

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
	Michael Marks	Warrumbungle Shire Council	CW
	Sean Constable	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RC
	Councillor Ron Campbell	Upper Hunter Shire Council	RC
	Brian Hall	Epuron	BH
Apologies:	Anne-Louise Capel	Involved landowner	ALC
	Catherine Van Laeren	Mid-Western Regional Shire Council	CVL
	Donna Ausling	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	DA1
	Julia Imrie	Mudgee District Environment Group	Jl
	Pauline Dunne	Observer (OEH)	PD
Date:	21 November 2013		
Venue:	Coolah Caravan Park – Camp Kitchen		
Purpose:	Meeting No 4		

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	<p>DA opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting number 4 at 10.05am.</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"> - Pauline Dunne, OEH. - Anne-Louise Capel, involved landowner. - Catherine Van Laeren, Mid-Western Regional Shire Council. - Donna Ausling, Liverpool Plains Shire Council. - Julia Imrie, Mudgee District Environment Group. <p>The following changes to CCC membership were noted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael Marks from Warrumbungle Shire Council is replacing Emily Doolan. 	Noted
2	<p>DA asked all members present to confirm they had received minutes of the last meeting and moved that the minutes be accepted. During the course of the meeting there were no changes proposed and the minutes were accepted by all members present.</p> <p>Items still requiring follow up from previous minutes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BH to follow up with Mudgee Guardian re placement of CCC announcements. - PD to circulate the report of participant feedback from the information sessions she held late last year. 	Noted
3	<p>DA read out an email from JI (who was not able to attend the meeting) which asked that Epuron provide further information regarding its assessment of the powerline route options considered. While MDEG supported wind farms they would prefer the route was not located near Ulan and instead ran through open farming land to the west towards Gulgong. General response and comment to this matter were;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BH advised these details would be provided in the EA and available for viewing when on public exhibition. Should the EA not be on public exhibition before the next meeting BH will provide some high level information on the routes considered at the next CCC meeting. - AM stated not all farmers wanted powerlines running through open country and that this matter was not necessarily within the scope of what the CCC was meant to be discussing/considering. DA suggested it was important for the concerns of all stakeholders to be considered by the CCC in order to build understanding about community sentiment towards the project broadly and an appreciation of the complexity of the situation. - RC asked if Epuron could provide an estimate of the number of hectares of vegetation to be cleared to help the CCC put the matter in context. BH 	<p>BH</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>BH</p>

	<p>again advised these details would be provided in the EA and available for viewing when on public exhibition but will provide a guide at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DA asked that we provide the CCC with a high level guide as to why we selected the preferred powerline route and disregarded the western routes. 	BH
4	<p>DA asked LG to inform members about the recent public display of wind farm photomontages and layouts in Cassilis and Coolah. LG advised that most comments received were favourable. From further discussion it was agreed that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It would be good to implement a feedback / comments form to record people's views where interested to do so. Respondents could also leave contact details if they wanted to receive project newsletters. - It would be beneficial to also display some of the presentation slides prepared for the CCC by Epuron where possible for people that may want more information (can always be found on the website). <p>BH will work with LG and ALC to implement some of the above ideas. GP offered to coordinate formalising the display in the Coolah Library.</p> <p>SC raised the idea that Merriwa Library would like to receive the same project information for display and will discuss with them (Merriwa Library) to see if possible to implement. SC will communicate with BH.</p> <p>SC would like to see an information evening organised for Merriwa businesses similar to the business meeting organised in Coolah by Graeme Booker. This would better raise awareness to the opportunities available to the Merriwa community. It was agreed that early in the new year, to coincide with the next CCC meeting would be the best timing. The proposed date is Tuesday evening 21st January. SC to organise together with BH and keep CCC members informed.</p>	<p>BH/GP</p> <p>SC & BH</p> <p>SC & BH</p>
5	<p>DA handed out a summary of feedback / comments (2 pages) documented by attendees at the Coolah Business Meeting held on 20 November 2013 (last night). The feedback collected by DA, who facilitated the meeting, included participant's initial thoughts about the potential positive impacts that the wind farm development could have on the community and local business environment during and after construction.</p> <p>Feedback relating to holding the meeting itself was very positive, with people keen to attend and find out more information about the project. The meeting was attended by approximately 46 people.</p> <p>CCC discussion that arose in relation to this included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How best to establish a community enhancement fund. - How the local business community will be impacted/benefited. - What type of skills and training would be required to participate. - Potential tourism and education benefits. - Accommodation and housing of construction workers. - Community reactions to the project. - Offer by OEH to organise a wind farm visit. <p>It was agreed that further work is now required as a result of the business meeting by way of ongoing meetings and discussions as appropriate and as more certainty on the project develops.</p> <p>The planned next step is to hold a second business meeting in Cassilis, combining</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>GB/BH/DA</p>

	the business community from Merriwa, Cassilis and Coolah in the first half of next year, possibly to be timed with Epuron's planned open houses. To be further discussed at the next CCC meeting and following the Merriwa business meeting in January.	
6	GP advised the Coolah District Development Group has recently activated a Facebook page for posting local information including details about the wind farm. GP encouraged all to visit Facebook and "Like" their page.	Noted
7	GB handed Epuron the completed Questionnaire Forms from the Coolah Business Meeting held on 20 November 2013 (last night). DA asked BH to review the Questionnaires and prepare a summary of attendance and questionnaire responses to present at the next CCC meeting.	Noted BH
8	As a carryover item from the previous meeting, the CCC discussed their current thoughts regarding the establishment of a Community Enhancement Fund (CEF) and ideas for types of support required. Key points discussed included; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GP advised research had shown that CEFs established for other wind farms provided funding ranging from \$200 to \$2,000 per turbine. GP advised most information came from a website called "Wind in the Bush" and would circulate a link. - Recent media had reported the Infigen project at Wellington provides a CEF of \$60,000 per annum. - SC enquired if Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA) had been discussed with councils. BH advised CEF had been committed for project. Will be discussing road work requirements with council which will require a funding arrangement and may include a VPA. A CEF is separate to a discussion with council about road works and funding mechanisms such as VPAs. - 	Noted GP
9	As PD was not able to attend the meeting, DA asked all to think about the offer from OEH to visit a wind farm in the new year. PD would like to determine if there are sufficient numbers to support the booking of a bus for the trip.	All
10	Members generally discussed the status of landowner agreements and BH provided a brief update. AM provided feedback as an involved landowner and advised all was progressing well and was a very iterative process. AM group of landowners expect to complete soon and second group to follow soon thereafter.	Noted
11	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 and 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. BH presented and discussed the presentation and no new/additional matters were raised that had not already been discussed during the meeting.	Noted
12	DA asked if the CCC would like to prepare a brief submission (probably letter format) for submission when the EA is exhibited. The CCC agreed that it would and put forward initial ideas for topics to include. These were; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General support for project. - CCC activities with community and outcomes observed. - Current thinking around matters such as community funding. GP and GB 	Noted GB & GP

	<p>suggested that they will do more research on the CEF in order to advise the CCC further at the next meeting.</p> <p>A framework for a draft submission letter to be prepared and ready to discuss at the next meeting.</p>	BH
13	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Date: TBC - Wednesday 22 January 2014</p> <p>Time: TBC 11.00am to 2.00pm</p> <p>Venue: TBC – Merriwa</p> <p>Agenda details for next meeting to be circulated 1-2 weeks beforehand.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>DA & BH</p> <p>DA and BH</p>
14	DA closed the meeting at 1.00pm.	Noted