

Minutes of Meeting 7

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

Present:	Nic Carmody	Chairman	NC
	Councillor Neil Reid	Harden Shire Council	NR
	Paul Regan	Non-involved landowner	PR
	Mark Glover	Non-involved landowner	MG
	John McGrath	Non-involved landowner	JM
	Tony Reeves	Involved landowner	TR
	Chris Shannon	Bookham Ag Bureau	CS
	Sam Weir	Bookham Ag Bureau	SW
	Mark Fleming	NSW OEH	MF
	Andrew Wilson	Epuron	AW
	Michael Kurnik	Epuron	MK
Apologies:	Alan Keith	Non-involved landowner	AK
	Chris Mackenzie Davey	Renewable Energy Precinct Coordinator NSW-ACT border	CM
Absent:	Councillor Ann Daniel	Yass Valley Council	AD
Date:	Thursday 6 th March 2014		
Venue:	Memorial Hall, Comur Street, Yass		
Purpose:	Meeting No 7		

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	NC opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 2:00 pm. Apologies were noted from Alan Keith and Chris McKensie-Davey.	-
2	Pecuniary or other interests No declarations were made.	-
3	Minutes of Previous meeting No comments were received on the draft minutes of meeting number 6 which had been emailed to committee members on 25 November 2013. The draft minutes will be resent to the committee prior to being finalised and placed on the website.	AW
4	Matters arising from the Previous Minutes JM queried the extent of local labour likely to be used for the construction of a wind farm. AW noted that for the Gullen Range Wind Farm 70% of the construction workforce had been from the local area.	
5	Conroys Gap Wind Farm update AW advised no change in the status of the Conroys Gap wind farm project. A new wind monitoring mast was being installed on the site as part of verifying the wind resource on the site. JM queried whether the new mast was at Carroll's Ridge. AW confirmed that it was being installed on the Conroys Gap Wind Farm site. The recent news regarding the as-constructed locations of the Gullen Range Wind Farm turbines was discussed. AW noted that more recent wind farm project approvals included a micro-siting allowance of 100m. SW queried the proposed planning modification to allow the construction of three additional turbines. AW advised that the proposed modification was not currently being pursued and noted that neighbours closest to the proposed wind turbine locations had been consulted as part of considering the modification. JM queried whether TransGrid would build the grid connection for the wind farm. AW confirmed that the wind farm would enter a connection agreement with TransGrid to provide the connection to the existing transmission line.	
6	Yass Valley Wind Farm Update AW advised that feedback from the NSW Department of Planning & Infrastructure was expected within a week. AW agreed to notify the committee directly with any update on the status of the planning approval, rather than waiting for the next meeting. EPBC Approval – AW noted that the Commonwealth Department of Environment had provided further comments on the Referrals and that Epuron were in the process of responding to these comments. PR queried the reason for splitting the EPBC referral in	AW

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	<p>two parts. AW confirmed earlier advice (see minutes of meeting No. 5) 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>AW agreed to include the URL to the referrals in the minutes of the meeting. http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=current_referral_detail&proposal_id=7002 http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/epbc/epbc_ap.pl?name=current_referral_detail&proposal_id=6989</p> <p>JM queried whether Superb Parrots had been considered as part of the environmental assessment. AW confirmed that Superb Parrots had been adequately considered in the biodiversity assessment in accordance with the Director Generals Requirements. MF agreed to clarify the requirements for the assessment of potential impact on the Superb Parrot.</p> <p>PR asked whether there was a map showing the landowners involved in the project. AW noted that the latest version of the Preferred Project & Submissions Report (which should be made public soon) included a landowner map.</p> <p>JM queried the connection of the wind farm to the 132kV transmission line located to the north of the project site. AW confirmed that the preferred connection was to the 330kV transmission line approximately 12km to the south of the site, but that approval was also being sought for an alternative connection to the 132kV transmission line.</p> <p>PR queried the establishment of the community fund. AW confirmed the commitment to contribute to a community fund commencing from the operation of the wind farm. AW suggested that details of community funds for existing wind farms may be publically available.</p> <p>MG queried whether visual screening would be provided for properties located greater than 5km from a turbine. AW noted the expected conditions of approval would be to offer visual screening for all residences located within 5km.</p> <p>SW whether screening for noise would be provided. AW noted that vegetation doesn't necessarily provide effective screening of noise, however the conditions of approval will require compliance with the relevant noise guidelines.</p> <p>JM asked whether rainfall was being monitored on the wind farm site. AW noted that rainfall hadn't been measured, other than when background noise measurements were being recorded.</p>	<p>AW</p> <p>MF</p>
7	<p>General Business</p> <p>The minimum number of committee members to be present to hold a CCC meeting was discussed. It was agreed that for all future meetings a minimum of 6 committee members would be required for a quorum.</p>	
8	<p>The recent news regarding the as-constructed locations of the Gullen Range Wind Farm turbines was discussed. AW noted that more recent wind farm project approvals included a micro-siting allowance of 100m.</p>	

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9	SW provided a copy of a letter in relation to concerns about potential impacts from the wind farms on aerial agriculture operations. SW clarified that the letter was addressed to Epuron from Sam & Rowena Weir and from Mark Glover and was not from the Bookham Ag Bureau.	
10	NR queried whether Fred Ziems and Peter Morse on McMahons Reef Road were included on the consultation contact list. AW confirmed that they were.	
11	NR noted that an article about the Yass Valley Wind Farm had appeared in the Cootamundra Herald on Wednesday 5 th March 2014.	
12	JM noted that he had never received a newsletter in relation either the Conroys Gap or Yass Valley Wind Farms. AW noted that he did not believe this was correct, but would check Epuron records. JM provided his correct mailing address.	AW
13	JM noted that the feedback he had received from the display of a photomontage in the Bowning pub had been negative.	
14	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>It was proposed and agreed to hold meetings quarterly unless there was any significant progress or news on either of the projects. The proposed date for next meeting was Thursday 12th June 2014</p>	
	Meeting closed at 3:15 pm	