result of a valuation of the ore body and the economics of extraction. However, in both cases the land is a very significant factor in each of those processes. The topography of the site and the prevailing winds are important factors in the location of each of those turbines. One result is that the land speaks through the decisions made by vigorous scientific engineering. When I looked at the
45 picture with respect the kangaroo was the most obvious feature, followed by the miner and the platypus behind him as he leaves. This is the land reminding us of the damage that miners do to the environment as they ply their trade.

Going back to the wind farm, it took me a little while to see the tawny frogmouth and even longer to discern the tortoise but, once you have seen them, they cannot be unseen. What then do the three Dreaming creatures at the wind farm say to us. The kangaroo Dreaming is an important one for Aboriginal people across Australia. It has cultural and spiritual significance for all Aboriginal nations. It is the symbol of life and abundance. Their meat was and continues to be an important protein source. Skins were used for clothing and blankets and their skin also turned into useful things like water bags. The mopoke as a symbol refers to a need to lighten up and not put too much significance upon seemingly negative things. It is the positive outlook that will bring results. The owl also relates to the archetypes of wisdom, the night and the occult.

It is often regarded as a harbinger of death – death of the old and birth of the new. The tortoise is a symbol of wisdom and longevity as well as good luck and prosperity. What is important is the collective meaning of the three Dreaming symbols at the Flyers Creek site. Together the three symbols include land creatures, arboreal and water creatures so that all forms of life are represented. They all point towards a future that includes the Flyers Creek Wind Farm as a positive addition to country.

The Flyers Creek Wind Farm, like all structures in Australia, is to be built on Aboriginal land. It always was and always will be Aboriginal land and the traditional Wiradjuri custodians need to be respected. However, this land now has new custodians – the farmers and graziers who, for hundreds of years, have invested their spirit in this land. They also need to be honoured and respected and it was on their initiative that the Flyers Creek Wind Farm was conceived and designed. I therefore conclude with my recommendation that the Flyers Creek Wind Farm MOD4 be approved and I will leave you with the Flyers Creek Dreaming. Thank you.

MR COUTTS: Thanks, Patrick. Jason Moore.

MR J. MOORE: Good morning. My name is Jason Moore and I work for GE Renewable Energy who will be providing the wind turbine technology for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm. I would like to thank the IPC panel for giving me the opportunity to speak here today on behalf of the proposed modification. I would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Wiradjuri People, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and future. I'm sure many of you have heard of GE. It's a company that's almost 130 years old founded on innovation and, over its long history, has designed and manufactured a wide range of products from light bulbs to refrigerators; pipes and drill bits for oil and gas mining; medical equipment such as ultrasound devices and mammogram devices, to name just a few, in addition to things such as aircraft engines and trains.

In terms of electricity generation, GE manufactures gas turbines, steam turbines, hydroelectric turbines and, of course, wind turbines which is why I'm here speaking to you today. GE sees New South Wales as a key investment region not just for

renewable energy but electricity generation as a whole. The current installed capacity for GE in the State is significant with 1.2 gigawatts of gas turbines, ten and a half gigawatts of steam turbines – which is 100 per cent of the capacity in New South Wales – and 2 gigawatts of hydroelectric turbines in the Snowy Mountains. In terms of wind energy GE currently has 521 megawatts installed across four wind farms with another project soon to commence. So, as you can see, New South Wales is very important to GE and we are hoping to continue our investment in the State with the Flyers Creek Wind Farm as well as other projects in gas, steam and hydroelectric turbines.

GE has been manufacturing wind turbines for 20 years and since this time has installed over 40,000 units globally. The turbines that we propose to install for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm are from the 3-megawatt platform family which is a mature technology product with over 3000 units installed globally, 350 of these in Australia spread across six wind farms. GE is committed to high standards of integrity and, as such, will only partner with like-minded companies who hold this in the same regard. The preferred of plant contractor for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm, CPP, has extensive experience in Australia in building renewable energy projects across wind, solar and battery storage and GE has worked with them on a number of wind farm projects. They're also experienced in infrastructure projects such as oil and gas mining and water.

The developer of Flyers Creek, Infigen Energy, have a proven track record of renewable energy projects in Australia and GE recently partnered with them to build the Bodangora Wind Farm not too far from here, as mentioned. The Bodangora Wind Farm provided a number of opportunities for the local region during construction with over 25 local contractors employed providing services such as plumbing, electrical, cleaning, earthmoving and plant hire. The Bodangora Wind Farm is now operational and provides stable long-term employment for seven people with five of these being locals and you will hear from a couple of them today. In addition, local benefits – local businesses benefit from the wind farm through providing services such as waste collection, painting, carpentry, cleaning, fire and safety inspections and purchasing consumables from local stores.

It is expected that the Flyers Creek Wind Farm will also provide excellent job opportunities for the local region and will create up to 140 jobs during its construction phase with six to ten ongoing jobs during its 30-year operational period in addition to the service-related contracts for maintaining the site similar to those as provided by the Bodangora Wind Farm. I sincerely hope that the IPC will grant approval for the MOD4 application for Flyers Creek Wind Farm and that this project can proceed to construction.

Such a decision will ensure that companies such as GE continue to see New South Wales as a jurisdiction that welcomes investment in new and sustainable generation. The local economic benefits provided by this project are important and, in addition, the new generation capacity will continue to contribute to supporting the local

economic development of New South Wales by providing cleaner, lower cost generation.

5 GE are confident that the extensive planning assessment associated with the current modification, including consideration of relevant economic, social and environmental impacts, means that this project delivers on sustainable development objectives that are central to the New South Wales planning system. GE notes that the New South Wales Department of Planning concluded that, on balance, the proposal has merit and is in the public interest and I would encourage the IPC to
10 consent to the modification. Thank you.

MR COUTTS: Thanks, Jason. Rachael Young.

15 MS R. YOUNG: Good morning. My name is Rachael Young. I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land, the Wiradjuri People, and their Elders past, present and future and also Pat as an aboriginal man here today. I would just like to say that I support the project and the modification that's sitting before the Commission today. I live in the shire. I live out at Hobbys Yards which is about 22 kilometres that way and so you will note that the project is out over that way but I
20 have had a very active interest in this project for many years now – I would say probably seven or eight years at a minimum. And so, as part of that interest, I have also become a member of the Flyers Creek Community Consultative Committee and play as active role as I can there. And we are, as a committee, really looking forward to this project actually moving ahead and for the committee to be able to fulfil its
25 purpose in a more full way.

So I also would like to say that I support all well-considered largescale renewable energy projects as part of urgent action to reduce our carbon emissions and to take action on climate change and so this project is an important part of New South Wales
30 meeting its overall commitments. I have lived near wind farms in Denmark in Scandinavia back when I was a very young person and I have also lived across the salt marsh from the old Playford North Power Station in Port Augusta. Having lived in two completely different energy-generating environments I know which one I preferred and it was not living across the salt marsh from a coal-fired power station
35 where I would have to clean my house twice a week from the greasy, nasty fly ash that came out of the power station and port. Beautiful as the town was, that power station was a blight. So I am very much looking forward to welcoming more wind generation into Blayney Shire.

40 As we know, no projects come without an impact but when you look at the impacts between coal-fired or carbon-based energy generation versus wind turbines you have to say that wind is a more acceptable impact. It is relatively quiet, it is non-polluting. There are no water or other land contamination impacts as a result of wind being installed. When you uninstall it, it doesn't leave much of footprint behind. Once it's
45 installed it doesn't have a lot of impacts and it has virtually no inputs other than maintenance and general wear and tear. So, as a result, what you do is you build

something, it's powered for free and it generates electricity that leaves little or no impact on the environment.

5 I've also – because I've been following this project so long I've also been looking at, you know, Infigen and, as part of the community consultative committee, looking at the way that Infigen as the proponent has worked with the landholders to meet their needs and adapt the project to ensure that landholders are involved and, when they no longer wanted to be involved, that pathways were made available for those landholders to exit the project. So, in terms of their consultation and working with
10 the community, I think they have done a really good job which again speaks to the quality of this project. The modification that's before you is a modification of an approved project and so in essence it will improve this project because the bulk of the modifications requested increase the power generation using the existing footprint with only a very small increase in the existing footprint of the project.

15 The detailed assessment of biodiversity impacts is undertaken, offsets have been determined and most of the vegetation and biological impact of this project is going to be in pine forest which has little or no ecological value. The new alignment of the transmission corridor is critical for gaining connection to the grid. It's no good
20 having your 400-odd gigawatts sitting out there not connected to anything so the realignment is obviously very critical for ensuring that we receive the full benefit of the project. And, really, I just want to sum up by saying this project is being approved, this modification allows the project to make better use of new turbine technology and significantly increase the output of the wind farm with very little
25 impact on the overall project footprint. Thank you.

MR COUTTS: Thank you, Rachael. Belinda Bunting.

30 MS B. BUNTING: I would just like to say thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I – I would like to speak more on an informal basis, um, but I would like to speak in support of the project and ultimately the associated modification. We've obviously seen in recent times the government making sizeable investments in renewable energy infrastructure and we see it as a great opportunity for regional communities to reap the benefit in these projects. With large infrastructure projects
35 in the past, normally, it obviously is maintained within the metropolitan areas and with these – with these projects being placed in the rural – in rural areas and regional communities, we feel that that's, um, a good opportunity for these guys to reap some benefits as well.

40 Um, in times of drought, obviously where we're at right now, many of us know firsthand the impact that flows on to our rural communities and farmers more than any of us. But speaking as a business owner based in the central west, we've seen, um, also with a lack of water comes a lack of other civil works. The councils obviously find it a bit hard to get their job done which has a downturn in works,
45 um, for us and – and obviously in the community as well. But at such a time as this we see projects like this can offer a much-needed boost to our rural community and

the farmers whose properties are involved obviously but also local businesses and ultimately the community as a – as a whole.

5 Um, we've been involved in various renewable projects over the last few years. We were lucky enough to recently be involved in the, um, Bodangora Wind Farm project at Wellington. And I can speak firsthand for the benefit our local community, um, has received as a result which we were able to be a part of. We were able to support many families with ongoing employment for approximately 20 staff. That was just on our own, let alone, um, the other – the other businesses that were involved and –
10 and had other local staff involved as well.

Um, we also were able to see a sizeable flow through to local businesses that – that we could support because they were supporting our operations in what we were doing on that project as well. So, um, ultimately, whatever benefit, you know, our
15 business takes out of a project stays in a community and, um, I would just like to say that in support of this project, um, I don't see it being any different. I – I feel that it's going to stay in the community and it's going to benefit the community locally as a whole. So thank you.

20 MR COUTTS: Thanks, Belinda. Elizabeth Rich.

MS E. RICH: My name is Elizabeth Rich and I have been working as the site administrator at Bodangora Wind Farm since February 2018. Previously, I had worked for Wellington Council but due to the amalgamation with Dubbo Council,
25 my position no longer existed and even with employment protection, I decided to look for employment elsewhere. Luckily for me, the construction of Bodangora Wind Farm had commenced and an opportunity became available with General Electric as the site administrator. My position started as a contract position with the projects team and became a permanent position with the services team in November
30 2018.

I am very fortunate in that my permanent position also provides me the opportunity to work flexible hours and helps me juggle life as a single working mum to two school aged boys. I am a local to Wellington, the township closest to Bodangora
35 Wind Farm, and I wholeheartedly believe in the positive outcomes provided by our wind farm. During the project phase, the work scope meant that a large portion of the commissioning team for our company, General Electric, were contingent workers who needed to be housed locally. The influx of the project workers was a huge economic benefit to the local business community.

40 Our project team lived locally, which meant they shopped and ate locally and supported our town during a hard period when our farmers, who are normally our main economic providers, were doing it tough because of the drought. There are also a number of local contractors who were engaged during the project phase that now
45 have continued contracts with our services team, including Micky Ds Cleaning, Wellington Plant Hire and Redfern Power Solutions.

Financially, Bodangora Wind Farm have contributed substantially to a large number of not for profit community groups in the Wellington community. For myself, personally, as a founding member of the Mount Arthur Challenge Committee, we attribute the success of our event on the financial support provided by Infigen in our
5 formative years.

My boys' local soccer club has also received financial support in the way of three new sets of jerseys for the under sixes, the GE Power Turbines, the Infigen Blades and the under eight GE Generators. But these are just two examples that have
10 directly impacted my life. Knowing that the community benefit fund is investing \$50,000 annually and have committed to do so for the next 25 years is huge for a town our size and we receive such nice feedback from the local sporting clubs and not for profits who reap the benefits from these contributions. But for me, I think the
15 thing I am most proud of about our wind farm is that of the seven permanent positions, five of us are from Wellington.

We grew up here, we know each other, we know our community and because of this, we are a team committed to getting the most out of the opportunity, not only for ourselves but for our town. Our children can now grow up here. They can grow up
20 in our home town because we were able to secure meaningful work with training opportunities and career growth. Being able to do that in your home town isn't something we take for granted. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the impacts of the Bodangora Wind Farm and – yeah. Thanks.

25 MR COUTTS: Thanks, Elizabeth. Timothy Finn.

MR T. FINN: Good morning, everyone. My name is Tim Finn and I'm a mechanical technician employed by GE at Bodangora Wind Farm, just outside Wellington. I'm a proud husband and father of two, soon to be three children. I'm
30 here today to talk about – talk about the opportunities that my role has provided for my family and I. I first started working at Bodangora Wind Farm in August 2018. This year, I have been taken over by GE in a permanent role and commenced my electrical apprenticeship. By 2023, I will have a dual trade. The opportunity to work close to home in a secure full-time position really benefits my family and I. The
35 company supports me and is in – and is flexible when it comes to family activities.

I've been able to go to the doctors' appointments with my wife for our baby that is on the way and to my son's assembly where he receives awards. The work/life balance is great. I've also been lucky enough for GE to commit to putting me
40 through my electrical apprenticeship as an adult apprentice. The long-term benefits of having a dual trade will be great for my career and I'm thankful for this. My wife and I are quite active and play touch football in our local competition. The wind farm sponsored our team this year by purchasing our playing shirts. Without their support, we wouldn't have looked as fast as we did when we won the Grand Final.
45

On a daily basis, I get to see amazing views and work on large scale equipment that benefits our future. I work with a team of people and majority of our crew are local

people who I know and grew up with. It makes our daily task easier when you know and can trust the people you work with. These are just a few ways that I have seen the positive impacts the wind farm has had on my life. I would just like to say that I am glad I've taken this job and been able to be involved with the GE projects have to offer. It's almost guaranteed the provided stable employment for the next 20 years and that stability alone is relieving for myself and my family. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today and I hope the wind farm benefits your community too. Thank you.

10 MR COUTTS: Thanks, Tim. Kim Masters.

MR K. MASTERS: Good morning. My name is Kim Masters, and I'm a long-term resident of the Flyers Creek area. A farmer, a supporter for renewable energy and a host landowner for this wind farm project. This project will mean change and I acknowledge that some people struggle with this. But from the high points on our property, in every direction you look there has been change and more changes are still occurring. From large scale pine plantations to very large mining operations, new road constructions, property subdivisions and the subsequent developments these bring to the area. Things are constantly changing.

20 All of these developments require electricity for them to operate and process their products for the benefit of our community and country. The Flyers Creek Wind Farm development will still allow farming activities to continue on the host farms. The income that the farmers receive from this project will allow further property developments to occur and secure the operation of the farms involved for generations to come. The increased land rate revenue that local councils receive will significantly help their finances and ultimately the larger community will benefit. Concerns raised by some people regarding health issues, noise and the effected land values have not shown to be a problem with other wind farm projects in Australia.

30 These projects have co-existed with the communities around them and have fostered a greater appreciation of the environment, brought new employment and even tourism to the wider areas. If I had any concerns about this development, I would not have agreed to it in the first place. I have visited many wind farm sites, both here in Australia and overseas, and spoken to both landowners and residents. The common theme is that electricity is potentially able to be generated 24/7 without the need to construct hydro schemes, which would be of no benefit in our current drought, or the highly risky – risky fracking for gas or the burning of coal and the subsequent mining, transport, disposal of the waste products.

40 Ultimately, this has to be a positive move for the environment and the community. In the – in the future, if a new form of electro-generation is developed, wind farms can easily be removed and there will be no environmental legacy left behind. This is not the case for coal-fired power stations and their associated mining operations. The facts and evidence are there for all to see if people would only look. Electricity must come from somewhere and be generated by some means. For the benefit of the environment, let it be renewable. Let's get on with the building of this project which

will ultimately mean a contribution to a better environment for all. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here today.

MR COUTTS: Thanks, Kim. Brett Rodgers.

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MR B. RODGERS: Good morning. My name is Brett Rodgers and I represent Nacap Australia as the project's land, environment and cultural heritage manager. I'm speaking today in support of the project proponent, Flyers Creek Wind Farm Proprietary Limited, in seeking approval for the Flyers Creek Wind Farm MOD 4. I thank the panel for the opportunity to speak at this meeting. I speak today in the capacity as provider of engineering, procurement and construction services for large scale pipeline facilities and wind farm projects in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Nacap is currently the preferred contractor, balance of plant civil works, relating to the execution of the MOD 4 work.

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To date, Nacap has successfully completed the Kiata Wind Farm in Victoria, 2017, the Kennedy Energy Park in 2018 in Queensland. Nacap is currently completing the Lincoln Gap Wind Farm in South Australia and has recently commenced construction of the wind farm component of the Agnew Gold Mine Alternative Energy Project in Western Australia. Linear construction activities have traversed all states of Australia and have totalled in excess of 1800 kilometres since 2010, involving landowner engagement, which has enabled concurrent land enterprise during project execution across some 500 landholdings.

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In relation to community concerns raised through public submissions during the assessment of phase 4 – a phase of MOD 4, we wish to express our support of the project and the proponent as the preferred EPC contractor and demonstrate our understanding and capability in addressing the following: local content, construction management of environmental and heritage sensitivities, landowner engagement, and stakeholder and third-party management. With regards to local content, Nacap is committed to maximising the opportunity, through direct employment, procurement of local supplies and businesses. Whilst it is envisaged that up to 140 people will be employed on the project, Nacap's execution model is large – to a large extent, one of self-performance, meaning that a substantial part of the project workforce will be as direct employees of Nacap, giving due consideration to occupational health and safety, specialist skills and qualification requirements.

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In 2015 Nacap established a 5.5 hectare fully equipped fleet yard fabrication facility and experienced plant team in Dubbo, providing a strategic support base within the region to service our project readiness and establishment throughout Australia. The team employed in Dubbo are all locally sourced. During the proposed construction of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm, Nacap will also engage a number of specialist subcontractors to complete portions of the work, such as surveys, steel fixing, transport and haulage, and concrete batching. These will be sourced from local and regional business where available in meeting in the project requirement, including but not limited to capability, availability, experience and value.

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Other significant opportunities for local participation will exist with regards to the supply of site offices and ablutions, electrical and plumbing services, traffic control, ad hoc plant hire, supply of fuel, quarry products, other construction support services such as cleaning and waste removal, and environmental maintenance services and materials. In support of the above and our commitment to local contact, Nacap and our subcontractors have, during the execution of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm pre-construction minor works in February and March of this year, engaged the following local suppliers: EMF Surveying in Orange, Kennards Hire from Orange, Bassmann Hire from Orange, CPB Excavations Blayney, which included supply of local quarry materials, and J N Excavations in Blayney.

In terms of execution of works and management of conflicts with environmental and heritage sensitivities, Nacap is certified ISO 14001 and has operated successfully across multiple regulatory jurisdictions with successful implementation of project, environmental and heritage approvals and avoidance and mitigation measures. Nacap has never been prosecuted under environmental legislation and has never received a penalty infringement notice from an environmental regulator or council anywhere in Australia. As previously mentioned, regarding the successful delivery of projects across in excess of 500 landholdings made up of landowners, stakeholders and third parties, our capacity to deliver projects whilst embedded in communities is founded on establishing a project culture of understanding and commitment to communication, co-existence and capacity to support concurrent social and enterprise activities. Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to this meeting. I just hope that the IPC will grant approval for the MOD 4 application and this project can proceed to construction.

MR COUTTS: Thanks, Brett. Well, that's the end of today's public meeting and I would like to thank you all for attending. We do appreciate the opportunity to hear views of the local community and we do understand that you're taking the time from your other activities to come and attend today. So we do appreciate it and thank you very much.

RECORDING CONCLUDED

[9.51 am]