EPURŮN

Rye Park Wind Farm Pty Ltd Level 11, 75 Miller St NORTH SYDNEY, NSW 2060 Phone 02 8456 7400

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	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.	Noted
2	DN asked those present to briefly introduce themselves and to declare any pecuniary or other interests. a. All present made a brief introduction and stated their interest in	Noted
	attending the CCC meeting.b. ABD particularly stated their interest in attending the meeting was mainly related to a concern for bushfires.	
	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.	
3	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.	Noted
	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.	
4	Minutes of the last meeting were circulated and accepted as a true and accurate record by DN and BH.	Noted
5	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.	Noted
	By way of reference, the draft Guidelines state the CCC should comprise;	
	an independent chairman	

	 five to seven representatives of the local community and other stakeholders, including at least two representatives of any landowners that own houses within 2 km of a proposed wind turbine one representative of the local council representatives of the proponent GM said membership has to be limited and cannot be endless. DN suggested target CCC membership from the local community should be two involved and two uninvolved landowners (as per draft Guidelines). Ideally one community group member should attend the meeting if possible and recognised BH had been seeking to identify a willing participant from a local group but had little success to date. 	
	On balance it was recognised that the current makeup of the CCC was acceptable and reasonable efforts had been made by the proponent to attract CCC membership. DN asked all CCC members to consider membership and potentially identify any local groups or community representatives, preferably proximate to Rye Park, that are willing and available to participate on the	All
6	CCC for the project. JH asked if satellite reception for television and internet services at homes around Rye Park would be impacted by the wind farm if built. JH indicated they subscribed to Skymesh satellite services. BH advised studies are conducted to identify existing communications services	
	near a wind farm and to make sure they will not be impacted. Study findings are exhibited as part of the EA and consent conditions issued by government normally cover this aspect to protect existing services. BH will seek a response regarding satellite services and discuss at the next meeting.	ВН
7	BH presented detailed information including current project status and key activity since the last meeting. The presentation consisted of 23 PowerPoint slides and was displayed by overhead projector. A hard copy of the presentation was handed to those present at the CCC meeting and will be uploaded to the website after the meeting. A large scale map of the current wind farm layout was hung on the wall for viewing by the CCC members and A3 copies were handed out. Key comments, questions and feedback points arising from the presentation were (listed in no particular order);	Noted
	a. Figure in Newsletter No 5 (slide 7). DN asked about the anticipated timing of the steps shown in the figure "Stages of the Environmental Assessment Process" on the back page of the newsletter. BH advised anticipated timing of the steps as follows;	Noted
	 Step 1 – complete Step 2 – complete Step 3 – "we are here"current position of the project Step 4 – October / November 2012 Step 5 – Late 2012 early 2013 Step 6 – Q1 2013 	

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	 Step 7 – Q2 to Q3 2013 	
	Steps 4 to 7 are largely controlled and decided by government.	
	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.	ВН
	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.	ВН
	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.	Note
	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.	
	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.	
	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.	DN
8	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;	
	 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. 	
	There was general discussion regarding bushfire risk and the potential pros and	

	cons of a wind farm operating in the local area. Some comments included;	Noted
	 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. 	вн
9	General business a. JH asked for a copy of the NSW Valuer Generals report into the impact	вн
	of property values and wind farms. BH to send to JH.	вн
	b. BH to upload copy of presentation material to website.c. DN asked BH to prepare a draft set of minutes of meeting.	ВН
	Next meeting	
	Date: Monday 17 September 2012	DN and BH to circulate
	Time: 1pm to 3.30pm	details prior to next
	Venue: Yass Council Chambers	meeting
	Meeting closed at 4.50pm	Noted