

Minutes of Meeting

Liverpool Range Wind Farm Community Consultation Committee

Attending: Brett Peterkin Interim Independent Chair
Ant Martin Landowner
Anne Louise Capel Landowner
Linda Gant Non-Involved Landowner
Greg Piper Non-Involved Landowner
Graeme Booker Business owner, Coolah Caravan Park
Leeanne Ryan Warrumbungle Shire Council
Julian Kasby Epuron

Guests: Mark Squires OEH
Fiona Lewis OEH
David Robinson Epuron

Apologies: Sean Constable Upper Hunter Shire Council
Donna Ausling Liverpool Plains Shire Council
Cr Ron Campbell Upper Hunter Shire Council
Julia Imrie Mudgee District Environment Group
Mat Pringle Upper Hunter Shire Council

Date: 27 April 2017, 12.30pm – 2pm

Venue: Coolah Council Chambers

Purpose: Meeting No 12

1.	Meeting commencement Meeting opened by Brett, as interim chairperson of the CCC outlining the role he was asked by Epuron to chair the meeting. Those present introduced themselves, with Anne-Louise Capel renewing her previous disclosure that she was both a councillor and an involved landowner.	
----	--	--

<p>2.</p>	<p>Minutes of previous meeting Minutes of meeting held 21 September 2016 as circulated prior to the meeting were taken to be a correct record.</p>	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Matters arising from minutes Julian advised that a permanent Chairperson had not been appointed but that Epuron would be asking the Department to appoint one by the next meeting.</p> <p>Julian gave an update on the activities that had taken place to communicate the status of the project to the community and seek feedback following the lodgement of the Response to Submissions, namely newsletters no. 13 (September 2016) and 14 (April 2017), information day (Coolah, 5 April 2017) and advertisement in the Coolah District Diary 618/17 and 616/17.</p> <p>Julian gave an update on the planning activities that had been taking place, namely additional environmental surveys for the revised transmission line route. The assessments all form part of the Response to Submissions which was lodged with NSW Dept. Planning & Environment in March. The documents are on the Epuron website and paper copies of the Executive Summary were available at the meeting.</p> <p>The request to add another counsellor from Warrumbungle Shire Council was discussed in the light of Linda’s objection by email, which Epuron is to circulate. Julian advised that, given the CCC make up would be reviewed upon eventual grant of development consent for the project, Epuron had decided not to appoint additional members to the existing CCC, however, the chair of the CCC could allow others to attend meetings and to address the meeting as guests. Leanne noted Warrumbungle Shire Council did not agree with that decision.</p> <p>Greg and Linda expressed concern that the CCC appeared to have been side-lined at the last CCC meeting, in which Epuron announced its intention to enter into a voluntary planning agreement (VPA) with the local councils, with a section 355 committee making recommendations about grants. Greg and Linda recorded their dissatisfaction with the way that Gordon Fraser had been criticised for the helpful, advisory role that he had played in assisting the CCC to conduct a survey of experience with community funds at other wind farms, and then removed by OEH from having any role in supporting the CCC.</p> <p>Mark stated that from OEH’s perspective, Gordon had not obtained permission to act in a co-ordinator role for the community survey. He also clarified that Gordon voluntarily chose to vacate his role as Regional Clean Energy Coordinator and this decision therefore brought to a close his professional involvement with the CCC.</p> <p><i>Comment LG: it was my understanding that Gordon was not acting as a co-ordinator for the community survey, but in an advisory role.</i></p> <p>Moved by Ant, seconded by Anne-Louise, and accepted by the meeting</p>	<p>JK</p>

	<p>without objection that the CCC record in its minutes its appreciation of the contribution made by Gordon to the workings of the CCC, particularly in assisting it to conduct the community survey. As well, Greg offered to write to Gordon, on behalf of the CCC, to communicate that appreciation to him personally.</p>	GP
3.	<p>Project update from Julian Kasby, Project Manager Julian reported that since the last meeting Epuron had submitted its response to submissions (RTS) to the Department of Planning, had issued a newsletter and had conducted an open day at Coolah Sporting Club.</p> <p>It was expected that Planning will place the RTS on exhibition shortly, then visit and assess the site before making its recommendation. It was likely that the Planning Assessment Commission would determine the project application. That process was expected to take at least 6-9 months from the date of placing the RTS on exhibition.</p> <p>An email from Julia Imrie on behalf of the Mudgee District Environment Group regarding Epuron's proposed, revised powerline route. Julian advised that the Aboriginal Land Council preferred the proposed revised route, that the mine owner did not want the route proposed by Julia and that a whole chapter of the RTS was dedicated to the question of the powerline route. Epuron to send a copy of the chapter to Julia and other CCC members, for information.</p>	JK
4.	<p>At a recent Coolah District Development Group meeting Warrumbungles Shire Council General Manager Steve Loan had expressed no objection to representatives of the CCC being present at any meetings with Epuron to progress the proposed VPA. Leeanne would confirm this at the next CCC meeting. Epuron awaits a draft of the VPA from the Councils, who had volunteered to undertake this task.</p>	LR
5.	<p>General update on community sentiment towards the project Anne-Louise reported that timing of work crew transport and school bus runs should be coordinated. Greg commented that the focus needed to be on the benefits of the wind farm (not just the proposed community fund, but local jobs and local provision of accommodation and business services during construction and afterwards). Graeme noted that the post-construction period posed a challenge, because assets built or improved for the construction period can become vacant for lack of ongoing demand. Greg, Anne-Louise, Ant, Graeme and Linda all emphasised the need for good local communication, including through the <i>Diary</i> and the <i>Ringer</i> and social media. Epuron will check that its mailing list for newsletters includes the <i>Diary</i> and the <i>Ringer</i>, post offices, cafes, CRT and other rural suppliers and the public library. Cassilis and Coolah, as the two towns closest to the project, should be specifically mentioned in newsletters about the project and in press releases.</p>	JK
6.	<p>The NSW government's role in supporting renewable energy Mark outlined the draft Climate Change Fund Strategic Plan, details of which are available at: https://engage.environment.nsw.gov.au/Environmental-Future-</p>	

	<p>Consultation-CCF-Strategic-Plan</p> <p>Mark advised that after September 2017, OEH staff dedicated to renewable energy will be redeployed, possibly within regional renewable energy development hubs.</p> <p>7. Community and Business Engagement A business readiness workshop was conducted in 2013. A further workshop should be treated as a follow up to that event and registered attendees invited.</p> <p>8. Any Other Business David (not as an Epuron representative, but in his capacity as a director of non-profit NGO Renewable Energy Education Projects (REEP) Ltd) reported on recent discussions with Anne-Louise, Greg (Coolah District Development Group) and Janet and Graeme Booker regarding the readiness of the locality to take up eco-tourism, business and accommodation provision opportunities presented by the proposed wind farm. A fact-finding visit (local accommodation, food provision and employment) to White Rock Wind Farm (under construction, near Glen Innes) was mooted.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Next meeting Date not set, but:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least one more meeting anticipated before determination of the development application for the project. • after any visit to Glen Innes (White Rock and possibly Sapphire Wind Farms) and before the proposed, further business readiness workshop. • in the event that the Department of Planning make a recommendation a CCC meeting should be scheduled as soon as practical. 	
	<p>Summary of action items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epuron to circulate Linda's email • Greg to send a letter of thanks to Gordon • Epuron to check that its mailing list for newsletters includes the <i>Diary</i> and the <i>Ringer</i>, post offices, cafes, CRT and other rural suppliers and the public library. Cassilis and Coolah to be referred to in newsletters and press-releases. • Epuron to send a copy of the revised powerline route chapter in the RTS to Julia, with copy to other CCC members, for information. • Leeanne to confirm attendance of CCC member at discussions regarding VPA with Epuron is acceptable. 	<p>JK GP JK</p> <p>JK LR</p>