

# Minutes of Meeting

## Liverpool Range Wind Farm

## Community Consultation Committee

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<b>Present:</b>	Danielle Annells	Chair	DA
	Councillor Ron Campbell	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RC
	Tony Meppem	Warrumbungle Shire Council	TM
	Greg Piper	Uninvolved landowner	GP
	Linda Gant	Uninvolved landowner	LG
	Ant Martin	Involved landowner	AM
	Anne-Louise Capel	Involved landowner	ALC
	Brian Hall	Epuron	BH
	Pauline Dunne	Observer (OEH)	PD
<b>Apologies:</b>	Catherine Van Laeren	Mid-Western Regional Shire Council	CVL
	Robert Hunt	Liverpool Plain Shire Council	RH
<b>Date:</b>	28 February 2013		
<b>Venue:</b>	Warrumbungle Shire Council Chambers, 59 Binnia Street, Coolah		
<b>Purpose:</b>	Meeting No 1		

**Minutes:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Agenda / Comment / Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	DA opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting number 1 at 2pm. Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed to invited members prior to the meeting. Apologies were accepted from Catherine Van Laeren and Robert Hunt who were not able to attend the meeting.	Noted
2	As this was the first CCC meeting for the project there were no minutes of a previous meeting to circulate and accept.	Noted
3	DA asked all members to briefly introduce themselves including an outline of their connection to the project and the community. Each member was also asked to discuss why electricity is important to them and their lives including an item they couldn't personally do without if there was no electricity available.	Noted
4	<p>Following member introductions and preliminary discussions, DA asked all to write down any initial questions or issues that they feel need to be considered and addressed by the project. A summary of these questions and issues are listed below and have been collated into general themes or categories;</p> <p><b>Community fund</b> The proponent would like to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are the key concerns of the community (e.g. roads)</li> <li>- What benefits does community want to secure from the project? (e.g. jobs and investments etc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Community sentiment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Generally positive</li> <li>- Choice to be involved in the wind farm is good</li> <li>- It is important that the proponent is not just here to 'mine with wind' but is here to work with the community</li> <li>- There is a resource grab in general around here and some people are feeling powerless</li> <li>- Are people unaware about the project?</li> </ul> <p><b>Community engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can the CCC engage apathetic communities early in the project so support for the project continues?</li> <li>- What process might we have for bringing other community members to each meeting</li> <li>- How can the CCC create more opportunities for the community to become informed about the project (such as with an information session).</li> </ul> <p><b>Maximising Community benefit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the potential benefit to the community in terms of employment in the short and long term?</li> </ul>	Noted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the cost-benefit analysis from the community’s point of view?</li> <li>- How can the benefits of the asset be retained in the local area? Direct regional investment from construction should be spent here.</li> <li>- How can we ensure local training and skills development for local employment in maintenance roles?</li> <li>- During the construction phase: What can local towns provide in terms of accommodation, food, concrete, trucks and earth moving?</li> <li>- What might be the possible tourism impact (positive)?</li> <li>- How will the wind farm minimize or offset wear and tear on local infrastructure, especially roads?</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the effect on the ability to use aerial water bombing during a bush fire?</li> <li>- What consultation has been done/needs to be done in relation to Defence (aircraft)?</li> <li>- What is EMI from turbines – Is EMI the same or different to EMF?</li> <li>- How are wind farms viable when there is no wind?</li> <li>- Noise impacts?</li> <li>- Visual intrusion?</li> <li>- What research has been done on the impact to Livestock?</li> <li>- Can the government override a landowner’s choice to be involved in a wind farm?</li> <li>- What are the impacts on property values?</li> </ul> <p><b>Project questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What decisions can be influenced on the project by the CCC?</li> <li>- Will the project go ahead if there is a change of government?</li> <li>- If a land owner still wants to come on board with this project can they?</li> <li>- Will there be a stage 2 in this project?</li> <li>- Can the grid be DC instead of AC?</li> <li>- How many turbines are in each shire?</li> </ul> <p><b>General understanding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will we get cheaper electricity?</li> <li>- What is the life expectancy of a turbine?</li> <li>- What is the cost of the upkeep of turbines?</li> <li>- What is the distance between turbines?</li> </ul> <p>BH will prepare a summary response to the above questions or issues for tabling at the next meeting.</p>	<p>BH</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>DA tabled the following documents provided by PD as background information for members centred around wind farm cost of energy;</p> <p>Comment on the Australian Energy Technology Assessment (AETA) prepared by Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics (BREE)  <a href="#">Canberra concedes wind, solar to be cheapest energy by 2030</a></p> <hr/> <p>International Renewable Energy Association (IRENA)</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	<p><a href="#">Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2012</a></p> <p>Forbes.com <a href="#">Why it is the end of the line for wind power</a></p> <p>National Renewable Energy Laboratory <a href="#">Recent Developments in the Levelized Cost of Energy from U.S. Wind Power Projects</a></p> <p>A general summary of these wind farm energy costs can be provided at the next meeting.</p>	BH
6	<p>BH presented current project information including development status and recent project activity. The presentation consisted of 22 PowerPoint slides and a hard copy of the presentation was handed to those present at the CCC meeting and will be uploaded to the website after the meeting. An A3 size scale map of the proposed wind farm layout was also handed out to each member for reference purposes and ease of viewing. Two A1 size versions of the layout were available and hung on the wall for general viewing. Other general project documents and information was available for member's information.</p> <p>Key comments, questions, feedback and action points arising from the presentation were (listed in no particular order);</p> <p>a. <b>Planning Process for the project.</b> The meeting discussed the wind farms planning process, current status and the expected timing of activity going forward, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing Part 3a application</li> <li>• Draft NSW Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms not legislated by Government but expected around mid-2013</li> <li>• EA was lodged with DPI in November 2012</li> <li>• DPI adequacy review received February 2013</li> <li>• Anticipate public exhibition of EA by DPI April/May</li> <li>• Anticipate application to be determined second half of 2013</li> </ul> <p>b. <b>Power Purchase Agreement (PPA).</b> At this stage a PPA has not been executed for the project and will be progressed prior to the commencement of construction.</p> <p>c. <b>Community Enhancement Fund.</b> The meeting discussed the potential for funding to be made available to the community during the projects construction and operational phase. Comments included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BH advised Epuron is looking for feedback from the CCC as to how a Community Fund might be established for the project, and what kind of support the community feels is required.</li> <li>• AM suggested one turbine could be set aside for the community and the royalty payment could provide the source of funding for community enhancement purposes.</li> </ul> <p>d. <b>Approved consent conditions.</b> LG expressed concern that the consent conditions granted for the project (if approved) would change in the future. BH advised the proponent must honour consent conditions in order to operate and is required to meet certain compliance conditions set by government. TM advised consent conditions issued by the government would be binding on the proponent and is a fundamental</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>principal of the states planning system.</p> <p>e. <b>Project benefits.</b> The members were keen to discuss the expected project benefits that would flow to the local community and region. The main aim is to capture as many local jobs and business investment/expenditure opportunities as possible to keep people/families living and working in the area. BH discussed the estimated benefits that could flow to the local community/region as set out on page 19 of the presentation. These estimated benefits include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall project investment value \$1.8-2.0 b</li> <li>• Regional investment from construction \$375 m</li> <li>• Regional investment from operations \$25m per annum</li> <li>• Jobs during construction 1200</li> <li>• Jobs during operations 75</li> <li>• Other benefits and flow on effects available</li> </ul> <p>f. <b>Key assessment issues.</b> As set out on page 15 of the presentation the meeting discussed the key assessment issues included in the EA.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
7	<p>As this was the first meeting of the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) for the project, members discussed the purpose and expected activity of the committee for future meetings.</p> <p>DA provided members with a copy of “Appendix C: Guidelines for wind farm community consultative committees” which forms part of the “Draft NSW Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms – December 2011”. DA asked all members to review the document and the questions in the agenda for the first meeting as a basis for progressing future meetings.</p> <p>Some preliminary comments from members included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AM suggested it may be worthwhile inviting 1 or 2 community members (as observers) to future meetings of the CCC if people seek to contribute.</li> <li>• GP suggested the CCC could have an open style forum at the start of a future meeting to enable interested community members to view project information and ask questions of the CCC.</li> </ul>	<p>CCC to discuss at next meeting</p>
8	<p>General Business</p> <p>a. BH was asked to display some of the public location photomontages for the project at the next CCC meeting (similar to open day held in Cassilis).</p> <p>b. Members agreed to place a brief media statement from the CCC in the Coolah Diary, Dunedoo Diary and Merriwa Ringer. The purpose of the media statement is to inform the local community that a CCC has been established for the project and to advise of its members so that any feedback can be channelled back through members. PD agreed to draft the media statement and send to DA for approval before releasing.</p> <p>c. PD advised she is organising a community information session about the planning process. Details are yet to be finalised. PD to provide updates on this and other activities to the CCC.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>DA</p> <p>PD</p>

	<p>d. BH agreed to provide PD with wind farm maps for the community information session.</p> <p>e. TM and RC asked that Epuron advise them how many turbines are proposed in each Council LGA.</p> <p>f. Members asked Epuron to lead a general discussion around “wind farm noise and visual intrusion” at the next CCC meeting.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
9	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Date: Monday 13 May 2013</p> <p>Time: 1pm to 4pm</p> <p>Venue: Cassilis (Linda Gant’s Coffee Shop)</p> <p>March 6<sup>th</sup> was deemed the intended date for the next meeting. DA would like to request that the meeting instead be held on the alternate date of Monday 13 May 2013 due to a scheduling clash.</p> <p>Agenda details for next meeting to be circulated 1-2 weeks beforehand.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>DA and BH</p>
10	DA closed meeting at 4.10pm	Noted