

Minutes of Meeting 5

Yass Valley Wind Farm & Conroys Gap Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

Present:	Nic Carmody	Chairman	NC
	Councillor Neil Reid	Harden Shire Council	NR
	Councillor Ann Daniel	Yass Valley Council	AD
	John McGrath	Non-involved landowner	JM
	Sam Weir	Alternate for Rowena Weir	SW
	Mark Glover	Non-involved landowner	MG
	Chris Shannon	Bookham Ag Bureau	CS
	Paul Regan	Non-involved landowner	PR
	Andrew Wilson	Epuron	AW
	Donna Bolton	Epuron	DB
Apologies:	Alan Keith	Non-involved landowner	AK
	Rowena Weir	Non-involved landowner	RW
	Stan Waldren	Involved landowner	StW
Observers:	Chris Mackenzie Davey	Renewable Energy Precinct Coordinator NSW-ACT border	CM
Date:	Thursday 5 September 2013		
Venue:	Yass Valley Council Chambers, Comur Street, Yass		
Purpose:	Meeting No 5		

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	<p>NC opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 2:10 pm.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Rowena Weir, Alan Keith and Stan Waldren.</p>	-
2	<p>Pecuniary or other interests</p> <p>No declarations were made.</p>	-
3	<p>Minutes of Previous meeting</p> <p>One correction was made to the Minutes – Paul Regan was quoted as having queried the number of houses located within 2km and within 5km of the Yass Valley Wind Farm but did not attend the previous meeting – the query was made by Nic Carmody.</p> <p>With this correction the minutes of meeting number 4 were accepted by the committee and will be distributed to the committee members and placed on the Epuron website.</p>	AW
4	<p>Matters arising from the Previous Minutes</p> <p>Large scale printed photomontages were distributed among committee members to put up at agreed locations including Jugiong service station, Yass Valley Council offices, Yass Library, Harden Shire Council offices, Barneys of Bookham and Binalong. JM requested a photomontage for Bowning. AW to prepare and provide to JM who will arrange for it to be displayed at the Bowning pub.</p> <p>It was noted that AW had circulated a sample erosion and sediment control plan to the committee members.</p> <p>AW advised that the Preferred Project and Submissions Report was with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) but he had no further advice about process or timeframes.</p> <p>AW noted that DPI advised that notices were routinely sent out to homes within 8-10 km of a proposed development. JM said he didn't believe that this had happened.</p>	AW
5	<p>Conroys Gap Wind Farm update</p> <p>AW advised that Epuron continue to work on securing a power purchase agreement and investment partner. The modification application for the three additional wind turbines has not been lodged due to concerns about the possible impact the modification would have on the timetable for constructing the approved fifteen turbines.</p> <p>NC asked if the modification would increase the capacity (MW). AW confirmed that the modification would increase the capacity from 30 to 36MW.</p> <p>CS asked what the capacity of the wind turbines would be. AW confirmed they would be 2MW for Conroy's Gap and between 1.5MW and 3.6MW for Yass Valley.</p> <p>AD asked how many were on order for Conroy's Gap. AW advised fourteen were on</p>	

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	<p>order with an option for additional turbines.</p> <p>PR asked for the name of the manufacturer of the Conroy's Gap wind farm wind turbines. AW noted he is not at liberty to announce that yet.</p>	
6	<p>Yass Valley Wind Farm Update</p> <p>AW told the committee that the Preferred Project and Submissions Report was lodged with the DPI on 30 July and will be viewable when it is released by the DPI.</p> <p>MG requested a copy of the aviation assessment. AW advised that all parts of the Report would be available when it had been accepted by the DPI. Comments were expected back from government agencies by the end of the week after which it was expected to go onto the DPI website.</p> <p>MG queried whether further submissions would be invited. AW noted that DPI had not confirmed the assessment process from this point. AW will notify the committee when the Report has been released and confirm the assessment process.</p> <p><u>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Referral</u></p> <p>MG noted that the EPBC referral had been withdrawn on 16 August. AW confirmed this and noted that it was about to be re-lodged. AW noted that the reason for the withdrawal and re-lodgement is that while state planning approval runs with the land, ie the holder of the land holds the approval, EPBC approval runs with the applicant and not the land.</p> <p>PR asked why the referral had been withdrawn. AW explained that the Yass Valley Wind Farm may be constructed in multiple sections and hence ownership and liabilities of each section of the wind farm needed to be separated.</p> <p>AD queries whether that meant that the wind farm could be sold. AW confirmed that this was the case.</p> <p>JM asked who approves the EPBC referral. AW noted it is SEWPaC – the Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.</p> <p>MG queried which species triggered EPBC control. AW noted that a number of different species on the Yass Valley site including Box Gum Woodland CEEC, Yass Daisy, Golden Sun Moth and the Superb Parrot were of interest under the EPBC Act.</p> <p>MG asked if the documentation was available. AW agreed to email the link to the EPBC website when the reports are on it.</p> <p>PR noted that it looks bad that the referral is being split. AW reaffirmed that the reason was to accommodate potential multiple owners of the site and enable any determination and conditions to be split in order for the responsibilities and liabilities to align with the project owners.</p> <p>NJ noted that if work needed to proceed on some of the turbines then splitting the referral would mean those turbines could proceed to construction without any impact on the other section of the wind farm.</p>	<p>AW</p> <p>AW</p>
7	<p>General Business</p> <p><u>Membership of the committee</u></p> <p>AW advised that the CCC has members representing neighbours to both the Conroy's</p>	

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	<p>Gap and the Yass Valley Wind Farms. Once either of these projects move to construction then the CCC would need to split into two separate committees.</p> <p>AW noted that there was also not a good representation of neighbours located close to the wind farm sites and that this would be important when the projects were in the operation phase, particularly in relation to the role of the CCC in administering the community fund.</p>	
8	<p><u>Community Fund</u></p> <p>AW read out the Statement of Commitment in relation to community fund:</p> <p>“From commissioning the Proponent will contribute \$2,500 per wind turbine built per annum to a Community Enhancement Program. The Proponent will pay the annual contribution to the CCC for distribution.</p> <p>At least 50% of the funds may be allocated to residential clean energy improvements such as solar water heating or solar PV panels or similar benefit to non-involved properties within 5km of a wind turbine.</p> <p>When the wind farm construction contracts are finalised a new CCC is to be elected to represent the neighbouring community through the construction and operation phase and manage the Community Enhancement Program.</p> <p>The CCC is to be constituted in line with Appendix C of the Draft <i>NSW Planning Guidelines: Wind Farms</i> or as updated. The allocation of funds will be determined by the elected CCC to ensure the community benefit is distributed in line with the community’s own view of an equitable distribution of funds.”</p> <p>It was agreed to discuss the proposed community fund in more detail at the next meeting.</p>	
9	<p><u>Response from RFS re potential impacts of wind farms on fighting fires</u></p> <p>AW noted that the RFS had provided a response to its queries regarding the potential impact of wind farms on fighting fires both on the ground and from the air. A summary of the response has been included in the September project newsletter. MG noted that he would provide a copy of the RFS letter to PR.</p> <p>A copy of the September project newsletter was provided to each of the committee members.</p>	MG
10	<p>NJ noted an article on wind farms in the edition of <i>The Land</i> dated 22 August 2013 and that the draft <i>NSW Planning Guidelines: Wind Farms</i> were still in draft form.</p>	
11	<p>NJ noted that the distribution of project newsletters to residents in the McMahon’s Reef area was now working. MG noted that the consultation is now happening satisfactorily as it should have been five years ago.</p>	
12	<p>JM queried what percentage of wind farm construction jobs were expected to be sourced from the local area. AW undertook to check the statistics from recent wind farm projects and advise the committee by the next meeting.</p>	AW
13	<p>SW queried which of the possible wind turbine locations on the Conroys Gap site would be built. AW agreed to notify the committee as soon as the layout had been finalised.</p>	AW

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14	CM confirmed that he had requested permission for the planned visit to the Gullen Range wind farm site but hadn't heard back yet.	CM
15	CM noted that Infigen were holding an Open Day at the Woodlawn Wind Farm on Friday 8 th November 2013 and anybody could register their interest in attending on their website http://www.infigenenergy.com/community/open-days.html	
16	NC queried whether the operational noise compliance audit of the operating wind farms in NSW had been released by the NSW government. AW noted that their report hadn't been released yet.	
17	<p>NC queried whether consultation plans were available on the Epuron website. AW agreed to check and include a link in the minutes.</p> <p>The Community Consultation Plan for the Yass Valley Wind Farm is included as Attachment 6 to the Environmental Assessment http://www.epuron.com.au/project/yass-valley/downloads/ under the under the "Environmental Assessment & Submissions Report" tab.</p> <p>The Community Consultation Plan for the Conroys Gap Wind Farm is included in section 6.1 (page 81) of the Environmental Assessment http://www.epuron.com.au/project/conroys-gap/downloads/ under the "Environmental Assessment & Submissions Report" tab.</p>	
18	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>Proposed date for next meeting</p> <p>Date: Thursday 7th November 2013</p> <p>Time: 2.00 to 3.30PM</p> <p>Venue: Yass Council Chambers - booked</p>	
19	Meeting closed at 3.44 pm	Noted