

Minutes of Meeting

Liverpool Range Wind Farm

Community Consultation Committee

Present:	Danielle Annells	Independent Chairperson	DA
	Greg Piper	Uninvolved landowner	GP
	Linda Gant	Uninvolved landowner	LG
	Graeme Booker	Coolah Caravan Park	GB
	Ant Martin	Involved landowner	AM
	Anne-Louise Capel	Involved landowner	ALC
	Donna Ausling	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	DA1
	Sean Constable	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RC
	Councillor Ron Campbell	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RC
	Pauline Dunne	Observer (OEH)	PD
	Brian Hall	Epuron	BH
Apologies:	Catherine Van Laeren	Mid-Western Regional Shire Council	CVL
	Michael Marks	Warrumbungle Shire Council	CW
	Julia Imrie	Mudgee District Environment Group	Jl
Date:	22 January 2014		
Venue:	Upper Hunter Shire Council offices at Merriwa – Council Chambers		
Purpose:	Meeting No 5		

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	<p>DA opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting number 5 at 11.00am.</p> <p>Copies of the meeting agenda and minutes of the last meeting were distributed to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Meeting apologies were accepted from;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Michael Marks, Warrumbungle Shire Council. b. Catherine Van Laeren, Mid-Western Regional Shire Council. c. Julia Imrie, Mudgee District Environment Group. 	Noted
2	<p>DA asked all members present to confirm they had received minutes of the last meeting. After reviewing the minutes the following minor change were requested. As there were no further changes DA moved that the minutes be accepted. The minutes were accepted by all members present.</p> <p>Minor change required to the minutes of meeting number 4 are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Point 5 of the minutes should read that the next business meeting is to be held in Cassilis. Not Coolah. b. Last bullet point in item 8 of the minutes to be removed.....CCC not preparing a letter. c. BH to amend the version published on the Epuron website. 	Noted BH
3	<p>BH presented current project information including development status and key activity since the last meeting. The presentation consisted of 18 PowerPoint slides and a colour copy was provided to each member present at the CCC meeting. The presentation will be uploaded to the website after the meeting. Two A1 size scale colour maps of the proposed wind layout and powerline were also displayed for general viewing.</p> <p>Key comments, questions, feedback and action points arising from the presentation and subsequent general discussion were (listed in no particular order);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Epuron to email a copy of the presentation to all CCC members when circulating the meeting minutes. b. ALC asked about the offset plan (cleared vegetation) for the project as councils may potentially lose rates from offset land depending on how the land is held. BH advised; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The EA contains a plan for the implementation of an offset program but does not identify land parcels for offset purposes at this stage. o Offset land program will be progressed in the next 12 months in consultation with OEH. <p>PD mentioned that OEH generally run an offset / biodiversity forum</p>	Noted BH

	<p>from time to time to explain conservation measures across the state and PD can circulate information and upcoming meeting details to those interested.</p> <p>PD and DA suggest Epuron mention the requirement to secure offset land in next newsletter as there could be interested/willing landowners in the region who may want to participate in the program. BH to keep the CCC informed of progress on this so that further engagement of the community can be planned at the appropriate time if deemed necessary or desirable.</p> <p>c. All accepted the feedback form to be placed with the displays in Cassilis (LG's café), Coolah (Library) and Merriwa (TBC). LG and BH to arrange for the form to be printed and distributed to the display locations.</p> <p>d. Epuron to print display boards for Merriwa send to SC. SC to arrange for placement in the council offices or the library. Aim to be completed by end Feb.</p> <p>e. Epuron to prepare draft of CCC submission letter – an action carried over from last meeting.</p> <p>f. General CCC comments on powerline route options for connecting to the grid;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The question was raised as to whether it could be possible for other wind farms to use the same connection and infrastructure as this wind farm in the future. It was discussed that other wind farms may apply to Transgrid to connect at the same Ulan connection location or to take a different route but it will be dependant on a number of factors such as the timing of construction and cost implications. The grid network is an open network regime and any generators can apply to connect. o Grid easement landowner discussions and negotiations are progressing well and routes have been identified. o The impact of a new powerline rests with the community generally / indirectly and not just landowners directly hosting the powerline route chosen. o CCC members were appreciative of the additional information provided by Epuron on the analysis of possible routes. General sentiment was that members now understood well why the preferred route has been selected, when looking at the selection criteria. <p>g. Summary of the responses from the feedback form filled out by attendees at the Coolah business meeting to be updated to include the four sheets that were misplaced.</p> <p>h. Email copy of presentations from Coolah and Merriwa business meetings to CCC members.</p> <p>i. LG asked that Epuron prepare a high level timeline outlining key project steps from approval to construction.</p> <p>j. Next business meeting to be a combined event and hosted in Cassilis.</p>	<p>PD</p> <p>BH</p> <p>LG and BH</p> <p>BH and SC</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
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	BH presented and discussed the presentation and no new/additional matters were raised that had not already been discussed during the meeting.	
4	<p>DA ran through any other carry over items from the minutes including;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Epuron to arrange copies of the CCC presentations to be available for viewing at the public display locations in Coolah, Cassilis and Merriwa. PD advised the wind farm site visit may be partly funded (not fully) by OEH and will seek clarification from OEH management. DA suggested that details should be made ready to be available at the next meeting to be held for local business so that interested parties are aware of the opportunity and can register to attend. DA asked for responses on feedback forms from both business meetings (Coolah and Merriwa) be combined into one summary. Last bullet point in item 8 of last minutes to be removed.....not preparing a letter. DA asked BH to prepare a summary of meeting no.4 and 5 for publication in local press. PD advised that there is a new publication to consider – Merriwa Diary(??) BH to ensure that CCC members are added to Epuron’s general project newsletter subscription list as most commented that they did not receive the most recent newsletter. 	<p>BH</p> <p>PD and BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
5	<p>Discussion was held about the outcomes of the meeting held for local businesses in Merriwa the night prior. The meeting was very well attended (approx. 25) people and input from the group was recorded and displayed at the CCC meeting.</p> <p>This input will be combined with that from the Coolah business meeting – and forms part of ongoing data gathering about community sentiments regarding the CEF and other matters.</p>	Noted
6	<p>The CCC put forward a tentative date of mid May for the next meeting for local businesses to be held in Cassilis. (Timing to be confirmed and ideally held during the exhibition period of the EA).</p> <p>Businesses from the whole region will be invited to attend this session as it creates an opportunity to network with one another.</p> <p>A common concern expressed by business owners is how to “keep investment local” and whether it is realistic that local businesses will have the ability to be involved in the project construction.</p> <p>DA suggested that the next CCC meeting agenda focus on the planning for this meeting.</p> <p>Plans for the agenda were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Source speakers who are business owners in regions where there has already been a wind farm built who can share their experience. (They may attend the meeting in person or be interviewed on video). And/or the experience of business owners prospering from mining investment in the region. Source a speaker from the Industry Capability Network. Show videos on wind farm construction Invite expressions of interest for the wind farm tour Presentation on the possible ways a CEF might be used and administered to raise awareness. Encourage positive submissions to DPI in support of the project Information about the creation of a local business directory. BH to provide ideas about what a directory needs to contain 	<p>Noted</p> <p>PD, BH, ALC, SC, DA1</p> <p>PD</p> <p>PD GP</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>

7	<p>General notes / comments and discussion around the proposed establishment of a community enhancement fund include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. GP circulated two papers for information purposes regarding funds established for other wind projects and the UK situation. b. SC outlined feedback about funding from last nights business meeting in Merriwa; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> o What is the value of the fund? Not established yet. o Where can fund extend to geographically? Not established yet. c. BH explained that Epuron (as the developer) has committed to the establishment of a fund but (as yet) not the value of the fund. This aspect is best managed by the ultimate owner usually around the time of construction when conditions are known. d. DA suggested the CCC should continue consult with the community to find out how best to establish a fund and what type of support the community would like from the project. It is intended that this will be the focus of a subsequent CCC meeting (following the second meeting with local businesses). e. Epuron to try and find out how the Gullen wind farm fund was set up and fund details if possible. f. BH to look into booking a local radio interview spot to raise awareness of the project while the EA is on exhibition. 	<p>All</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
8	<p>The following are ongoing discussion items to be carried forward at future meetings;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identifying and maximising project benefits available to the community is ongoing b. Impacts on local councils, mainly roads in Warrumbungle Shire. c. Ensuring the CCC continues to communicate more broadly, such as a summary placed in selected local papers. d. How does the community consult and provide feedback to the CCC. e. CCC consultation with neighbours. 	All
9	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Date: TBC - Monday 31 March 2014</p> <p>Time: TBC 12.00am to 3.00pm</p> <p>Venue: TBC – Cassilis</p> <p>Agenda details for next meeting to be circulated 1-2 weeks beforehand.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>DA and BH</p> <p>DA and BH</p>
10	DA closed the meeting at 2.05pm.	Noted