

Granite Hills Wind Farm
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 7

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| Date/Time | Tuesday 7 th December 2018, 4.30pm – 6.30pm |
| Location | CWA Rooms, Nimmitabel |
| Attendees | Peter Gordon – Chair (PG) Vickie Pollard – Community Representative (VP) David Williams – Community Representative (DW) Will Jardine – Community Representative (WJ) Maria Linkenbath – Community Representative (ML) Shane Quinnell – Project Representative GHWF (SQ) Chris Gavin – Project Representative GHWF – (CG) Diana Forrester – Project Representative GHWF (DF) Elizabeth Picker – Project Representative GHWF (EP) |
| Apologies | Mark Adams – Cooma Monaro Regional Council (MA) Keith Tull – Bega Valley Shire Council (KT) John Cook – Community Representative (JC) Lyn Blair – Community Representative (LB) Tracey Lineham – Community Representative (TL) Aidan Dalgiesh – Community Representative (AD) Jean Ballandras – Project Representative (JB) |
| In attendance | Kitt Bryce (KB) Jim Williams (JW) Michaela Samman (MS) Paul Scherek (PS) Mark Reynolds (MR) Lyn Blair (LB) Equestrian Centre woman |

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

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| 1. Welcome and introduction by the Chair |
| <p>PG welcomed everybody to the seventh CCC meeting. He explained the role of the CCC and the rules which control these meetings. PG explained the CCC meetings are not public meetings. Visitors can attend Granite Hills CCC meetings after seeking permission from the Chair. All visitors acknowledged the role of the committee and agreed to respect the fact that the committee members have a right to conduct the meeting in respectful calmness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA and TL noted as apologies. • PG introduced Akuo Energy and the roles of attending representatives. • The Chair thanked VP for her outstanding catering. |
| 2. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests |
| No changes were recorded to previous declarations. |
| 3. CCC Meeting Minutes |
| The Minutes of the previous meeting (#6) were agreed out of session. The schedule of matters arising is attached and is updated after each meeting. |

4. Business arising from previous minutes

Response to issues raised or provision of additional information requested:
Members noted the expectation that the neighbour agreement process would be raised later

5. Correspondence

NIL

6. Project Update

SQ introduced himself to the CCC. Provided a presentation on

Outline of the project and a general update

The Commonwealth Referral has been finalised and submitted. This is now available on the website. SQ explained the process.

Key details included introduction of Someva who are assisting on project development and OPF who have been brought on board as long-term stakeholder managers in response to community requests and to increase flow of communication to the community.

Preliminary heritage consultation is now complete.

GHWF to inspect and dig the project area before finalising the EIS to check for artefacts – focussing on where the turbines will be constructed.

Turbine layout

SQ explained the resolution will alter based on ongoing studies and has improved significantly since the CCC meeting in September 2018. The layout will be discussed when available.

Level Two Bird Assessment underway

Assessment looking to gain more resolution on the status of birds on the site to better inform how to avoid possible interactions.

DW asked why SMEC couldn't attend.

SQ explained they will attend when there are new findings, there are no new findings at present.

PG suggested meeting with SMEC around April 2019 once the findings of the EIS are clearer.

SQ explained the details of bird and other species found on site are in the Commonwealth Referral document and broader information in the PEIA.

Telecommunication update

Phase one is now complete.

SQ explained GHWF is working with specialists and the broadcasters to avoid impacts.

Project timeline update

An approximate timeline was shared indicating current estimates for key dates subject to possible changes as the project develops.

Finalisation of EIS Studies – Q1/Q2 2019

Submission of EIAS – Q2 2019

Period for Public Comment – Q3 2019

EIS Approval – Q2/Q3 2020

Financial Close – Q4 2020

Construction Commences – Q1 2021
Commercial Operation Date (COD) – Q1 2023

Introduced Someva

CG explained the role of Someva who will be assisting with the development on behalf of Akuo Energy.

Introduced OPF Consulting

DF explained the role of OPF who will be overseeing the community consultation on behalf of Akuo Energy. She provided an overview of the Community Stakeholder Engagement Plan (CSEP).

DF explained the CSEP is now finalised and available on the website.

EP provided attendees with a copy of the CSEP overview.

KB asked why the CSEP wasn't posted to all stakeholders.

DF explained it's available online to read, download and print.

WJ to provide a list of addresses for those who would like to receive a hardcopy CSEP which OPF will mail in due course.

DF provided an overview on the planned engagement strategy which is now underway.

VP suggested the Nimmitabel Association Group could host a community meeting.

Neighbour agreements

DF and SQ provided an update on neighbour agreements.

There was considerable discussion regarding neighbour agreements.

SQ went to some lengths to explain features such as the 2.7 and 4km provisions and the rationale of these agreements. Considerable discussion ensued and it will be discussed further with the community.

Land values

SQ requested a meeting with JW following the CCC to discuss property valuations. He explained the company had been trying to find professionals willing to consider the valuation aspect and concerns of neighbours and to date had been through extended discussions with multiple experts, however, was struggling to get commitment to a scope based on the complexities perceived by the specialists. He mentioned GHWF wanted to discuss exactly what the neighbours were expecting to refine discussions to determine if it was possible to find a solution.

DW knows a realtor available – DW to provide details to CG to follow-up.

SQ informed members the URBIS report is available to read online.

GHWF to provide a copy of the presentation to be posted on the GHWF website along with the minutes.

7. Community Representative Input

PG asked DW to provide the community representative input update

Formation of the Brown Mountain Residents Group (BMRG)

Formed in November – KB is the Chair. There are currently 20 members who are requesting a face-to-face meeting.

DW explained they wrote a joint statement to SQ which was sent by KB.

BMRG was not pleased with the response.

Main concerns from the letter:

1. Neighbour agreements, definition of distances and levels of impact
2. Infrasound – MS and PS presented a report to the Chair. MS raised the risk of low frequency noises. DW also contacted an independent consultant ([Steven Cooper](#)). The report is '*Sensing but not hearing – the problem of wind turbine noise*'. Discussed the class action and the issues in Victoria. DW to provide PG with a link to the TV documentary (part of a recent *A Current Affair* report on infrasound). SQ explained noise is being considered by independent experts for the EIS and their recommendations will be based on current regulations, guidelines and best practice. SQ explained the noise experts won't commence their studies until the turbine layout is finalised. Marshall Day, SMEC's sub-consultant, will be overseeing this work.
3. Possible Impact on birds – DW raised the new warning devices for Wedge Tail Eagles – DW to send study to PG. SQ to review and pass on to bird specialists for consideration. SQ explained the bird management is monitored by independent specialists under SMEC and SQ will pass on the CCC concerns to them.
4. Fire – Members major concern is not a fire within GHWF but if the fire ignited in the National Park. Community asked if smoke would prevent aircraft containing a fire if it is within GHWF. SQ confirmed fire is one of the items being considered by SMEC specialists for the EIS and the studies will consider the possible risks and mitigation strategies.
5. Information Sharing – KB to take copies of the newsletter and CSEP overview and encourage his members to register to receive regular updates and newsletters from the GHWF website. KB also to provide details of the members so their interest can be registered directly.

6. General Business

GHWF asked if it will be attending the Nimmitabel Show on the 2nd of February – GHWF communicated it could be difficult given short amount of time remaining till the date but they will see what is possible.

PG suggested a second site visit at the same time as the SMEC update which will occur sometime after April 2019 when findings are clearer..

SQ asked when the EIS will be finalised – SQ responded mid current expectations are mid 2019 but will be defined by the ongoing studies, the CCC will be kept up to date.

PG asked KB if he had any questions/comments. KB explained why he formed the BMRG. KB feels the community and their concerns are being dismissed, he said the first hour of the meeting was the same very time. SQ commented this was incorrect and the very first slide outlined the changes which were made in the last period and then the updates to the project, none of this had previously occurred nor been disclosed in any previous meeting. He raised the action items which have not been completed yet:

SMEC not attending – PG mentioned GHWF had already communicated the reason for this was there was no new information to present at this time

Public meeting – DF explained stakeholders are being consulted one-on-one to enable people to have a say without being talked over by louder members of the group

Rural Fire Service have not yet attended a CCC

SQ was asked to define the carbon footprint offsets. He confirmed SMEC was the expert on this but provided a basic explanation of how carbon offsets are calculated for the permitting process. MR asked how many acres will be cleared. SQ suggested a wind farm project typically uses between 3% and 10% of the total project area for the infrastructure footprint, i.e. roads, turbines, substation etc. He communicated that every attempt will be made to use existing clearings and tracks etc to avoid clearing so the actual amount of clearing is much less than this. DW said based on the numbers in the PEIA GHWF needed 7%. SQ mentioned the number would be known with the updated design but would be refined as original numbers were oversized to enable space to move.

Meeting closed: 6.30pm

Next meeting date: Tuesday 19th March 2019 – 4pm.

Action Items:

| Action | Person Responsible | Timing and completion date |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Relevant consultants – to be invited to present on visual impact study details and results Consideration be given to having heritage consultants present at a CCC meeting | GHWF | SMEC and noise consultants to attend a future meeting |
| Department of Planning and Environment to be invited to a CCC meeting | Chair | 2019 |
| Provide a copy of the Infrasound Report to the CCC | Chair | |
| Provide an electronic copy of the CSEP | Elizabeth Picker | Attached |
| Provide contact details to realtor to provide property valuations | David Williams | |
| Compile and provide a list of contacts who would like to receive a hard copy of the CSEP | Will Jardine | |
| Provide links to new bird monitoring device | David Williams | |
| Provide an electronic version of the Infrasound report to PG | Michaela Linkenbagh | https://docs.wind-watch.org/Summary_references_April_2015.pdf http://docs.wind-watch.org/Moller-Pedersen-Low-frequence-noise-large-wind-turbines.pdf |
| Provide a link to the TV documentary | David Williams | https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-09-13/wind-farm-may-be-causing-health-issues-report-finds/10237568 https://www.9news.com.au/national/2018/11/01/17/46/wind-turbine-energy-health-community-anger?ocid=Social-ACA |
| Review and prepare answer to smoke/aircraft question | Shane Quinnell | |
| Provide answers about carbon footprint offset | Shane Quinnell | |
| Provide SQ with a list of BMRG members | Kitt Bryce | |