



Appendix P: Rye Park wind farm Preliminary Documentation – Summary of Consultation

Contact with stakeholders began early in the Project lifecycle and will continue to the end of the lifecycle during decommissioning. The Proponent strives to ensure community engagement occurs throughout all aspects of the Project's lifecycle and that project staff are proactive in engaging with the communities.

As part of the Modification Application, the Proponent submitted an up-to-date Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan for the Project. This is contained at Appendix F. The Stakeholder and Community Engagement Plan is a live document which outlines the engagement approach throughout the development phases of the Project, with a particular focus on the Project's current phase.

Engagement Undertaken – Original Approvals Phase

Extensive consultation and engagement activities were undertaken prior to and during the application of the Development Consent. Key activities included:

- The distribution of two newsletters, one fact sheet and several media releases, and one information day
- Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meetings. The CCC has been meeting regularly since 2012, including 21 meetings since its inception
- Face to face meetings, which were offered to all host landowners and adjoining landowners within 5 km, as well as all local government bodies within the affected area and other relevant stakeholders, and
- Public exhibition of both the Original EIS and RTS Project, during which submissions on the Project were also received

In response to key issues raised in the submissions in relation to the Original EIS, amendments were made to the Project to further reduce its impacts, including a reduction in the number of wind turbines.

The RTS was submitted in May 2016 and was publicly exhibited, receiving a total of 244 submissions from the public, of which approximately 50 percent were in support of the Project.

The Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) held a public hearing as part of its formal consideration of the development application in March 2017, during which approximately 50 percent of community presentations were reported to also be in favour of the Project.

Engagement Undertaken – Post Approval Phase

Since the Development Consent was issued, community consultation has continued utilising a range of methods including: one-on-one meetings where required, meetings with key stakeholders, four project newsletters distributed by email and post, fact sheets, and maintaining an up to date project website.

In February 2019, The Proponent held a meeting with host landowners to provide an update on the Project. Additionally, nine CCC meetings have been held since the Development Consent was issued in 2017, occurring biannually. The most recent CCC meeting was held in June 2020 to present on the key issues raised during the public exhibition period of the Modification Application.

Additionally, the Proponent has undertaken activities that require community participation, including:

- Scoping the Benefit Sharing Plan for the Rye Park community
- Responding to project related enquiries regarding the provision of goods or services during construction
- Consulting with government agencies such as Regional Development Australia to explore partnership opportunities for educational programs at the local school
- Consulting with project landowners and neighbours regarding potential vegetation offset sites, and
- Attending a Rye Park Progress Association meeting to understand the key obstacles facing the community

Engagement Undertaken – Modified Project

Since mid-2019, the Proponent has consulted with stakeholders and local communities in relation to the Modified Project. Key activities and outcomes are described below.

Landowners and Neighbours



Since issue of the Development Consent, discussions between Tilt Renewables and landowners have centered around the status of the Project, timeline for delivery, construction planning and specific landowner agreements.

In mid-2019, associated landowners were consulted on the plan to modify the Development Consent and communication has been ongoing to aid in the delivery of the technical assessments, review the terms of the relevant landowner agreements and to keep landowners informed about the Project.

Prior to issue of the Development Consent, Tilt Renewables offered neighbour agreements to landowners within 2 km of a wind turbine associated with the Project. At the time, a small number of neighbour agreements were entered into.

In late-2019, the offer was repeated and approximately 40 offers were made to further share the financial benefit and to more broadly contribute to the local community. These offers were based on the draft outcomes of the specialist assessments undertaken for the modification to the Development Consent and reflect the level of potential impact (e.g. noise, shadow and visual) of the Project.

The Proponent continues to have discussions with several landowners regarding these voluntary agreements and will continue to offer them as the Project progresses towards construction.

Additionally, meetings with neighbours and community members were held in response to queries raised during the drop-in sessions in November 2019. Follow up phone calls, email communication and 1:1 meetings continue on a regular basis to address queries or concerns raised.

Community

Consultation activities with the community have included:

- The four most recent CCC meetings (including May 2019, September 2019, March 2020, June 2020) where the Proponent presented information and has sought feedback on the Proposed Modifications;
- Newsletters presenting information and seeking feedback on the Proposed Modifications were distributed in October 2019 (to 650 residents), in December 2019 (to 235 residents who had registered their interest directly by the Proponent) and in May 2020. The newsletters were also sent to approximately 50 online subscribers, while copies of the newsletters were also made available in council offices in Yass and Boorowa, and at the post office in Rye Park, as well as via the Project webpage;
- Approximately 130 letters were sent to host landowners, neighbours, prior submitters, councils and local Members of Parliament;
- Four advertisements were placed in local newspapers, Boorowa News and Yass Tribune inviting people to 'drop in' to discuss the Proposed Modifications;
- Fact sheets, newsletters and up-to-date project information including an online feedback form, which was available from 1 November to 4 December 2019 was accessible via the Project website;
- Hilltops Council's community Facebook page promoted the drop-in sessions and provided information on the Proposed Modification; and
- Information was also shared via the Rye Park community noticeboard

In addition, drop-in information's sessions were held in Rye Park, Yass and Boorowa during mid-November with an estimated 100 local residents in attendance over three days.

Sessions were conducted from 1pm - 7pm on 12, 13 and 14 November 2019. These early engagement sessions focused on the Proposed Modifications and sought feedback from local residents. Handouts were also available, which consisted of a project newsletter, general project fact sheet, wind farm FAQs pamphlet and Tilt Renewables company profile.

Feedback was provided via:

- Feedback forms (hard copies received at the community sessions or e-forms online)
- Verbally at a community drop-in session or by telephone, and
- Written feedback via email or letter
- 220 individual comments were recorded, a quarter of which were specifically relevant to the Proposed Modification.



The Modification Application was placed on public exhibition for 21 days from 13 May to 3 June 2020 where DPIE accepted submissions on the Project. The Modification Application was available for viewing via the NSW Major Projects website. The Proponent is currently preparing a report that responds to all the issues raised in the submissions received from the Public, Government Authorities and Organisations for submission to DPIE. The Proponent has undertaken additional communications such as:

- A Project newsletter outlining the proposed modifications
- A Modified Project fact sheet outlining the findings of the environmental assessments, and
- A digital platform dedicated to the Modified Project

Further Engagement Proposed

Following submission of the RTS Report and Amendment Report, the Proponent proposes to:

- keep the Inform Rye Park website updated to reflect the status of the Modification Application assessment and the benefit sharing opportunities;
- install a project information board in the Rye Park village;
- advertise the bi-monthly newsletter in the Yass Valley Times (a new publication);
- distribute the bi-monthly newsletters to additional local outlets such as news agencies, cafes and libraries;
- continue meeting with the CCC;
- hold one-on-one consultation with stakeholders when required;
- in line with the Australian Industry Participation Plan prepared for the Project, the Proponent will provide the head contractor selected to construct the Project with access to the Goods and Services Register on the project webpage and hold project information sessions for interested contractors to attend;
- ongoing consultation will continue to be carried out with relevant community members located along the Preferred Transport Route;
- stakeholders along the Preferred Transport Route will be included in construction updates and works alerts for major deliveries and disruptions, in accordance with the Traffic Management Plan (TMP).
- leading up to and during construction, the Proponent will continue to keep the community informed of proposed construction schedules using a variety of channels including the project webpage, newsletters, notice boards, phone and direct mail as appropriate

Engagement with Indigenous Stakeholders

Consultation with Indigenous stakeholders began in 2012 as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, undertaken in accordance with the *Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (NSW DEC July 2005) and *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (NSW DECCW 2010b).

As a result of this process, five Aboriginal groups registered their interest in the project as listed below:

- Onerwal LALC
- Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation
- Gundungurra Aboriginal Heritage Association Inc
- Carl and Tina Brown, and
- Gunjeewong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

Consultation with Indigenous Stakeholders was further undertaken during preparation of the Aboriginal and Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) that supported the Modification Application. This was completed in accordance with *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010* and involved the following:

- Confirmation from BCD that continued consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) for the Rye Park Wind Farm is considered adequate on the 5 July 2019
- Notification of the proposed modifications and need for additional survey to the Registered Aboriginal Parties on the 15 August 2019.



- The methodology was provided to the RAPs for comment on 22 August 2019, however no comments were received, and
- Fieldwork was completed with representatives of the Onerwal LALC and Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation as part of preparation of the ACHA and Addendum to the ACHA.

As part of preparation of the Addendum to the ACHA that assessed the Final Modified Project as described in the in the Amendment Report, notification was made to the RAPs and fieldwork was completed with representatives of the Onerwal LALC and Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation.

The ACHA and Addendum to the ACHA was provided to each of the RAPs and feedback was sought on the recommendations, assessment and other relevant issues. The ACHA will be finalised to reflect the comments received.