

Meeting title		Liverpool Range Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC) - Video Conference	
Attendees			
Michael Silver OAM (Independent Chair)		James Beckett, Project Land Developer, Tilt Resources Ltd	
Greg Piper (Community Member)		Matt Stafford, Development Planner, Tilt Resources Ltd	
Linda Gant (Community Member)		Martine Holberton, Community and Stakeholder Advisor, Tilt Resources Ltd	
Graeme Booker (Community Member)			
Anne-Louise Capel (Involved Landowner)			
Observers			
Nil			
Apologies			
Cr Ron Campbell (Upper Hunter Shire Council)		Ant Martin (Involved Landowner)	
Leanne Ryan (Warrumbungle Shire Council)		Mat Pringle (Upper Hunter Shire Council)	
Julia Imrie (Community Member)			
Location	Warrumbungle Shire Meeting Room, Coolah	Date & start time	17 March 2020 at 2.05 pm

Topic	Discussion
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair welcomed all to the video conference noting the challenges of meeting face to face due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Silver advised that James Beckett, Matt Stafford and Martine Holberton were joining the meeting via video conference from Melbourne.
2. Acknowledgement of Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land upon which the meeting is taking place and paid respects to Elders past, present and future.
3. Declarations of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Silver – pecuniary interest - expenses of Independent Chair borne by Tilt Renewables. Anne-Louise Capel – pecuniary interest - host landholder
4. Voluntary Planning Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the request of Greg Piper, the Chair provided an overview of the processes associated with establishment of a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979, noting that it was ultimately an agreement between a proponent and the local government authorities in which the development is occurring or will impact. He also noted that a committee had been established under Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 to manage the VPA, with that committee delegated authority to make decisions on the expenditure of the funds. Mr Piper acknowledged the legal framework but expressed concern and disappointment at how the agreement had been negotiated between the previous owner of the project and the local Councils, with little regard for the involvement or thoughts of the previous CCC. He indicated that the previous CCC had been advised, initially, that it would have significant involvement in the process, but this had not occurred. He hoped that the position of this latest CCC would be more

	<p>closely considered on community issues as the project proceeded to development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following general discussion on the VPA process and the mechanisms by which developer contributions will be made, James Beckett indicated that Tilt were looking at other initiatives outside of the VPA contributions that would provide support for the local community as a consequence of the development.
5. Minutes of Previous Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the minutes of the CCC meeting held on 11 September 2019 had been approved on 15 October 2019.
6. Business Arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
7. Actions	<p>7.1 That Tilt arrange for the concrete and aggregates contractor to address a future meeting of the CCC, prior to the commencement of construction work, regarding location and operation of the proposed quarries. Response: Deferred pending confirmation of construction program. DEFERRED</p> <p>7.2 That Tilt provide details of the approximate water demand of the project at the next CCC meeting. Response: Estimated water demand for construction is 0.14 megalitres per turbine. There will also be additional water requirements for dust suppression. COMPLETED</p> <p>7.3 That Tilt distribute the Biodiversity Landholder Brochure regarding off set management to the CCC prior to the next meeting. Response: Brochure emailed to CCC members. COMPLETED</p>
8. Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nil
9. Proponent's Report	<p><i>James Beckett, Matt Stafford and Martine Holberton presented the Proponent's Report.</i></p> <p>General Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Beckett introduced the Tilt team and gave a general overview of the project. Matt Stafford and Martine Holberton provided a power point presentation (copy attached) on the status and future development of the project. <p>NSW Investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCC noted the projects currently being operated or developed in NSW by Tilt. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crookwell Wind Farm [Operational] Blayney Wind Farm [Operational] Rye Park Wind Farm [In Development, consented] Liverpool Range Wind Farm (LRWF) [In Development, consented] Ms Holberton advised that meetings have been held with NSW Government regarding supply opportunities having regard to the NDSW Electricity strategy which seeks to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Anne-Louise Capel questioned whether the Liverpool Range Wind Farm project is in the Central West Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) noting that the NSW Minerals Council suggests that it should be included in this zone. https://energy.nsw.gov.au/media/1941/download <p>Chair's note: <i>The map in the REZ media release indicates that the LRWF will be</i></p>

outside the zone.

New Zealand and Australia

- The CCC noted the following projects being constructed by Tilt:
 - Dundonnell Wind Farm – south-west Victoria
 - Waipipi Wind Farm – South Taranaki, New Zealand

Liverpool Range Wind Farm Project Update

- Mr Stafford outlined the current status of the LRWF project. He highlighted that review of the approved project has been undertaken by Tilt, with a good understanding on the electrical and civil design considerations.
- Mr Stafford advised that ecology gap analysis work has been completed and discussions regarding modification of the consent and biodiversity assessment have been undertaken with the relevant government agencies. He advised that a new Biodiversity Assessment Methodology is being work through with the Biodiversity and Conservation Directorate of DPIE. Although further assessment is required it is hoped to maintain impact within approved limits.
- Mr Stafford indicated that it is expected that consultancies will be appointed shortly for the environmental impact assessment of the proposed modification of the consent.
- Mr Stafford explained the design review and optimisation referring to the three maps in the presentation. He highlighted the approved development corridor and noted that the modification brief is to maintain the development within the approved corridor and consequentially endeavouring to keep clearing (ground disturbance) within the approved area. He indicated that the intent is that the modification should “look and feel like the original approved design”.
- The CCC noted the aerial maps detailing how the turbines will sit on the site.
- Mr Stafford stepped the CCC through the cut and fill impacts of the project referencing C105, C032 and C038 to explain of the nature and extent of civil works. In particular he explained the extent of disturbance as a consequence of cut and fill batters and how ground disturbance is calculated.
- Ms Capel enquired when landholders will be shown mapping detailing the extent of clearing and disturbance. Mr Beckett advised that contact with landholder will occur in next few weeks by email or phone. Ms Capel suggested the sooner this occurs, the better. Mr Beckett added that it is intended to seek comment from landholders regarding the design, noting that the current draft is a “first cut”. Ms Capel appreciated the status of the design review but raised concerns regarding potential impacts of rain and run-off indicating that consideration of these issues is critical.

Proposed Modification

- Mr Stafford advised that it may be anticipated that the modification of consent will seek a reduction in the number of turbines. However, this proposition requires further technical analysis. Mr Beckett indicated that a reduction in turbine numbers would see a thinning across the farm, not just in one location.
- Mr Stafford indicated that a maximum blade tip height of 240 metres is proposed.
- In response to a question from the Chair, Mr Stafford indicated that there may need to be changes to native vegetation clearance, but he was hopeful that the approved limits can be met. He advised that the transmission line location is

	<p>satisfactory, as such he does not anticipate many changes in regard to this infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Stafford highlighted the probable need to improve intersections and associated clearance distances to accommodate transportation of the larger blades to the site. • Mr Stafford confirmed that the reduction in turbines will be reflected in the modification of consent application with lodgement expected in Quarter 4 2020, following spring biodiversity surveys. • Mr Stafford stepped the CCC through the various environmental assessments to be undertaken to support the modification. He advised that the 'Operational Bird and Bat Assessment would not be undertaken until after an approval is received. This assessment would be subject to sign-off by relevant government agencies. • Mr Piper enquired whether a project shop front would be opened in Coolah. Ms Holberton took this matter on notice but indicated this is more likely to occur during the construction phase. ACTION <p>Stakeholder Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Holberton advised that Tilt was looking to establish lasting relationships with the community. This has commenced via meetings with landholder groups, local government authorities and one-on-one meetings with individuals. • In this regard, Ms Holberton encouraged the community to consider how to share benefits through a localised benefits program. Apart from the contributions available through the Voluntary Planning Agreement, Ms Holberton indicated other grant and funding program would also be available. • MS Holberton provided examples of community benefit funding programs associated with the Dundonnell Wind Farm project in Victoria. The CCC noted that programs extended from solar rooftop installations to educational and environmental programs as well as contributions to broader community support programs. • Ms Capel highlighted the role of Ms Sally Edwards, Coolah Community Development Officer regarding co-ordination of funding programs. She suggested that meetings should be undertaken with the Chamber of Commerce regarding community needs and the High School in terms of vocational opportunities. • Mr Piper highlighted the importance of the Coolah District Development Group, of which he is Chair, and suggested the opportunity should be taken to meet with the Group and the Chamber of Commerce in a combined meeting.
<p>10. Actions required</p>	<p>1. That Tilt advise probable shop front arrangements at Coolah prior to the commencement of construction, at the next CCC meeting.</p>
<p>11. General Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms Capel highlighted the importance of communicating the current status of the project to the local community. She strongly suggested that Tilt develop a relationship with the Coolah Diary, Merriwa Ringer and Merriwa Diary publishers, sooner rather than later, to ensure the community know what is going on. Ms Holberton acknowledged this advice. ○ Mr Stafford indicated he is considering undertaking community drop-in

sessions, well before the lodgement of the modification, in order to inform the community of the proposed changes to the project and the processes involved in obtaining a modified consent.

- Mr Beckett indicated that there are still some property matters being resolved and this makes it difficult to fully explain the status of the project.
- Ms Capel noted that there are other windfarm and solar energy projects being considered in the area. She suggested that it was important for Tilt to clearly outline the current status and anticipated progress of the project, in order that there is no confusion in the community.

- **Turbine Capacity and Storage**

- Mr Piper sought clarification as to the implications of reducing the number of turbines relative the output of the farm. Mr Stafford noted that the output is dependent on what can be placed on the electrical network. Mr Beckett added that despite the proposed reduction in the number of turbines the overall output of the windfarm will be greater than the original approved design. He suggested that the capacity of the turbines can be expected to be greater as technology improves over the next few years.
- Mr Piper also enquired as to the rationale behind storage. Mr Stafford indicated that electrical storage is essentially future proofing the operation. It allows ancillary use of batteries and helps stabilise the electricity grid in terms of available power. Mr Beckett added that there are other development opportunities and options that may be considered as the project progresses.

- **Windfarm Tourism**

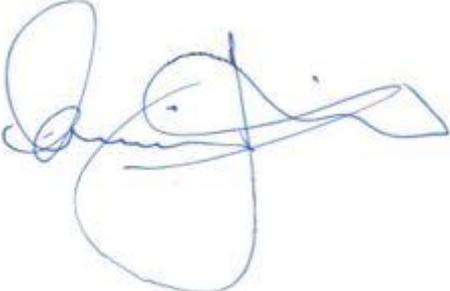
- Ms Capel outlined potential tourism opportunities that may arise from the windfarm development. In particular, she suggested that most members of the public do not know how a windfarm works or have an understanding of the scale of the development or the individual towers and blades. Mr Beckett acknowledged the suggestion.

- **Project Timeframe**

- Mr Piper advised that the community was seeking a definitive timeframe for the project. Mr Beckett said he understood the community interest in having a timeframe but there were several matters which still require finalisation and confirmation – the modification of consent could take 9 to 12 months to finalise whilst a take-off agreement may take another 6 months after the modified consent is granted.

- **Local Contractors**

- Ms Capel enquired how local contractors can become involved in the project. Mr Beckett acknowledged that local businesses are interested in how they can become involved in the project. He indicated that a construction strategy and accommodation strategy will be developed along with protocols for local business to register interest. However, given the approval process that is being undertaken there is about a 12-month lead time for development of business interest processes to be finalised.

12. Next Meeting	<p>Meeting closed: 3.40 pm. The Chair thanked all for their involvement in the video conference.</p> <p>Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday 25 August 2020 – subject to confirmation.</p>
13. Meeting minutes approved	 <p>Michael J. Silver OAM Independent Chair 15 April 2020</p>