

Minutes of Meeting No. 3

Granite Hills Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

Tuesday 30 January 2018

Attendance

Peter Gordon	Chair
David Williams	Community Representative
Vickie Pollard	Community Representative
Will Jardine	Community Representative
Maria Linkenbagh	Community Representative
Aidan Dalgliesh	Community Representative
Tracey Lineham	Community Representative
John Cook	Community Representative
Keith Tull	Bega Valley Shire Council
Mark Adams	Snowy Monaro Regional Council
Maxime Descournut	Project Representative, GHWF
Caitlin Connellan	Project Representative, GHWF
Antony Shingler	Project Representative, GHWF

Community guests:

Michael Daniels
Marilyn Williams
Jim Williams
Kitt Bryce
Dinah Coleman
Bobbie Sirks

Apologies

No apologies had been received.

Introduction and welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed the committee members and especially acknowledged the large number of people from the community and thanked them for their interest. .

The Chair also thanked Vickie for her outstanding catering.

Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

Note: Keith Tull provided his declarations and therefore all local government and community representatives have now completed the pecuniary and code of conduct forms. No changes were recorded to previous declarations.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved out of session and are expected to be posted on the project website. (That oversight with respect to placing the minutes of meeting #2 on the website has been attended to).

Max again apologised for the incorrect statement in the previous minutes and noted that procedures had been agreed with the chair to ensure that the company contribution to the records of the meeting are clear and are managed through one GHWF representative.

Business arising from previous minutes — response to issues raised or provision of additional information requested:

The company representatives noted that the Environmental Impact Statement is currently being prepared and scheduled to be lodged with the authorities by about April 2018.

Correspondence

In recognition of correspondence received, the chair invited Michael Daniels to speak to the issue he has put to the committee:

Quote

‘I believe that the proponents have not carried out this major requirement (Community Consultation) of the Visual Impact Assessment Bulletin (Aug 2016 page 4 & Dec2016 page 7) . These results should have been submitted for SEARs. The SEARs have been issued without noting this deficiency. In summary, all we have from the proponents about the landscape values of the area is a single sentence that apparently is the opinion of the report writers.’

Max went to some lengths to explain how the company was attending to this requirement. After much discussion it was agreed that the contracted independent organisation soon to be appointed to do this work would be invited to present to the next CCC meeting. If unavailable, GHWF representatives will present the visual impact study methodology and associated community consultation process. Further, broader issues of stakeholder identification, engagement methods and reporting will be presented at the next CCC meeting to ensure best practice and accountability.

Issues identified by the community or local government representatives

Members raised the specific issue of identifying affected and compensating landholders.

After much discussion as to the proposed latest location of the turbines and how people are to be notified it was decided that the new meeting of the CCC would see major displays of important issues such as GPS coordinates and a large scale map being put on display. The map and other materials would be placed in public places for an extended period will allow anyone interested to view the precise detail. Proposed locations include Nimmitabel Community Hall, and Bega and Cooma Monaro local councils.

The committee and observers were also reminded that the Granite Hills Wind Farm website is the primary source of information, including project updates, maps and technical reports.

Various committee members and other landholders present asked a range of questions regarding the identification process for those considered by the company to be affected. While the 2.7km

guideline was discussed there was no final resolution as to how individuals who believed they were affected could be treated. Max made the undertaking to talk to any landholder who believed they were affected regardless of the distance from their property to the nearest turbine.

While it is understood that individual negotiations were necessarily confidential it was the view of the community representatives that the developer needs to give finding satisfactory resolution with the affected property owners as the top priority. Matters discussed included valuing property to assess the impact of the wind farm and neighbour agreements embedded within other wind farm developments.

David Williams advised the meeting that he may have to retain valuers from as far afield as Crookwell as local valuers were unwilling to get involved due to lack of quite specific experience.

GHWF advised the CCC that it had completed 4 of 9 agreements to date.

Kitt Bryce asked why he had not been consulted as his property could be affected as he believes he can see a great number of turbines from his property. Kitt also expressed frustration at not having received material delivered to all neighbouring properties. Recognising that there had been some delivery issues GHWF and Kit will connect to ensure all relevant material is provided.

Telecommunications:

Following a question from Bobbie, GHWF gave an assurance that GHWF has guaranteed to rectify any interference with telecoms created by wind farm activity. Detailed telecommunications studies are also required as part of the development approval process, in order to ensure the proposed development does not interfere with any form of communications. GHWF noted the importance of telecommunications to the community and reaffirmed that in the unlikely event that interference is discovered, it will be rectified immediately under an unlimited commitment to ensure that there is no detriment to any form of communications.

Weed management:

GHWF reaffirmed its commitment to minimising weed infestation during construction including vehicle wash down provisions. Kit expressed concern as to the much longer term potential of weed infestation.

The committee also asked for details of the Fire Management and the Birds of Prey plans. GHWF confirmed that these plans are in preparation and each will be available on completion.

New comments added post the 27 February meeting:

David Williams noted that GHWF had agreed to get to Jim Williams new maps and related data. (Despite that commitment the new maps and other material had still not been delivered to Mr Williams).

David also noted that GHWF had also agreed to table a stakeholder engagement strategy which also had not been presented.

Company reports:

Max confirmed that landholder agreements were the company priority. Other major tasks included evaluating the various turbine and construction contracting options, finalising the EIS and other technical reports.

Securing broader community support for the development is also a top priority, and the company is committed to ongoing consultation processes and understanding any particular areas of opportunity to provide a lasting positive impact to the community.

Issues arising from site tours

Further and more detailed site tours are considered important and necessary. It was agreed that a visit to specific turbine locations should be arranged in the near future.

Press release

Chairman to draft a press a release of progress of the CCC to Cooma and Bega radio and press. The CCC had a photograph taken to accompany the press article.

Next meeting:

Members agreed that Tuesday afternoons at 4 PM was a good time to meet.

The next meeting is

Tuesday 27 February at 4pm in Nimmitabel.