

# Minutes of Meeting

## Rye Park Wind Farm

## Community Consultation Committee

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<b>Present:</b>	Councillor David Needham	Yass Valley Council and Independent Chair	DN
	Mayor Wendy Tuckerman	Boorowa Council	WT
	Councillor James Wheelwright	Upper Lachlan Council	JW
	Graham Privett	Involved landowner	GP
	Brian Hall	Epuron (Rye Park Wind Farm)	BH
<b>Apologies:</b>	Drew and Robyn Chapman	Uninvolved landowner	DRC
<b>Date:</b>	27 June 2012		
<b>Venue:</b>	Yass Council Chambers		
<b>Purpose:</b>	Meeting No 1		

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### Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	DN opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 3pm and distributed a hard copy of the previously circulated agenda.	Noted
2	Apologies were noted for DRC who were not able to attend the CCC meeting.	Noted

3	<p>DN asked for any declarations of pecuniary or other interests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. WT is a member of the Rugby wind farm CCC and doesn't anticipate any conflict with membership of the Rye Park wind farm CCC.</li> <li>b. GP is an involved landowner to the proposed wind farm.</li> <li>c. Generally those present felt their participation on the CCC was relative to their interest as a local councillor or landowner etc and didn't feel it created any conflict with the wind farm CCC.</li> </ul>	Noted
4	<p>BH advised the following local people / groups had accepted an invitation to attend future CCC meetings but were not available for meeting number 1 due to other commitments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. Geoffrey Minchin has confirmed he would be pleased to attend future CCC meetings as a representative of the Boorowa Catchment Management Authority in his role as the Catchment Officer.</li> <li>e. Chris and Jenny Hally have confirmed they would be pleased to attend future CCC meetings as uninvolved neighbours to the wind farm.</li> </ul>	<p>Noted</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
5	<p>The CCC generally discussed a preference to try and increase representation from local landowners at future CCC meetings, if possible, particularly those living close to Rye Park. BH advised invitations to join the CCC had been widely distributed but with very few accepted responses received. GP was of the view that if uninvolved local landowners were interested in the project or had concerns about the project they would surely seek to attend the CCC.</p> <p>DN offered to draft and send a letter to all neighbouring landowners of the wind farm, on behalf of the CCC, inviting them to attend and or contribute to the CCC. It was acknowledged that BH (Epuron), as the project proponent, had previously sent invitations to join the CCC to all neighbouring landowners and the response was very limited.</p> <p>WT enquired whether a representative from the Boorowa District Landscape Guardians (BDLG) had been invited to attend the CCC meetings. BH confirmed the BDLGs had been invited to send a representative to the CCC but no response was received. WT offered to follow up with the BDLGs to see if they would reconsider and send a representative to the CCC. WT would also try to identify a willing local representative or group proximate to the town of Rye Park to attend the CCC.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>DN</p> <p>WT</p>
6	<p>From a planning perspective, DN discussed the need for establishing the CCC and distributed a 1 page extract from the Draft NSW Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms (Guidelines) which generally outlined the purpose, role, scope and governance expectations of the CCC. The meeting discussed that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Although CCC meeting frequency is suggested as quarterly in the Guidelines, BH advised CCC meetings would be required more</li> </ul>	Noted

	<p>frequently (approximately every 4 to 6 weeks) in the development lead up phase prior to submitting the EA to DP&amp;I later in the year.</p> <p>b. DN advised the CCC reports to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&amp;I) and is required to formally report annually to DP&amp;I or as otherwise required.</p> <p>c. WT and DN discussed that the CCC should make a submission during public exhibition of the EA by DP&amp;I regarding consultation. Each Council may make their own separate submission regarding the project more generally or Councils may wish to make a joint submission.</p> <p>d. DN advised that it is the role of the CCC to represent the community and to provide information about the project to the community and receive any feedback to be considered in the proposal.</p> <p>e. The CCC is not a decision making body.</p>	
7	<p>As this was the first CCC meeting, WT sought clarification on the nomination and appointment of DN as the Independent Chair of the CCC. DN stated he was nominated by Yass Valley Council who separately wrote to DP&amp;I regarding the nomination. The Guidelines state DP&amp;I are responsible for the appointment of an Independent Chair to a wind farm CCC.</p>	Noted
8	<p>BH presented detailed information including a company and project overview, development update and status of the consultation program and studies underway. The presentation consisted of 41 PowerPoint slides. A hard copy of the presentation was handed to those present at the CCC meeting and was also uploaded to the website after the meeting. Large scale photomontage posters and a map of the current wind farm layout were hung on the wall for viewing by the CCC members. Key comments, questions and feedback points arising from the presentation were (listed in no particular order);</p> <p>a. <b>Access Roads.</b> BH was asked to ensure Councils are consulted when the draft Traffic and Transport study is available to make sure construction access and any impacts on local roads are considered.</p> <p>b. <b>Roadwork's.</b> JW advised Upper Lachlan Council would be interested to tender for any roadwork contract associated with construction of the project.</p> <p>c. <b>Community Fund.</b> BH presentation raised the need to investigate best way to maximise local and regional benefits from the project. Specifically Epuron is looking for feedback on how to best establish a community fund and what type of local support is required from the project.</p> <p>JW advised Upper Lachlan Council preference for community fund payments to be based on 1% of audited capital cost (as per their DCP). Funds to be escalated at CPI and distributed annually over the life of the project. JW also advised this method and approach was generally</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>All</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>adopted by AGL for the recent Dalton Gas Project.</p> <p>DN advised Yass Valley Council preference for community fund payments to be based around the recently approved Boco Rock wind farm which contributes \$2,500 per turbine per annum.</p> <p>WT advised Boorowa Council preference for community fund payments to be distributed by Council under Section 94A contributions by developers. DN agreed that this is Yass Valley Councils preference also.</p> <p>GP indicated a preference that a large part of any community fund payments to directed to local road improvements around the wind farm.</p> <p>BH acknowledged the feedback regarding the establishment of a community fund. Feedback on the type of community support required proximate to the project is important in order to progress. BH will discuss this further at the next meeting.</p> <p>d. <b>Wind Farm Layout.</b> WT asked for clarification as to how the original layout of 180 turbines had evolved to the current layout of 131 turbines. BH explained (as outlined in the presentation) that the original 180 layout was based on limited early information available about the site, generally at a desk top level, to enable initial discussions with stakeholders to commence. Since then the various studies and consultation results have better identified the sites constraints and enabled the 131 layout to be optimised to accommodate updated design information. Work is ongoing in this area.</p> <p>e. <b>Photomontages.</b> BH confirmed four preliminary photomontages taken from public road viewpoints were complete and large scale posters were available for viewing at the meeting. A photomontage will be prepared for all dwellings located within 2km of a turbine (where allowed).</p> <p>f. <b>Local Support.</b> JW enquired as to the level of local support observed by Epuron during community consultation activity. BH indicated there was generally a positive level of community support amongst locals for the project, but as with all large development projects, there were some people either ambivalent or opposed to a wind farm in the area. Consultation work is ongoing and the next key event will be another newsletter and a Community Open House display proposed for Rye Park in July/August.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>BH</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
9	<p>General business</p> <p>a. BH to upload copy of presentation to website.</p> <p>b. DN asked BH to prepare a draft set of minutes of meeting.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>

10	Next meeting  Date: Thursday 2 August 2012  Time: 3pm to 4.30pm  Venue: Yass Council Chambers	All  DN and BH to circulate details prior to next meeting
11	Meeting closed at 4.30pm	Noted