

Rye Park Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee
Meeting No 17 held at Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Yass
Thursday 7th February 2019

Present

CCC Members: Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), Andrew Field, Jayne Apps, Christine Hawkins, Cr Geoff Frost (Yass Valley Council), Cr John Walker (Hilltops Council)

Proponent: Amanda Jones, David Fitzgerald, James Beckett & Steph Cooke – (Tilt Renewables)

Observers: Carlene Carmody (Minutes), Charlie Prell, Craig Southwell, Hannah Sparks (Yass Tribune)

The meeting opened at 7.10pm.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies – Sara Brown. Thank you to the observers and to the Committee for their attendance.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

All attendees required to complete Code of Conduct and Pecuniary Interest forms for the Department. Both were distributed to those present to complete as required by the new CCC guidelines. There were no changes to the declarations for those attendees.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2018 were adopted.

4. Actions arising from previous minutes

Action sheet updated.

5. Rye Park Wind Farm Project Status

Steph advised:

- Tender process for Electrical and Civil Balance of Plant completed – Tilt selected Zenviron to enter into an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) Agreement.
- Zenviron is a full-service EPC contractor specialising in the design and construction of large-scale renewable energy projects in Australia and New Zealand. Tilt have previously engaged Zenviron for the construction of our Salt Creek Wind Farm and Dundonnell Wind Farm (currently being constructed) in Victoria.
- Tilt and Zenviron will be completing further site investigations and design work, including on-ground geotechnical investigations.
- First round of wind turbine selection process completed – no turbine or supplier has been chosen though Tilt continues to work with suppliers in order to select the best turbine for the site.
- Tilt is currently completing a number of grid protection studies, which are required as part of an application to Transgrid and the Australian Energy Market Operator who will provide Tilt with an offer to connect. It remains Tilt's plan to connect into the 330kV

transmission line that runs through the south of the project site.

- The Transmission line is not constrained by Mega Watts from the project. The main line has plenty capacity this this and other project within the vicinity.
- Tilt is continuing discussions with other parties regarding a Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA) for the project. This PPA is required to ensure that Tilt has a customer at a viable price for the majority of the energy generated by the wind farm and gives Tilt sufficient confidence to make a Final Investment Decision on the project.
- Upcoming State and Federal elections may see a change to the energy policies of these governments and be beneficial for the renewable energy industry. Some of the larger retailers are awaiting to see the result of these elections prior to making energy supply commitments.
- Umwelt have been engaged as our environmental consultants for the site investigations that are required by the Development Consent.
- Bird and bat surveys are underway. They need to be completed over a 12-month period, one season is complete and environmental consultation on site now for second season. Studies are done across the whole site, not just one part of it. Concerns expressed by Christine Hawkins on the impact on Superb Parrot whose population has increased due to work by local Landcare Groups. Also question the impact of the current drought on endangered species. Ongoing monitoring does occur during operations.
- Should Tilt not be successful in signing a PPA, we will consider exploring the idea of submitting a modification to the current Development Consent. It could involve increasing the tip height from 157 metres to 200 metres. Only preliminary investigations at the moment – currently exploring all opportunities to ensure the project is viable.
- A tip height modification would see the use of larger turbines, which would increase the turbine capacity from approximately 3.5MW to around 4.5MW. Tilt would not seek other alterations to the Development Consent and would work within the current noise restrictions.
- With the progression of projects in Victoria, Tilt is focussing on the Rye Park Wind Farm and has new staff that are assisting in the landowner (James Beckett) and community (Amanda Jones and David Fitzgerald).
- Tilt is progressing a consultation plan for the project to increase and improve communication with the local community. We are currently preparing a newsletter update (to be sent early March) and will consider other engagement such as a community shopfront – staffed a few days a week. Open to suggestions from the CCC for engagement suggestions. Christine suggested that perhaps Boorowa needs to be engaged more.

Questions on project status:

Andrew Field: question to Steph re wind buffering effect between Rye Park and Bango Wind Farms. Steph advised that the distance is 10km which is considered far enough not to impact. Data is created from information from Windfarms all across the world. Andrew was concerned that this will be the first time this has happened at these heights, megawatts, distance, local environment and terrain so impossible to model.

Nic Carmody – asked if the timeline and status of the current project could be regularly communicated to the Committee. Steph agreed as they wanted to be as transparent as possible to the community.

Christine Hawkins – questioned the use of images in communications. Not relevant or realistic for this site. Amanda agreed that some images used in the past did not represent the local terrain and the company would look to improve this in the future.

Jayne Apps – What is your background David (Fitzgerald). David advised he worked with Lend Lease as a Community Stakeholder Advisor in Light Rail.

Will the Environmental Management Plans be independently reviewed? Amanda advised they had been put together by a consultant, then following review and acceptance by Tilt submitted to all the authorities and relevant departments for review and approval. For specific management plans, the Development Consent requires that Tilt liaise with and seek input from relevant Departments (e.g. Office of Environment and Heritage) prior to submission of the plans to the Department of Planning and Environment for approval.

Which of the studies will look at where the water for the project comes from? Amanda to advise once all options have been explored.

Geoff Frost: Looking at construction at back end of 2019 – is that still on track? Steph advised that timeframe would be optimistic, and the project development would be dependent on when a PPA would be signed for the project. James (Beckett) – we have been advising our landowners that there can generally be a 6-9-month process to reach a final investment decision after a Power Purchasing Agreement is in place prior to construction. Actual commencement would then also depend on other factors such as seasonal constraints.

Nic Carmody: Under the current Development Approval are you required to have lights on the towers. Steph: Not in the current consent to have lights on top of towers. Nic advised that other projects in the region have them as requested by CASA, although there is little or no support for them from local communities. If a Modification for the project is sought this may change. Amanda advised they will monitor this.

6. General Business without notice

Jayne Apps: to Nic Carmody. Why don't we see any correspondence? Nic advised that if he received any related to this windfarm, the CCC would be informed. It is quite possible that communication within the project area has not included my contact details, maybe a newsletter would change this. I chair the Biala Windfarm CCC who put out a regular newsletter and there is correspondence as a result.

Nic Carmody – dates for meetings. General rule: Meeting Date to be set at meetings, if this requires a change then 28 days prior notice will be given to members. If there is no change, then a 14 days reminder, with draft Agenda, will be sent to CCC members.

Christine asked if we could look at venue in Boorowa for future meetings. Cr Geoff Frost advised this question had also been raised at the Bango CCC, but they have had difficulty finding a suitable venue.

Amanda Jones advised the company had met with Involved Landholders yesterday. Also, that at future CCC meetings James Beckett and David Fitzgerald will represent Tilt Renewables.

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held, Thursday 9th May 2019, 7pm, Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall Annexe.

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
6.	Councils to look into adding information links on their websites to enable members of the public to find the information about the wind farm.	7.3	Councillors/Tilt Renewables		Councillors reminded again to arrange this meeting 11/10/2018
21.	Coppabella Site inspection to be arranged following commencement	24/8/17	N Carmody	31/03/18	Not commenced
24	Chris to provide EPBC information	11/10/2018	Tilt Renewables		James to follow up and send to Nic
25	Councillors to advise when members of the Community Enhancement Fund for the project are appointed	11/10/2018	Council Representatives		
28	Request for Tilt to advise capacity and name of the Transgrid line that the project will feed into.	7/2/2019	Tilt Renewables		
29	Process for Management Plans	7/2/2019	Tilt Renewables		
30	What is the approval quantity for tree clearing?	7/2/2019	Tilt Renewables		
31	Source of water for the project?	7/2/2019	Tilt Renewables		

COMPLETED ACTION

2.	Provide copy of Committee Guidelines to all Committee members	4.0	N Carmody		Complete
7.	Michael to bring copies of windfarm maps to the next meeting, and to send out link to booklet from exhibition	7.3	M Head		Complete
1.	Follow up with Mike from Trustpower regarding Nic's emails about appointment of new committee members	3.0			Complete – Department accepted alternates for Committee.
3.	Previous minutes to be amended to reflect agreement/ disagreement of committee members on subject of funds	5.0	M Head		Complete – minutes amended

9.	Forward copy of October 2015 minutes to Committee members	17/2/16 4.0	N Carmody		Complete
10.	Committee members to advise Chairman if electronic copies of maps required	17/2/16 5.3	Tilt Renewals		Electronic copies of maps to be provided to Committee members by Tilt Renewals
12.	Updated transport maps, including all roads to be provided	17/2/16 6.6	M Head		Electronic copies of maps to be provided to Committee members by Tilt Renewals, including road details
13.	Specific questions for DP&ES to be provided, collated and forwarded	17/2/16 7	N Carmody		Complete
14.	Arrange for copy of Response to Submissions Documents to be provided to the Rye Park Post Office	12	N Carmody		Complete – advised that preferred locations were received from Councils, distribution list amended to include Rye Park Post Office. Apologies were received.
15.	Raise with Department issue of Rye Park Post Office not being included on distribution list	12	N Carmody		Refer above
17.	Confirm whether new Draft Guidelines apply retrospectively and whether council representation changes if a development covers various LGAs. Provide link to Guidelines to members.	12	N Carmody		Complete – copy of new guidelines provided to Committee Members.
4.	Michael to circulate previous minutes, people to provide feedback to Nic, and then Nic will edit and publish to the website before next meeting.	6.	N Carmody/ M Head		No longer applicable as CCC Guidelines Provide proper procedure.
5.	Members to read Michael's draft report and come back with comments/questions next meeting	7.3	Attendees		Done
8.	Confirmation of the total number of houses within 5 km and total number of properties without houses in the same distance to be provided at next meeting by Trustpower		Tilt Renewables		Complete
11.	Contact Upper Lachlan, Yass & Borrowa Councils to request information links be provided on their website	17/2/16 5.3	N Carmody J Wheelwright		Complete
16.	Provide email members list of heights of all wind monitoring towers	12	Tilt Renewables		Complete
18.	Re-appointment to Committee – Chair to advise Department that all current members would like to remain on the Committee. Chair to advise members once confirmation is received	24/8/17	N Carmody	31/10/17	Complete

19.	Maps – electronic maps to be provided to committee members, to include LGA boundaries. To provide clear definition 3 separate maps will be provided.	24/8/17	Tilt Renewals	30/09/17	Complete
23.	Confirmation of location of the compound near R51	3/5/2018	Tilt Renewables		Chris has distributed response – it has been removed.
22.	Copy after the development approval to be emailed to all committee members.	30/11/17	N Carmody		
26	Chris to provide a copy of the noise report that was used in the approval.	11/10/2018	Tilt Renewables	Next meeting	
27	Nic to provide a link in an email to the PAC	11/10/2018	N Carmody		