

Minutes of Meeting

Rye Park Wind Farm

Community Consultation Committee

Present:	Nic Carmody	Chairman	NC
	Councillor James Wheelwright	Upper Lachlan Council	JW
	Jenny and Chris Hally	Uninvolved landowner	JCH
	Greg Medway	Involved landowner	GM
	Neil Privett	Involved landowner	NP
	Malcolm Day	Involved landowner	MD
	Brian Hall	Epuron	BH
Apologies:	Mayor Wendy Tuckerman	Boorowa Council	WT
	Councillor Ann Daniel	Yass Valley Council	AD
	Councillor Garry Ware	Yass Valley Council	GW
	Alex and Bev Davis	Uninvolved landowner	ABD
	Graham Privett	Involved landowner	GP
Date:	22 July 2013		
Venue:	Yass Valley Council Chambers		
Purpose:	Meeting No 5		

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	<p>NC opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 12.32pm.</p> <p>Copies of the meeting agenda and minutes of the last meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from the following members who were not able to attend the meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Mayor Wendy Tuckerman – Boorowa Council → Councillor Ann Daniel - Yass Valley Council → Councillor Garry Ware - Yass Valley Council → Graham Privett – Involved landowner → Alex and Bev Davis – Uninvolved landowner <p>There were no conflicts of interest declared by those present.</p>	Noted
2	<p>NC asked all members present to confirm they had received minutes of the last meeting and moved that the minutes be accepted. There were no changes proposed and the minutes were accepted by all members present.</p>	Noted
3	<p>It was discussed that Councillor David Needham was no longer available to represent Yass Valley Council on the CCC. The position vacated by Councillor Needham has been taken up by Councillors Ann Daniel and Garry Ware. The CCC thanks Councillor Needham for his contribution to the CCC.</p>	Noted
4	<p>JCH suggested Boorowa Council should consider appointing an alternate to Mayor Wendy Tuckerman as its representative on the CCC to ensure the Boorowa region is consistently represented on the CCC.</p> <p>Members asked BH to raise the matter of an alternate representative with WT and to ask whether the next CCC meeting could be hosted by Boorowa council.</p>	Noted BH
5	<p>BH ran through the Epuron action items arising from last meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Follow up Rural Fire Service (RFS) for response to letter from ABD regarding concerns for fire. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BH advised that the Yass RFS had been followed up by phone and email regarding the letter. No response to the letter had been received from the RFS to date. It is understood the letter from ABD may have been forwarded to RFS head office for consideration/response. ○ NC offered to send an email/letter to the State Member for Burrinjuck, The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP, seeking that the RFS respond to the letter from ABD. 	Noted NC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Provide A1 size wall map to Yass Valley council with the inclusions of council LGA boundaries, 2km buffer zone from turbines and involved and uninvolved houses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Complete. c. Upload copy of meeting 4 presentation materials to website. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Complete. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>BH presented current project information including development status and key activity since the last meeting. The presentation consisted of 17 PowerPoint slides and a colour copy was provided to each member present at the CCC meeting and will be uploaded to the website after the meeting. An A3 size scale colour map of the proposed final wind farm layout forming part of the submitted EA was also handed out to each member for reference purposes and ease of viewing. A larger A1 size version of the layout was also displayed on the wall in council chambers for general viewing.</p> <p>BH presented and discussed the presentation. Key comments, questions, actions and feedback points arising from the presentation were (listed in no particular order);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Status of the Environmental Assessment. It was confirmed the EA had been submitted to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and subject to completing the adequacy review stage the EA would be placed on public exhibition in the coming weeks/months. Exhibition dates to be confirmed by the department in due course. b. Involvement of Trustpower. The meeting discussed the recent announcement that the NZ utility, Trustpower, was involved in the project. Trustpower has an option with Epuron to acquire the project following securing of land and planning approvals. This is a significant milestone achievement for the project. c. Overall development timing. JW asked for an update on the overall timing for the proposed development and an estimate of when construction could commence. BH advised the following estimate of key dates and expected timing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o EA to be exhibited second half of this year with public submissions called for by the department o Approval decision anticipated late 2013 or early 2014 o Trustpower to undertake construction feasibility as soon as possible post planning approvals o Potential construction 2015-16 d. Wind farm access roads aids fire-fighters. A recent media story outlined in slide 10 of the presentation was discussed in some detail as a follow on point from the letter submitted to the RFS (item 5a above) about wind farms and fires. It was noted that while wind farm access tracks provide improved ground access to fight fires there was some concern that aerial access may be reduced in some instances. Generally wind turbines are treated the same as any other obstacles in the landscape, such as powerlines and communication towers, when fighting fires. The RFS is expected to make a general industry statement about wind farms and fire fighting in due course. e. Community enhancement funding. Members discussed current thinking and ideas around the opportunity to establish a community 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>enhancement fund for the project. A summary of the key discussion points and views include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GM discussed the significant opportunity available to the local community and the need to capture money for the future so families had more reasons to continue living and working in the area. GM didn't want to see short term projects like the building of a "skate park" instead wanting to establish a long term vision and create a "Business Park" or "IT Hub". ○ MD said if the community didn't capture the benefits on offer from the project it would become harder for some farmers to survive and may result in them walking off the land. ○ NP said the local community can't afford for the project not to proceed and must capture the benefits on offer. ○ There was a lengthy discussion amongst members around how the community could spend any funding available from the project. Some of the projects/ideas discussed included; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Business Park or IT Hub ● Recreational facilities such as lighting to local fields ● Payments for impacts to nearby landowners ● Improvements to local towns and schools ○ Members also discussed the various ways (models) funding could be administered and the key ideas put forward included; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Councils should manage funding and not by local community groups in isolation of council ● CCC should manage funding and decide on allocations for funding initiatives ● Other models could be considered based on experience from other projects ○ NC suggested the CCC should administer the community enhancement fund and 50% of any funding be allocated amongst residents living within 2km of turbines and the remaining 50% be provided for approved local projects. ○ JCH advised a recent valuation of their property had declined as a result of the proposed wind farm and funding from a community enhancement fund should be provided to landowners as a payment for any loss of value. Payment should only apply to those who have a visual line of sight of the wind turbines. ○ General agreement that any money from a community enhancement fund should be spent locally on nearby affected towns (eg. Rye Park and Bevandale) and not the regional centres (eg. Yass and Boorowa). Money should not be a substitute for council rate funding tasks already allocated. ○ BH suggested that Trustpower be invited to the next CCC meeting to discuss their ideas for a community enhancement fund as they have actual experience from current operational wind farms in SA and working alongside communities. ○ NC put forward a suggested value of \$1,600-2,500 per turbine per annum as a guide from other projects regarding the value of a community enhancement fund. BH indicated this seemed to be a high number and needs to be discussed further once 	<p>BH</p>
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	<p>the type of initiatives required from the project have been identified by the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JW indicated, as a guide, the Crookwell wind farm project offers the community around \$1,400 per turbine per annum. ○ It was acknowledged that more discussion is required of the CCC and community to better understand the type of project funding required to be undertaken and the preferred method (model) necessary to administer any funding. ○ To help inform further thinking and discussion NC asked that Epuron determine how many landowners there are within 2km and 5km of the proposed turbines so the CCC can assess how many potentially affected landowners there could be. ○ JW asked that Epuron determine how many proposed turbines there are in each council LGA as a potential guide to any funding allocations. 	<p>All</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
7	<p>General Business / Other Matters</p> <p>a. BH advised that an Open Day was planned to be held during the department's public exhibition of the EA. The Open Day would assist the public to view exhibited information and to ask questions of the proponent. JCH requested that the visual consultant be represented at the open day to discuss photomontages displayed of the wind farm. Epuron will ask the visual consultant to be available for the Open Day once the date is known. JCH feel the photomontages do not accurately represent the views that will be seen of the wind farm and would like to see an alternative medium to photographs, such as hand drawn sketches.</p> <p>b. JCH asked that the minutes reflect that the Supplementary DGRs issued by the department for the project require the proponent to undertake additional consultation effort with particular focus on those non wind farm associated community members who live in proximity to the site. BH responded by saying every effort has been made to contact and consult with neighbouring and nearby landowners with particular focus on those within 2km of a proposed turbine. For example all landowners within 2km of a proposed turbine have been offered and provided with a photomontage where requested by the landowner. Some landowners beyond this distance have also been provided with a photomontage. Consultation continues and is an ongoing process.</p> <p>c. BH to upload copy of presentation material to website.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
8	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Date: TBC (aiming for Monday 30 September)</p> <p>Time: TBC (aiming for 12.30 to 2.30)</p> <p>Venue: TBC (aiming for Boorowa Council to host the meeting)</p>	<p>All</p>

	BH to discuss the proposed next meeting date and venue with WT from Boorowa Council and advise CCC members when finalised.	BH
9	NC closed the meeting at 2.28pm	Noted