

Minutes of Meeting

Rye Park Wind Farm

Community Consultation Committee

Present:	Nic Carmody	Chairman	NC
	Councillor David Needham	Yass Valley Council	DN
	Councillor James Wheelwright	Upper Lachlan Council	JW
	Graham Privett	Involved landowner	GP
	Alex and Bev Davis	Uninvolved landowner	ABD
	Jenny Hally	Uninvolved landowner	JH
	Brian Hall	Epuron (Rye Park Wind Farm)	BH
	Keiren Bellew	Interested local stakeholder	KB
Apologies:	Mayor Wendy Tuckerman	Boorowa Council	WT
	Greg Medway	Involved landowner	GM
	Geoffrey Minchin	Interested local stakeholder	GM1
Date:	24 October 2012		
Venue:	Yass Council Chambers		
Purpose:	Meeting No 3		

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	<p>NC opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 12.30pm. Copies of the meeting agenda and minutes of the last meeting were distributed to those present (already distributed prior to meeting by email/mail). Apologies were accepted from Mayor Wendy Tuckerman, Greg Medway and Geoffrey Minchin who were not able to attend the meeting.</p> <p>DN and BH briefly discussed the change of Chairman role from David Needham to Nic Carmody. The CCC would like to thank DN for chairing previous meetings and welcomes NC to the role.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
2	<p>NC asked all present to briefly introduce themselves and to declare any pecuniary or other interests.</p> <p>a. All CCC members present made a brief introduction and there were no conflicting interests declared.</p> <p>b. Keiren Bellew attended the meeting as an interested community member (non CCC member) and stated an interest in future construction work from the wind farm. BH will ensure details of KB will be entered onto the contractors database for participation in future construction tenders.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>BH</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the last meeting were circulated and accepted as a true and accurate record by DN and BH.</p> <p>As a general rule NC asked BH to circulated minutes of last meeting by email/mail prior to each meeting with the agenda for next meeting to ensure received by all members.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>BH</p>
4	<p>BH discussed the recent meeting/consultation discussion with Peter Alley (PA) from the Yass Valley Rural Fire Service. Key points were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA manages the Yass Valley region for NSWRFs and suggested it may be helpful to also discuss the project with his colleague located at Harden which covers the South West Slopes region. • RFS generally don't have concern for wind farms regarding fire risk and has operational wind farms in the region. New access roads can be helpful. • Head office for NSWRFs may consider making a submission on the project during the public exhibition phase. • PA offered the following general points for consideration regarding fire during development of the Rye Park project; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Placement of connecting powerlines needs to be considered during the design as the wind turbines themselves are not the main concern regarding fire risk. 	<p>Noted / BH</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure tall structures are marked on pilot maps as required. ○ Aerial fixed wing and rotary aircraft can and do operate around wind farms in fire situations. ○ Wind farm to develop operating protocols for response during fires (ie. shutdown during fire on wind farm land). <p>CCC members generally discussed the above information regarding fire and noted the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ABD again raised concern for fire related risks from wind farms and the regular interaction they have with the local RFS to maintain awareness. ● GP stated wind farms pose little or no fire risk and this position is supported by his role of nearly 20 years as Deputy Fire Captain of the local brigade. Wind farm roads will help with access. ● NC asked ABD to write down their concerns regarding fire in a letter and the CCC would forward to Peter Alley at Yass Valley RFS for a response. ● BH reminded all that the NSW governments own wind farm fact sheet states that fire risk from wind farms is very low. Refer page 7 of DECCW – The Wind Energy Fact Sheet. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>ABD/NC/BH</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>BH presented detailed information including current project status and key development activity since the last meeting. The presentation consisted of 26 PowerPoint slides and was displayed by overhead projector. A hard copy of the presentation was handed to those present at the CCC meeting and will be uploaded to the website after the meeting. A3 scale maps of the proposed final wind farm layout and public road photomontage #7 were also handed out to each member for reference purposes and ease of viewing. Larger wall maps were available if needed.</p> <p>Key comments, questions and feedback points arising from the presentation were (listed in no particular order);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Interference to satellite services (slide 6). Information was provided in response to the concern raised by JH. The wind farm has been designed to accommodate existing communications services, including satellite, and is not predicted to be impacted by the wind farm. A detailed communications study will be exhibited with the EA. GP also stated RFS radio services would soon be switching to digital signal and would provide the area with a very reliable service. b. NSW Valuer General report (slide 7). As part of a previous action regarding concern for property values BH provided JH with a copy of the NSW Valuer General report – Impact of Wind Farms on Property Values – August 2009. While JH has read the report she has some concern the report is potentially out of date. c. Photomontage (slide 18 & 19). JH felt the photomontage prepared from her home is not accurate and personally prepared a version to show the meeting a true representation. BH explained the photomontage process for the project including the engagement of a specialist consultant. Should JH have further concern BH offered to arrange a meeting/discussion with the visual expert for the project. JH to advise. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>BH/JH</p>

	<p>d. Community Fund (slide 22 & 23). After much discussion on the matter of community funds in recent months, NC summarised the committee members various positions/views as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any large development project has impacts and needs to be considered in the assessment process. Council imposed section 94 contributions are a means for recovery on use of public infrastructure. • Possible solution is a “viewing tax” based on number of turbines seen from certain locations. • Councillors will seek 1% of capital value as a contribution. • Non involved landowners would like compensation for loss of visual amenity. • Involved landowners would like funds to be spent locally on matters such as roads. • JH would like to see funds spent on placing local powerlines underground. • DN will contact to the responsible minister, or DP&I, on behalf of the CCC to ascertain their view on contribution value. Minutes of the meeting to be sent to councils to assist in this request. <p>Epuron confirmed their position regarding a community fund for the project on slides 22 and 23 of the presentation.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>DN</p> <p>Noted</p>
6	<p>General Business</p> <p>a. NC suggested BH contact Local Historical Society for list/map of water bores located in the area.</p> <p>b. BH to upload copy of presentation material to website.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
7	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Date: TBC (aiming for a Monday or Friday in December)</p> <p>Time: TBC (aiming for 12.30 to 2.30)</p> <p>Venue: Yass Council Chambers</p>	<p>All</p> <p>BH asked to circulate a suggested meeting date for December</p>
8	<p>Meeting closed at 2.30pm</p>	<p>Noted</p>