

Meeting Agenda

Liverpool Range Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

Attending:	Brett Peterkin Ant Martin Anne Louise Capel Linda Gant Greg Piper Cr Ron Campbell Sean Constable Leeanne Ryan Julian Kasby Martin Poole Gordon Fraser	Interim Independent Chair Landowner Landowner Non-Involved Landowner Non-Involved Landowner Upper Hunter Shire Council Upper Hunter Shire Council Warrumbungle Shire Council Epuron Epuron NSW OEH (Observer)
Guest:	Steve Loane Waid Crockett Mat Pringle Warwick Giblin David Robinson	General Manager Warrumbungle Shire Council General Manager Upper Hunter Shire Council Upper Hunter Shire Council OzEnvironmental Pty Ltd Epuron
Apologies:	Pauline Dunne Graeme Booker Donna Ausling Julia Imrie	NSW OEH (Observer) Business owner, Coolah Caravan Park Liverpool Plains Shire Council Mudgee District Environment Group
Date:	21 September 2016, 11.45am for 12.00pm – 2pm	
Venue:	Coolah Council Chambers	
Purpose:	Meeting No 11	

Meeting commencement

Meeting opened by Brett Peterkin (BP), who recognised the Aboriginal elders past and present of the project land, and began a round of introductions. BP gave a description of the brief that he had been given as interim chairperson of the CCC. Julian Kasby (JK) introduced himself as new Epuron project manager, having returned to Epuron after work overseas. JK explained that former chairperson Danielle Annells had relocated to New Zealand. JK stated the role of the Chairperson and the process of replacing them by reading from the Draft CCC Guidelines (Department of Planning 2016). Anne-Louise Capel renewed her previous disclosure that she was both a councillor and a potentially involved landowner.

General update on community sentiment towards the project

Anne-Louise Capel, Ant Martin, Greg Piper and Linda Gant commented that there had been little news from Epuron over the last year, and that Epuron should be more active in the project community. Martin Poole regretted the reduced local presence until now, but noted that the whole renewables industry was now recovering after the uncertainty of the Abbott Government period.

Gordon Fraser reported the results of the November 2015 OEH-commissioned Newspoll survey in which 81% of people interviewed in non-metropolitan NSW supported wind farms, including 59% within 1-2km of peoples' homes.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/actionmatters/community-attitudes-renewable-energy-150419.pdf>

Gordon reported that numerous submissions had been received during the recent consultation regarding the draft wind energy planning framework: <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Renewable-Energy>

Project update from Julian Kasby, Project Manager

Epuron had been consulting landowners in preparation for submitting a response to the submissions made in 2014 during the public exhibition period. The revised proposal was for 282 (not 288) turbines. The wind farm, if approved, may be built in stages (commencing from the south, where the transmission line will connect). A newsletter would follow the CCC meeting, and meetings would return to an approximately quarterly basis. Additional environmental surveys would be taking place in the coming weeks, the results of which will feed into the Response to Submissions.

Anne-Louise Capel noted that sourcing gravel and water needed for construction would need special consideration.

Review of minutes from last meeting

Review previous minutes and check for relevance of action items outstanding from previous meetings in light of the project update. Request for acceptance of the minutes.

Lunch**Community Enhancement Fund Survey**

David Robinson reported that at the last CCC meeting in 2015, Linda Gant, Eleanor Cook, Gordon Fraser and he had volunteered to conduct a survey of experiences with community funds established by operating wind farms in NSW. The survey method, limitations and results had been circulated in the draft report. The overall finding was that a fund administered by local council(s) through a section 355 committee had possibilities. David thanked Linda, Eleanor and Gordon for helping to devise, conduct and summarise the results of the survey.

Linda Gant noted that the Coal & Allied Trust had operated a community fund for many years, and that one feature of the fund was that it allowed longer term support, for example 3-year cycles for school grants. However more information was not available because of a change of ownership of Coal & Allied.

Anne Louise noted that the Cobbora Transition Fund was another community fund associated with coal that had served the community well.

The meeting thanked the sub-committee for its work on the survey, particularly David Robinson for his efforts and agreed that the draft survey report could be made public.

Community engagement and the Community Enhancement Fund

JK outlined Epuron's intention to negotiate a voluntary planning agreement with Warrumbungle's and Upper Hunter Shire Councils in which a fixed percentage of annual contribution would be given to the Councils for road maintenance, a capped dollar amount would be allocated to the Councils for administering the fund, and the balance would be available for community grants upon the recommendation of a single section 355 committee in which a majority of members were residents within 20km. The criterion for grants would be community benefit.

Linda noted that the previous CCC meeting had proposed that the community within 3-5km of the transmission line should also be eligible for grants. Anne-Louise Capel identified the Turrill community as the only one effectively affected, as the other land through which the approx. 32km transmission line passed was coal mine or Crown land.

The meeting preferred payments from commencement of construction of the wind farm, when impacts would be greatest, rather than upon commencement of commercial operation of the wind farm.

The draft charter for the operation of the proposed section 355 committee should be circulated, for comment.

Any other business

Leanne Ryan requested that a councillor from Warrumbungles Shire be appointed to the CCC, as there was no councillor representative at present. (By email to Epuron after the meeting, Linda Gant raised an objection to this request, on the ground that it would make the CCC less representative of the impacted local community, and overly representative of the local councils).

Leanne Ryan also asked if members of the CCC were able to suggest a chairperson for the CCC, and JK confirmed that if anyone had any suggestions they should let Epuron know.

Next meeting.

Late January 2017 (after Australia Day)