

Minutes of Meeting

Yass Valley Wind Farm & Conroys Gap Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

Present:	Nic Carmody	Chairman	NC
	Councillor David Needham	Yass Valley Council	DN
	Councillor Matt Stadmiller	Harden Shire Council	MS
	Councillor Cathy Sanderson	Harden Shire Council	CS
	Councillor Neil Reid	Harden Shire Council	NR
	Sharon Langman	Harden Shire Council	SL
	John McGrath	Non-involved landowner	JM
	Paul Regan	Non-involved landowner	PR
	Mark Glover	Non-involved landowner	MG
	Rowena Weir	Non-involved landowner	RW
	Sam Weir	Bookham Agricultural Bureau	SW
	Andrew Wilson	Epuron	AW
	Donna Bolton	Epuron	DB
Apologies:	Stan Waldren	Involved landowner	SW
Observer:	Dieuwer Reynders	Renewable Energy Precinct Coordinator NSW-ACT border	DR

Date: 1 March 2013

Venue: Kitchen Annex, Yass Memorial Hall, Comur Street, Yass

Purpose: Meeting No 1

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	<p>NC opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 2:10 pm. The meeting agenda was distributed to members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Stan Waldren, representing involved landowners.</p> <p>NC noted he is not being paid as the chair of the committee. There were no other declarations of pecuniary interests.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
2a	<p><i>Role and governance of the committee (including how it can provide constructive input into the projects)</i></p> <p><i>Membership, purpose, what is expected, what is not expected of the committee.</i></p> <p>NC explained how he became the chairman of the committee. NC noted the Department's Wind Farm Guidelines are in draft form and advice from the Department of Planning & Infrastructure is that it is good to follow the Draft guidelines but not necessary.</p> <p>AW noted he will take the minutes and distribute within 2 weeks of the meeting in time for councils' meetings.</p> <p>DN requested that a large scale map of the wind farms be provided to the two councils.</p> <p>NR requested advice on what is not expected of the committee. DN recommended the list provided to the Rye Park CCC.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>AW</p> <p>AW</p> <p>AW</p>
2b	<p><i>Frequency of meetings</i></p> <p>It was agreed that the meetings would initially be held monthly.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
2c	<p><i>To whom the committee reports</i></p> <p>DN noted under the draft guidelines the independent chairperson of the CCC will report annually to the Director General of the Department of Planning & Infrastructure.</p> <p>NC noted that the community representatives should also report back to the community.</p> <p>NR advised that the council meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for Harden Shire and the 4th Wednesday of the month for Yass. It would be useful for the CCC to provide their minutes at least a week prior to these dates to enable timely reporting at the council meetings.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>AW</p>

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2d	<p><i>Who provides feedback to the committee</i></p> <p>The community can contact the CCC members by email to have their views represented at the CCC meetings:</p> <p>John McGrath yowerweena@westnet.com.au Paul Regan pregan@southernphone.com.au Mark Glover markbglover@gmail.com Rowena Weir srweir@bigpond.com</p> <p>AW noted that the committee can invite individuals with particular expertise to address the meeting as required.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
3	<p><i>Project consultation details</i></p> <p>AW provided background to the two wind farm projects. Epuron commenced development of the Yass Valley Wind Farm project in 2008. In 2009 Origin bought the project and there was an obligation within the sale for Epuron not to contact the community. Epuron acquired the project from Origin in 2012. It was acknowledged that the communications have not been perfect but Epuron is working to improve this. Epuron has initiated the Community Consultation Committee and created websites for Conroys Gap Wind Farm and Yass Valley Wind Farm and is updating in gaps in the contact database for project newsletters.</p> <p>MG noted that Epuron has not communicated adequately with members of the community within 10km of the wind farm site.</p> <p>DN noted that the committee should focus on what can be done from this point onwards rather than what was done previously.</p>	
4	<p><i>Current status of the projects</i></p> <p>AW read through a presentation on the Conroys Gap project distributed to the committee. He noted that Epuron is planning to modify Conroys Gap so that the 18 approved turbine locations can be built – the consent currently permits building on 15 of the locations.</p> <p>PR asked if the approval had lapsed for Conroys Gap. AW confirmed it had not.</p> <p>SW asked who the turbine manufacturer was. AW noted that was commercially sensitive information and had not been publically released.</p> <p>MG asked if a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) had been signed and to see Epuron's balance sheet. AW noted that a PPA for the project had not been signed yet and that Epuron is a private company whose balance sheet is not in the public domain.</p> <p>MG suggested that Epuron set up a decommissioning trust fund for Conroys</p>	

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	<p>Gap. AW noted that conditions of approval for the project, including conditions relating to decommissioning, had already been issued by the Department of Planning. AW will circulate a copy of the decommissioning conditions.</p> <p>DN requested Epuron to provide a large scale map which has both Conroys Gap and Yass Valley wind farm turbine locations and houses identified.</p> <p>JM and SW noted concerns about the potential impact of the wind farms on aerial water bombing and aerial agricultural operations in the vicinity of the wind turbines.</p> <p>NR requested that any advertisements about the wind farms be placed in all of the local papers – Yass Tribune, Harden Murrumburrah Express, The Land, Cootamundra Herald and the Gundagai Independent.</p> <p>NC suggested that Epuron ask the local councils for help to distribute project information to surrounding residents to ensure no one is missed.</p> <p>AW read through a presentation distributed to the committee on the status of the Yass Valley Wind Farm project.</p> <p>JM asked how soil erosion will be addressed during construction. AW noted that a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) which will include an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Management Plan will be prepared prior to the commencement of construction. The plans will be subject to approval by the Director-General.</p> <p>JM noted that he understood the capacity of the TransGrid 132kV transmission line (No. 990) was not sufficient to accept the output of the Conroys Gap wind farm. Epuron has assessed the capacity of the transmission line and is confident of the feasibility of connecting to that line.</p> <p>MG requested a hard copy of the Yass Valley Wind Farm Environmental Assessment (EA). AW noted that hard copies of the EA are available at the council offices. AW offered to provide CDs of the EA to the committee members. MG declined this. DN suggested the committee does not need a copy of the EA as it is not a decision-making body. Anyone seeking to influence the decision on the wind farm should engage with the Department of Planning & Infrastructure.</p> <p>DB noted that the EA was the previously exhibited document and the currently exhibited document is the Preferred Project Report (PPR). AW confirmed that he will print four hard copies of the PPR for MG JM PR and SW/RW.</p> <p>DN noted that he would like to see a consultation plan that involves other stakeholder groups such as bushfire etc. He was also interested in how much the community fund would be over the life of the projects. He noted a preference for s94 processes.</p>	<p>AW</p> <p>AW</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>AW</p>

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
5	Proposed date for next meeting Date: Friday 5 th April (Rescheduled for Thursday 4 th April) Time: 2.00 to 3.30PM Venue: Yass Council Chambers preferred venue	All
6	Meeting closed at 3.30 pm	Noted