

Rye Park Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee
Meeting No 13 held at Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall Annexe
Thursday 24 August 2017

Present

CCC Members: Nic Carmody (Chair), Andrew Field, Sara Brown, Cr James Wheelwright, Jayne Apps, Christine Hawkins, Greg Medway, Graeme Privett

Proponent: Chris Righetti and Rontheo van Zyl (Tilt Renewables)

Observers: John McGrath, Malcolm Day, Charlie Prell, Mark Fleming and Shirree Garland (Minutes)

The meeting opened at 7.00pm

1. Welcome/Apologies

Apologies were received from Malcom Day.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary or other interests

Nil

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2016 were adopted.

4. Actions arising from previous minutes

Action sheet updated.

5. Update on new guidelines by the Chair

Chair, Nic Carmody, provided an information sheet to the Committee outlining important differences in the new Community Consultative Committee Guidelines. It was suggested that members should review the Guidelines, in particular the Purpose of the Committee.

Coppabella Wind Farm CCC

7 community representatives have been appointed to the Coppabella Wind Farm CCC.

Appointment to Committee

Committee members to advise whether they would like to remain on the current Committee. All members confirmed that they would like to remain on the Committee. Chair to advise the Department of Planning. Once decision is received Chair to advise members.

6. Rye Park Wind Farm Project Status

Rontheo van Zyl and Chris Righetti advised:

- Trust Power had been taken over by Tilt Renewables
- Approvals had taken a very long time, but approval has now been granted. 109 turbines were applied for with 92 being approved.
- Currently moving into the next phase of the project. Closing out all of the conditions of approvals, management plans, secondary consents etc.
- Hoping to go out to tender for turbine suppliers before the end of the year. Process will then take a few months to work through.
- Connection agreements to be finalised in the next few months.
- Financial close (all contracts signed, all risks closed off, management plans completed) hopefully by mid 2018.

Maps showing location of approved turbines were provided. Discussion was held on access roads, Rontheo advised that following appointment contractors would verify options they would prefer.

Local Government Area boundaries to be included on map. To enable clearer definition, 3 separate maps will be provided. Maps to be provided electronically to members.

Road upgrades have been agreed on with each respective Council, all with conditions. Roads to be upgraded are included as part of the approval and are publically available (Appendix 6). It was advised that roads have to be upgraded for heavy vehicles. During the construction period, roads will have to be maintained. It was noted that there is an obligation to upgrade Cook Hills Road.

John McGrath asked about the 132 line and which 330v line they would be connecting to. Rontheo advised that it was the Yass-Bannaby line.

Batching plants to be set up only on nominated spots. The location of the Operations and Maintenance building has been moved, a review of the history to be undertaken and reported to the next meeting.

Voluntary Acquisitions

Voluntary acquisitions need to be triggered by the property owner. The proponent purchases property at the current market value., to be undertaken within a 5-year period, from the commencement of construction and only for properties that are marked for voluntary acquisition.

7. General Business without notice

Community Enhancement Fund

It was confirmed that 20% of the monies received annually will go towards education. Section 355 committees will be required to be set up in each Council LGA. Contributions will go direct to each Council as a lump sum with the Committee then allocating monies to specific projects. It was noted that money received needs to be spent within a 20km radius of the respective turbines.

Transmission Lines

Rontheo advised that all transmission lines proposed to be used all have capacity.

Power Purchase

Rontheo advised that some Power Purchase Agreements were already in place, some portions will be on contract. Tilt Renewables Board will also review Agreements.

Trustpower

Andrew Field asked about the change in personnel following the takeover of Trustpower. Rontheo advised that there had been a change in personnel following a restructure.

Upper Lachlan Council Newsletter

Committee members were encouraged to look at the recent Upper Lachlan Council newsletter which identifies where money has been spent in regard to windfarms in their LGA. Members were also encouraged to visit the area to view the upgraded roads. Construction at the Coppabella site is due to commence next year and it was agreed that a site inspection would be of benefit to the Committee.

Hollow Bearing Trees

Rontheo advised that there had been considerable work done in relation to trees, specifically taking into consideration the root system and inhabitant species. Mark Fleming advised that OEH would be continuing ongoing work in this area. If any members have any further questions in regard to various environmental factors they can email Mark with any their questions.

Decommissioning of Turbines

If decommissioning takes place the proponent has obligations under the approval conditions. If the proponent is unable to meet these obligations than the funding party takes all the obligations under tripartite agreements.

Newsletters

Current newsletter sent out today, electronic copies will also be emailed.

Fires

In relation to potential fire risks Tilt Renewals advised that lessons had been learnt from a previous fire caused by a bird strike on a turbine. Precautions and mitigations were being put in place for future developments.

Yass Valley Council Representative

Chairperson advised that Cr Geoff Frost will be Yass Valley Council's representative on the Committee, with Cr Nathan Furry the alternate.

Hilltops Council Representative

Chairperson will approach the new Hilltops Council after the September 2017 election to have a Councillor appointed to the CCC.

8. Next Meeting

Next meeting to be held 30 November 2017 at 7.00pm, Yass Soldiers' Memorial Hall Annexe.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

No	Action	Meeting	Owner	Deadline	Comment
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		
5.	Members to read Michael's draft report and come back with comments/questions next meeting	7.3	Attendees		
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		
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		
11.	Contact Upper Lachlan, Yass & Boorowa Councils to request information links be provided on their website	17/2/16 5.3	N Carmody J Wheelwright		
16.	Provide email members list of heights of all wind monitoring towers	12	Tilt Renewables		
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	
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	
20.	Review of the history of the location of the Operations and Maintenance building to be undertaken	24/8/17	Tilt Renewals	30/09/17	
21.	Coppabella Site inspection to be arranged following commencement	24/8/17	N Carmody	31/03/18	

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.