

Minutes of Meeting

Rye Park Wind Farm

Community Consultation Committee

Present:	Councillor David Needham	Yass Valley Council and Chairman	DN
	Neil and Margaret Privett	Involved landowner	NMP
	Greg Medway	Involved landowner	GM
	Alex and Bev Davis	Uninvolved landowner	ABD
	Jenny Hally	Uninvolved landowner	JH
	Brian Hall	Epuron (Rye Park Wind Farm)	BH
Apologies:	Mayor Wendy Tuckerman	Boorowa Council	WT
	Councillor James Wheelwright	Upper Lachlan Council	JW
	Geoffrey Minchin	Uninvolved landowner	GM1
Date:	2 August 2012		
Venue:	Yass Council Chambers		
Purpose:	Meeting No 2		

Minutes:

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion	Action
1	<p>DN opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 3.05pm. Copies of the meeting agenda and minutes of the last meeting were distributed to those present. Apologies were accepted from Mayor Wendy Tuckerman, Councillor James Wheelwright and Geoffrey Minchin who were not able to attend the meeting.</p>	Noted
2	<p>DN asked those present to briefly introduce themselves and to declare any pecuniary or other interests.</p> <p>a. All present made a brief introduction and stated their interest in attending the CCC meeting.</p> <p>b. ABD particularly stated their interest in attending the meeting was mainly related to a concern for bushfires.</p> <p>Note: Generally those present felt their participation on the CCC was relative to their interest as a local landowner (involved or uninvolved) or local representative, such as councillor, and didn't feel it created any conflict with the purpose of the wind farm CCC.</p>	Noted
3	<p>DN mentioned to the new CCC members that it would be useful for them to read a copy of the draft NSW Planning Guidelines for Wind Farms recently released by the NSW government. Copies of the draft Guidelines are available on the Departments website and details about the role and purpose of the CCC are set out in Appendix C.</p> <p>DN provided a brief overview of the draft Guidelines and also handed out a summery sheet about the draft Guidelines that was distributed at the previous meeting. Although the draft Guidelines have not been passed into legislation yet and do not fully apply to existing Part 3A projects (such as the Rye Park wind farm) the developer is obliged to have regard to them where possible.</p>	Noted
4	<p>Minutes of the last meeting were circulated and accepted as a true and accurate record by DN and BH.</p>	Noted
5	<p>DN discussed the makeup and appropriate level of membership of the CCC. DN stated this point had also been raised by WT prior to the meeting.</p> <p>By way of reference, the draft Guidelines state the CCC should comprise;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an independent chairman 	Noted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 7 – Q2 to Q3 2013 <p>Steps 4 to 7 are largely controlled and decided by government.</p> <p>b. Public Open Day Feedback (slide 9). Members were interested in the open day feedback points and generally discussed. BH was asked by DN to prepare a response to the negative points and will table at the next meeting.</p> <p>c. Traffic & Transport Plan (slides 15 & 16). A consultation draft of the Traffic and Transport Plan was released to members (hard copy) and will be uploaded to the website after the meeting. DN asked that a copy be forwarded to Simon Cassidy, Director Services at Yass Valley Council, and to WT and JW for their respective councils to review.</p> <p>d. Community Fund (slide 17). BH discussed feedback that was received from the ongoing consultation activity and the recent public open day. GM and JH felt having council alone manage any funds is not good enough and that the community must be involved and have a say.</p> <p>GM spoke about the unique opportunity a community fund potentially offers and that the community must “go deeper” and provide attraction to keep families and younger kids in the area through long term benefits and job creation. If a community fund for the Rye Park wind farm was established it could go a long way to help achieve this goal. GM discussed his background providing local “Business Management Courses” as the key source to identifying and understanding this need in the local region.</p> <p>Members generally discussed the potential opportunity and had strong views that benefits should be captured for the community of Rye Park. There was concern that the “town will die” in the long term if left to continue as it is today.</p> <p>DN suggested GM’s from the three involved councils could attend the next CCC meeting to talk about how any community fund benefits would be managed and flow into the community. DN will try and arrange their attendance at the next meeting.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>Note</p> <p>DN</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>ABD raised their concern for increased bushfire risk across the area should the wind farm be built. ABD spoke of their experience with bushfires over many years and made the following observations/comments to the meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coolalie Road is considered a high risk area for bushfires. • The existing transmission lines (330kV Transgrid) had caused problems with fires in the past. • The wind farm would be located close to forested areas and increase the risk of fires. • A copy of a local bushfire map (dated 27 July 2012) from the Yass Council website was made available for viewing at the meeting. <p>There was general discussion regarding bushfire risk and the potential pros and</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	<p>cons of a wind farm operating in the local area. Some comments included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind farm may limit the use of aerial water bombing during a fire but so does bad visibility resulting from thick smoke. • Wind farm access tracks can provide good vehicular access into fire areas where roads do not normally exist. • It was mentioned that Garry Southwell from the Rye Park Rural Fire Service was a good person to contact but he is currently away on leave until October. • NMP (Neil) advised he had been the Deputy Captain at his local fire service for nearly 20 years and didn't believe wind farms would pose an increased fire risk and may even help due to the use of better access roads. It was also suggested BH contact Peter Alley from North Yass Fire Service to discuss potential fire risk from wind farms. • DN asked if it was possible to locate an appropriate local fire representative who could discuss fire risk matters at the next meeting. BH was asked to look into this. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
9	<p>General business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. JH asked for a copy of the NSW Valuer Generals report into the impact of property values and wind farms. BH to send to JH. b. BH to upload copy of presentation material to website. c. DN asked BH to prepare a draft set of minutes of meeting. 	<p>BH</p> <p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>Date: Monday 17 September 2012</p> <p>Time: 1pm to 3.30pm</p> <p>Venue: Yass Council Chambers</p>	<p>All</p> <p>DN and BH to circulate details prior to next meeting</p>
	<p>Meeting closed at 4.50pm</p>	<p>Noted</p>