

Rye Park Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee
Meeting No 19 held at Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall, Yass
Thursday 26th September 2019

Present

CCC Members: Nic Carmody (Independent Chair), Andrew Field, Sara Brown, Christine Hawkins, Malcolm Day, Graeme Privett, Cr John Walker (Hilltops Council).

Proponent: James Beckett & Steph Cook – (Tilt Renewables).

Observers: Carlene Carmody (Minutes).

The meeting opened at 7.02pm.

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies - Greg Medway, Cr James Wheelwright, Jayne Apps. Thank you to the Committee members present 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 at today's meeting.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2019 were adopted.

4. Actions arising from previous minutes

Action sheet updated.

5. Correspondence

Letter of resignation from Greg Medway.

6. Rye Park Wind Farm Project Status

James Beckett:

- Broadly, Tilt Renewables has a number of key projects on the move in both Australia and New Zealand.
- We are currently constructing the Dundonnell Wind Farm (north of Mortlake, Victoria) with this project consisting of 80 WTG's and being a \$560 million investment. Construction activities are well underway with over 20 turbine foundations being poured and tower sections arriving at the site.
- We have recently also announced a financial investment decision for a new wind farm in New Zealand (West of Waverley, South Taranaki). This project will be the first new wind farm development in New Zealand for some time and consists of 31 WTG's (NZ \$277 million).
- Tilt Renewables have also announced the strategic review of the ownership of our Snowtown Wind Farm Stage 2. The potential sale of this asset would see further capital

that could be invested in our pipeline of renewable energy projects.

- NSW and QLD remain to be areas that Tilt Renewables is focussed on renewable energy developments with the Rye Park Wind Farm being one of our most advanced developments in NSW.

Steph Cooke advised:

- Confirmed that Tilt Renewables are proposing to undertake a modification to the approved Development Consent for the Rye Park Wind Farm. This requires the submission of a modification application to the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment for assessment.
- The modification application will focus on differences between the approved project and the modified project. It provides an assessment of potential environmental impacts of the proposed changes.
- Since the project was approved in 2017, there have been advancements in wind turbine technology - new, more efficient turbines are now available. Using the latest turbines at Rye Park Wind Farm would allow the project to generate more electricity from fewer turbines, powering more homes and businesses.
- The modification application will seek to increase the tip height of the turbines (up to 200m in height) and as part of this Tilt Renewables will reduce the overall number of turbines proposed as part of the project. The network connection at this location on the 330kV Yass to Gullen Range Line is strong and we continue to liaise with Transgrid regarding the connection arrangements.
- We will also seek to better define the transport routes as part of the modification to the current Development Consent. The approval currently allows for multiple transport options. This will give councils and the community more detail and certainty about what to expect, including about any potential impacts to the road network and necessary upgrades to local roads.
- To inform the modification application, we are completing relevant specialist studies, including the following assessments: Noise, visual, shadow flicker, electromagnetic interference (EMI), operational bird and bat studies, aviation, biodiversity and cultural heritage.
- We are looking forward to submitting the modification application in early 2020. The regulatory assessment process should take around 12 months to complete.
- Next step is to more broadly engage with the community regarding the modification proposal. It's important for locals to be aware of the modification, why changes are proposed, and to be able to tell us about any new concerns or ideas this raises for them.
- We are proposing to spend one afternoon/evening (1pm-7pm) in each of Rye Park, Boorowa and Yass during the w/c 11 November, so that people can drop in and talk with us at a time that suits them, to discuss the proposed changes and provide any feedback. We will have site plans, preliminary findings from specialist studies and photomontages of the proposed development available for review at these meetings.
- A newsletter will be distributed to nearby landowners to the wind farm development and an advert placed in local newspapers.
- If people are not able to attend any of the drop-in sessions we will also have information and a form for providing feedback on the Tilt Renewables website.
- National Windfarm Open Day – 27th October at Gullen Range, Woodlawn and Tarago. Registration on the Clean Energy Website (<https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/events/clean-energy-open-day>).

General discussion held on the next meeting of the CCC. Agreement that Tilt Renewables should provide the CCC with an update following the proposed public consultation sessions and then meet again once the modification application has progressed and is in its final form. This will allow discussion as to how the community feedback had been incorporated into the modification application and ensure the CCC is briefed on the content of the final modification prior to the submission of the application to DPIE.

Questions on project status:

Sara Brown – Is the onus on Tilt to provide information to community on the guarantee of power to the end consumers.

James: Each part of the energy production and delivery process has different parties responsible for it. Tilt Renewables and our operations teams would be responsible for energy within the site and then other parties, such as Transgrid, are responsible for the electricity transmission and distribution to the end-consumers.

Steph: AEMO (Australian Energy Market Operator) is responsible for the operation of the transmission system on the eastern seaboard (the National Electricity Market). They are quite strict on their rules and the system security and reliability standards. Breaches of these standards are rare and may be publicly advised on their website.

Andrew Field: 1) If you are going to reduce the number of turbines and if they are going to be larger will you renegotiate with the owners?

James: Where there are changes on people's properties, we have been and will be having discussions with them. Generally speaking, the land arrangements with the wind farm landowners allow for changes to the project design.

2) Community Fund – going to the Council, it is a joke. If you are reducing the number of turbines but going with bigger turbines you will be making more money yet the local contribution remains the same.

James – With the Community Fund, over the life of the windfarm it is a serious amount of money going into the local community - \$2500 per constructed turbine, per year. Tilt Renewables commonly looks at other community benefit sharing opportunities and is committed to ensuring the community is no worse off with a reduction in turbines.

Nic – I think it would be nice if it was based in MW which would be far more equitable.

Steph – if there are things in the community that could benefit from funding, we would be interested in hearing about them and any other ways that we can best contribute to the local area.

3) Definition of a truck – still haven't had clarification. Smaller trucks (e.g. water, workers vehicles etc) aren't considered in Truck Movement Plans. Will need to consider workers using the roads to get to the site and include them in it as part of the traffic impact assessment.

Steph – We are currently reviewing the transport route options with a view to having a single route included in the modification application. As part of this, we will review the considerations and assumptions made in previous transport assessments and if this needs to be changed we will do so as part of the modification process.

4) What happens if your modification is rejected?

James – we see the modification is as an improvement to the current approval, it makes it a lot of sense to look at development opportunities using the most advanced wind turbine technology. We don't anticipate the impacts will be such a change to the current approval that the modification would be rejected, though we do have our current approval to construct the wind farm in its existing form.

Cr John Walker – does Council have to pay for damage to roads?

James – The Development Consent outlines the expected standard of road upgrades that Tilt Renewables would undertake and then any impacts are monitored prior to construction, during and after by the way of detailed dilapidation surveys. We have been having recent discussions with the relevant councils in relation to the transport options. Tilt Renewables would be required to rectify any damage caused during the construction of the wind farm.

Christine Hawkins: 1) Where is the water coming from?

James: - The final source of water for construction purposes has not been finalised yet, though an overview of potential/likely sources had been previously sent to all CCC members (Completed Action No. 31).

Sara – I suspect that with the water shortages across NSW this could be an issue, however we can't do anything about that right now.

2) When you go to Council, who do you usually speak to?

Nic – Council Engineers or their Department. Nine times out of ten that doesn't get filtered down to the Councillors.

Steph: Question to Cr Walker – would it be a good idea to do a presentation to Councils prior to Submission of the modification? Cr Walker thought it would be appreciated.

Nic – As soon as you get the dates for the Community Meetings set please supply them to the Committee for distribution.

Sara Brown – what happens with the vacancy on the committee

Nic – firstly advise the Department, then call for applications.

7. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held, 30th January 2020 prior to Submission of Modifications, Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall Annex.

Meeting closed at 8.02 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
25	Councillors to advise when members of the Community Enhancement Fund for the project are appointed	11/10/2018	Council Representatives		

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		
24	Chris to provide EPBC information	11/10/2018	Tilt Renewables		James to follow up and send to Nic. Links provided attached to minutes
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		
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		