

Minutes of Meeting

Yass Valley Wind Farm & Conroys Gap Wind Farm

Community Consultation Committee

Present:	Nic Carmody Councillor Neil Reid John McGrath Paul Regan Andrew Wilson	Chairman Harden Shire Council Non-involved landowner Non-involved landowner Epuron	NC NR JM PR AW
Apologies:	Stan Waldren Councillor David Needham Rowena Weir Mark Glover Sam Weir Donna Bolton	Involved landowner Yass Valley Council Non-involved landowner Non-involved landowner Bookham Agricultural Bureau Epuron	StW DN RW MG SaW DB
Observer:	Dieuwer Reynders	Renewable Energy Precinct Coordinator NSW-ACT border	DR
Date:	2 May 2013		
Venue:	Yass Valley Council Chambers, Comur Street, Yass		
Purpose:	Meeting No 3		

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	<p>NC opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 2:05 pm.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Mark Glover, Stan Waldren, Rowena Weir, Sam Weir, David Needham and Donna Bolton.</p>	
2	<p>Pecuniary and other interests</p> <p>There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.</p> <p>JM noted that he is related to families that are involved and also to families that are neighbours to the projects.</p> <p>JM and PR noted that they had attended meetings of the Yass Landscape Guardians and Boorowa Landscape Guardians.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Previous meeting</p> <p>A number of proposed changes to the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. The amended minutes of Meeting No. 2 were adopted by the committee and will be distributed to the committee members and placed on the Epuron website.</p>	
4	<p>Conroy's Gap Wind Farm update</p> <p>AW provided the following update on project activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with neighbours to the wind farm site regarding the proposed modification application is ongoing • The modification application is currently being drafted • Grid connection studies that are needed as part of the grid connection application process with TransGrid have been completed by Epuron's consultant 	
	<p>JM queried the route and voltage of the powerline connecting the Yass Valley Wind Farm to the grid. AW indicated the route of the powerline on the map and noted that the powerline was likely to be 330kV, the same as the voltage of the TransGrid line that it would connect to.</p>	
5	<p>Yass Valley Wind Farm update</p> <p>AW provided the following update on project activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An updated noise assessment is in progress • An updated visual impact assessment including additional photomontages is in progress. • A revised Submissions & Preferred Project Report is expected to be submitted 	

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
	<p>to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with neighbouring residents is ongoing. Both councils have provided assistance with confirming mailing addresses for the neighbouring residents. 	
	PR queried the number of houses located within 2km and within 5km of the Yass Valley Wind Farm. AW agreed to circulate the details to the committee.	AW
	JM queried the details of the biodiversity studies carried out for the project. AW & DR confirmed that the studies had been carried out by Epuron's biodiversity consultant in accordance with the Director General's Requirements (DGRs) and that the assessments had been scrutinised by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage for adequacy and completeness.	
	PR queried whether Epuron had consulted with the Catchment Management Authority. AW confirmed that they were one of a number of agencies that had been consulted about the project.	
	<p>PR asked when details of the community fund would be known. AW noted that the requirements for the community fund are generally included in the conditions of approval issued by the Department of Planning & Infrastructure. [For example, for the Conroys Gap wind farm, prior the commencement of construction, the proponent must prepare and submit for approval to the Director General a Community Enhancement Program to fund community infrastructure and services in the locality of the project. Contributions to the fund will be \$25,000 pa (indexed by CPI) from commissioning of the project until the end of its life.] The full conditions of approval are on the Epuron website http://www.epuron.com.au/project/conroys-gap/downloads/ under the Government Approvals tab.</p> <p>AW noted that the CCC could play a role in identifying suitable projects for the annual funding as well as in administering the fund. PR noted that he is the new chairman of the Binalong Landcare Group and that this may a suitable agency to discuss projects with at the appropriate time.</p>	
	PR queried whether there were any community meetings planned for Bookham or Binalong. AW advised that although Epuron were currently contacting all landowners within 5km, there were no plans to hold a community meeting. At this stage in the project's development the focus is on addressing any particular concerns of immediate neighbours rather than those of the broader community. If there were groups (eg Progress Association) that needed more information, Epuron could provide more targeted information to groups.	
	JM asked whether there were any photomontages and assessment of the visual impact of the wind farm from Yass. AW advised that he was pretty sure there were photomontages of the Conroys Gap wind farm from Yass. The locations of the all the photomontages for both projects are shown on maps in the respective Environmental Assessments. JM believes photomontages should be done from Yass, Bowning,	

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
	<p>Goondah, Bookham and Binalong.</p> <p>JM asked whether photomontages be put on display at publically accessible places such as the tourist bureau, post office and council noticeboard so that more people can be made aware of what is happening.</p>	AW
6	<p>General Business</p> <p>JM tabled a number of queries from community members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request for an open house or public meeting to better inform the local community – AW advised that although Epuron were currently contacting all landowners within 5km, there were no plans to hold a community meeting. At this stage in the project’s development the focus is on addressing any particular concerns of immediate neighbours rather than those of the broader community. • Concerns from neighbours about construction traffic issues experienced at the Crookwell II site (Union Fenosa). AW noted he was not aware of any current construction activities at the Crookwell II site but that proponents were bound by the terms of their planning approval including preparing a traffic management plan and adhering to fixed times for construction activities • Sizes of wind turbines - AW noted that the maximum wind turbine size is identified in the Environmental Assessments for each project. [This are as follows: Conroys Gap – hub height 80m & tip height 125m; Yass Valley – hub height 100m & tip height 150m • Economic benefits and local employment of wind farm projects – AW noted that economic benefits including job creation has been noted in the Environmental Assessments for both projects and agreed to provide the links to independent assessments of the economic benefits for wind farm projects in general. http://www.climateinstitute.org.au/clean-energy-jobs.html/section/430 http://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/resourcecentre/reports.html <p>DR confirmed her role as a representative of the NSW government and the Office of Environment and Heritage as listening to thoughts and concerns and to provide non-partisan information where required. DR noted that in relation to local jobs, it is important that the local communities make workers and suppliers feel welcome - something for towns to think about.</p> <p>NC requested that Epuron provide a draft project timeline for each of the projects.</p> <p>NR confirmed that large-scale map of the projects had be put up at the BP service station in Jugiong. A notice regarding the project had been included in the Jugiong Journal. NR asked NC to check his email address as he hadn’t received the reminder for today’s meeting. NR reiterated his offer to assist with mailing out project information or newsletters.</p> <p>PR expressed his concern about the lack of a representative from the involved landowners in the three meetings to date. AW and JM to identify an alternative to StW.</p>	AW

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
7	<p>Next meeting:</p> <p>The frequency of the meetings was discussed and it was agreed to hold meetings every 2 months.</p> <p>Proposed date for next meeting</p> <p>Date: Thursday 4th July 2013</p> <p>Time: 2.00 to 3.30PM</p> <p>Venue: Yass Council Chambers</p>	
8	Meeting closed at 3.35 pm	Noted