

# Minutes of Meeting

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

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<b>Present:</b>	Nic Carmody Councillor Neil Reid Councillor Ann Daniel John McGrath Stan Waldren Rowena & Sam Weir Mark Glover Chris Shannon Andrew Wilson	Chairman Harden Shire Council Yass Valley Council Non-involved landowner Involved landowner Non-involved landowner Non-involved landowner Bookham Ag Bureau Epuron	NC NR AD JM StW RW MG CS AW
<b>Apologies:</b>	Paul Regan Alan Keith Donna Bolton	Non-involved landowner Non-involved landowner Epuron	PR AK DB
<b>Observer:</b>	Chris Mackenzie Davey	Renewable Energy Precinct Coordinator NSW-ACT border	CM
<b>Date:</b>	4 July 2013		
<b>Venue:</b>	Yass Valley Council Chambers, Comur Street, Yass		
<b>Purpose:</b>	Meeting No 4		

**Minutes:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Agenda / Comment / Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
1	<p>NC opened the Community Consultation Committee (CCC) meeting at 2:05 pm.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Paul Regan, Alan Keith and Donna Bolton.</p> <p>Chris Mackenzie Davey is currently representing the NSW Office of Environment &amp; Heritage as the Renewable Energy Precinct Coordinator. Chris Shannon has replaced Sam Weir as the representative of the Bookham Agricultural Bureau. Councillor Ann Daniel has replaced Councillor David Needham as the Yass Valley Council representative.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of Previous meeting</b></p> <p>After a discussion, the minutes of meeting number 3 were accepted by the committee and will be distributed to the committee members and placed on the Epuron website.</p>	AW
3	<p><b>Matters arising from the Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>MG queried when the updated photomontages will be available and suggested that copies be made available to the Yass Tribune as well as displayed at publically accessible places. NR requested that a hard copy of a photomontage be made available in Jugiong. AW noted that the updated photomontages will be available in the Preferred Project and Submissions Report and will advise the committee as soon as they are available as well as provide copies to be displayed in the publically accessible places.</p>	AW
4	<p>NC 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 – see below:</p> <p>Yass Valley Wind Farm: Non-involved residences within 2km = 6 Non-involved residences within 5km = 95</p> <p>Conroys Gap Wind Farm: Non-involved residences within 2km = 6 Non-involved residences within 5km = 31</p>	
5	<p>AW noted that it was difficult to provide a time line for the two wind farm projects as the start of construction was dependant on the demand for the output of the wind farms to satisfy the Renewable Energy Target. The construction duration is expected to take 18 – 24 months once a commitment is made to proceed.</p>	
6	<p><b>Conroy's Gap Wind Farm update</b></p> <p>AW reported no change to the status of the Conroys Gap Wind Farm project.</p>	
7	<p><b>Yass Valley Wind Farm update</b></p> <p>AW provided the following update on project activities:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An updated noise assessment has been completed</li> <li>• An updated visual impact assessment is expected to be completed shortly</li> <li>• An aviation impact assessment is in progress</li> <li>• A revised Submissions &amp; Preferred Project Report is being prepared. AW will notify the committee members as soon as the report is available.</li> </ul>	AW
8	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p>JM expressed his concern about the potential impact of the wind farms on fire fighting. AW noted that this will be addressed in the Preferred Project and Submissions Report.</p>	
9	<p>MG and SW noted that although Ted McIntosh had been invited to attend the CCC meeting to discuss the potential impacts on aerial agriculture he has decided not to attend as he was planning on making a submission opposing the project.</p> <p>It was suggested that the wind turbines could be shut down during aerial agricultural operations in the vicinity of the wind farm.</p> <p>NR suggested that SW, JM and MG could approach aerial agricultural operators in the area to ensure that details of all the airstrips in the vicinity of the wind farms were identified.</p>	
10	<p>SW queried the amount to be contributed to a community fund by the wind farm company. AW noted that the amount of the community fund was usually specified in the conditions of approval for the project. For example:</p> <p>Conroys Gap: \$25,000 pa for 15 turbines</p> <p>Boco Rock : \$2,500/turbine pa</p> <p>Gullen Range: \$1,666/turbine pa</p>	
11	<p>AW noted that Epuron are planning to include a commitment for 50% of the Yass Valley Wind Farm community fund to go towards a clean energy program (eg solar pv or solar water heating) for all non-involved residences located within 5km of a wind turbine. The intent is to provide a benefit to those residents that are most affected by the proposed wind farm.</p> <p>In relation to the quantum of the community fund NR noted that the Jugiong Action Group managed to do very well with limited funds.</p>	
12	<p>JM queried how erosion was going to be managed during construction. AW noted that an erosion and sediment control plan would be prepared as part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan that would be submitted to the Director-General of the NSW Department of Planning &amp; Infrastructure for approval prior to any construction activities taking place. AW will try and source a sample erosion &amp; sediment control plan.</p>	AW

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13	JM noted that he had observed a number of wind farms during his recent visit to Holland, Belgium & Czechoslovakia. They generally consisted of a small number of turbines in each wind farm.	
14	MG queried where water would be sourced from for the construction of the wind farm. AW noted that a relatively small volume of water would be used in the construction of the wind turbine foundations and for dust suppression on the access tracks. The Yass Valley Wind Farm Environmental Assessment (section 8.1.1 & 8.1.2 on pages 195 – 196) identified a number potential water sources and estimated the water usage of 19.4 ML over the construction period of 24 months.	
15	CM offered to arrange a tour of a wind farm under construction for the CCC in October. There was a generally positive response to this opportunity. CM to provide further details at the next meeting.	CM
16	NC suggested that the council representatives investigate with their respective planners whether Section 149 Planning Certificates could be used as a means to notify potential landowners of a planned or approved wind farm in the vicinity of a wind farm.	NR AD
17	AW noted that he had received a request from Alan Keith to join the CCC. Alan lives to the east of Conroys Gap within 2km of a proposed Yass Valley Wind Farm turbine. The committee had no objection to Alan joining the CCC. NC suggested that no more than two additional members be allowed to join to avoid the committee becoming too large.	
18	<p><b>Next meeting:</b></p> <p>The day and venue for the committee meetings was discussed and it was agreed that the current venue (Yass Valley Council Chambers) and day (Thursdays) was acceptable to the majority of the committee.</p> <p>Proposed date for next meeting</p> <p>Date: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013</p> <p>Time: 2.00 to 3.30PM</p> <p>Venue: Yass Council Chambers</p>	
19	Meeting closed at 3.44 pm	Noted