

Granite Hills Wind Farm
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – MEETING 8

Date/Time	Tuesday 16 th of April, 3pm – 5pm
Location	CWA Rooms, Nimmitabel
Attendees	Peter Gordon – Chair (PG) Nicole Brewer – Department of Planning and Environment(DPE) (NB) Iwan Davis – Department of Planning and Environment (ID) Sarah Blyton – Cooma Monaro Regional Council (SB) Keith Tull – Bega Valley Shire Council (KT) Kitt Bryce – Community Representative (KB) John Cook – Community Representative (JC) Aidan Dalgiesh – Community Representative (AD) Vickie Pollard – Community Representative (VP) Will Jardine – Community Representative (WJ) Debbie Shubert - Community Representative (DS) Bobbie Sirkes – Community Representative (BS) David Williams – Community Representative (DW) Shane Quinnell – Project Representative GHWF (SQ) Diana Forrester – Community Liaison Representative (DF) Elizabeth Picker – Community Liaison Representative (EP)
Apologies	Mark Adams – Cooma Monaro Regional Council (MA) Tracey Lineham – Community Representative (TL) Maria Linkenbagh – Community Representative (ML)
In attendance	Mark Reynolds (MR) Jim Williams (JW) Lyn Williams (LW)

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chair

PG welcomed everybody to the eighth (#8) CCC meeting. He explained the role of the CCC and the rules which control these meetings.

- MTL noted as an apology
- PG explained TL has resigned as member
- PG welcomed and introduced the two new members, KB and DB
- The Chair thanked VP for her outstanding catering
- PG introduced NB and ID and thanked them for attending the meeting

2. Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

No changes were recorded to previous declarations.

3. CCC Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting seven (#7) were agreed out of session. The schedule of matters arising is attached and is updated after each meeting.

4. Presentation by the Department of Planning and Environment

NB introduced herself and ID to the CCC. She presented information and responded to questions on the following:

The assessment process of the project

- NB distributed a print out of the planning timeline.
- NB explained the DPE coordinate the partial assessment of State Significant projects.
- Akuo Energy is preparing the EIS to the Terms of Reference called the Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and will submit the EIS to the DPE.
- NB explained the Public Exhibition is when the community have their say, this is held after the submission of the EIS. DPE will hold a community information session in conjunction with project representatives.
- The DPE is also likely to undertake its own site visits.
- NB explained the Minister for Planning will make the final decision.
- NB explained the NSW Government has set a context for wind farms through the [Renewable Energy Action Plan](#) which sets out the guidelines for wind energy projects.
- WJ asked how outdated the guidelines are. NB responded they were published in 2016 and are relatively new. NB explained the guidelines definitely looked at the increasing height of turbines.
- DW asked if the guidelines are compulsory. NB responded there is criteria set up for things like noise and visual impacts and the DPE uses specialists to give them feedback on the submission from proponents.
- WJ asked about the CCC engaging with groups like Rural Fire Service, NB responded this is the job of the DPE to do so.
- NB asked if the CCC had any questions. CCC responded no.
- NB reiterated that when the DPE receive the EIS, they will commence their consultation which includes an exhibition period for the community to provide feedback.
- KB expressed the exhibition period is not long enough. NB explained it only has to be a minimum of 30 days but can be up to four to six weeks.
- NB encouraged the CCC and community to familiarise themselves with the main report and executive summaries. NB explained submissions are the legal way to have your voice heard.
- WJ expressed the project is in the wrong location. Explained the environment around neighbouring wind project, Boco Rock Wind Farm. NB explained the guidelines provide an overview on the suitability of sites as well as the Renewable Energy Action Plan.

Consultative process and information sharing

- WJ asked NB what the DPE expect the proponent (GHWF) to deliver to the members. NB explained the CCC is not a decision-making body – it's for the two-way sharing of information about the project with the community.
- KB and AD expressed their dissatisfaction in the consultative process. KB conveyed no real information has been presented to the CCC. SQ disagreed, explained what

has been discussed in the past including white board sessions, SMEC and other specialists attending, a site visit and closed sessions with individual members.

- KB questioned the revised turbine layout and how it will decrease the impact on the environment. SQ explained the revised layout in further detail including the fact that the number of turbines had reduced from the previous layout and providing an indication of buffers used for the new layout which were a direct result of consultation with community, specialists and other stakeholders.

CCC advertisements

- KB questioned the need for the advertisements seeking new CCC members.
- MR emailed PG about joining – no response. KB conveyed his irritation about GHWF calling community representatives.
- PG explained the process of forming CCC is long established and clear and that he asked for GHWF to seek people to apply as he did for all of the CCC members, we (PG, DPE and GHWF) are not confused on how people are appointed or their responsibilities.

Environmental impacts

- KB raised the land clearing issues – 500 acres and the interview on the ABC.
- SQ explained the land clearing equation, and confirmed GHWF is comfortable with the updated expectation of the project requiring the clearing of less than 100 acres of trees.
- DW asked if drought is a factor or consideration in the planning process.
- SQ explained the studies currently underway and that studies in to water are a part of the process.
- DW raised the issues of infrasound and low frequency noise.
- NB explained the assessment does speak to infrasound and that a well-designed turbine shouldn't have an infrasound issue.
- BS asked how the public access the EIS report.
- NB explained there will be hard copies in Nimmitabel and available online.

5. Business arising from previous minutes

Response to issues raised or provision of additional information requested:

(Presentation attached. Below is a summary only, additional handout provided. The handout is also available online)

Response to bushfires and low flying aircraft

- SQ explained aerial firefighting operations will treat the turbine towers similar to other tall obstacles according to industry bodies. Wind turbines are not expected to pose unacceptable risks. Wind farms are not expected to adversely affect fire behaviour in their vicinity. Granite Hills Wind Farm will provide adequate access to and within the site for the Rural Fire Service (RFS) should they ever need to respond to and manage a fire on the site. The studies and management plans are not yet complete, but they will be discussed with the CCC as soon as they are ready and they will also be made available to the public.
- AD asked if the turbines will pose a risk to bushfire.
- SQ responded all risks are being assessed.

- DS expressed her concern for fire hazard and the delay in the response from RFS in previous bushfires. Suggested fire projection for adjoining properties should be a high priority.
- MR asked about the provisions during construction for workers.
- SQ explained the management plans will manage the risks and ensure that actions which could cause fire are controlled.

Response to carbon offsets

Energy payback

- SQ explained studies indicate the time required to pay back the energy required for all of the items mentioned for a wind farm using three-megawatt (3MW) wind turbines is about five to eight months, depending on project relevant assumptions.

Carbon emissions and water use

- With coal still providing 60% of Australia's energy, an increase in the wind energy mix will lead to significantly decreased water use and decreased emissions. The lifecycle of a wind farm produces in the order of 1% of the emissions of the equivalent coal power and consumes less than 0.1% of the water when compared to energy generated by coal.
- WJ asked where the project will source water during construction.
- SQ explained this is still being finalised with several options under consideration.

Vegetation clearing

- The construction of Granite Hills Wind Farm will require some land clearing however, this is being reduced as far as possible through the use of existing roads and pre-cleared areas. A significant proportion of any land cleared for the construction phase will be revegetated and rehabilitated during the operational phase of the wind farm. Following decommissioning, the remainder of the site will be able to be returned to its natural state.
- KB asked how big the hard stand for each turbine will be.
- SQ replied this is still being defined and explained the project timeline and fact that the turbine manufacturer is still yet to be selected.
- WJ asked SQ to provide information on how much water used for an average wind turbine foundation (Action item for next meeting)
- SQ explained he did not presently have this information but it would be described in the EIS;
- WJ asked SQ what his primary concerns would be if he was a neighbour.
- SQ responded; fire and water, safety, transport, however, if managed effectively he would be comfortable, visual and noise he considered depended on the person and for him personally would not be a major issue.

6. Correspondence

NIL

7. Project Update

SQ thanked the CCC members and the DPE for attending. He presented information and responded to questions on the following:

Layout update

- SQ explained
 - wind farm layout design is based on a collection of factors including: site area, wind speed and direction, topography, existing infrastructure, site constraints and opportunities.
 - noise and position in relation to the project
- SQ confirmed
 - the turbine close by DW has been relocated
 - no turbine is closer than 1km to a neighbour
 - turbines have been excluded from the National Park
 - turbines have been excluded from the State Forest
 - two turbines have been completely removed from the layout
- The project team is in the process of updating the layout based on the above, pending final input on key items including the ongoing Level 2 bird study.
- WJ requested SQ provide a finalised map before the CCC make assumptions on where the turbines are now positioned.
- SQ explained the original PIA considered a larger infrastructure footprint, including overestimates for roads, hardstands, turbine foundations etc to allow for things to change and the maximum number of turbines to allow for the inevitable variations which occur during the research and planning phase. He clarified the actual project size, in terms both of number of turbines and amount of area used, is now smaller and more refined which has also influenced both the number of turbine and their locations.
- DW asked about access points for the project.
- SQ explained the access points could include the ports of Eden and Port Kembla.

Project timeline and critical works

- SQ explained the critical works timeline for the project has been updated to reflect current expectations resulting from project parameters, including the Level 2 bird study.

Activity	Expected Date (Q = Year Quarter)
Submissions of PEIA	Complete
Reception of SEARs	Complete
Submission of Comm. Referral	Complete
Finalisation of EIS Studies	Q3/Q4 2019
Submission of EIS	Q4 2019
Period for Public Comment (60 Days)	Q4 2019
EIS Approval	Q3/Q4 2020
Financial Close	Q2 2021
Start Construction	Q3 2021
Commercial Operation (COD)	Q3 2023

Assessment to submission timings

- SQ explained the submission will likely occur in Q3 and Q4 but depends on project factors and studies which are ongoing.
- JC suggested the CCC have six weeks to review the information. Ideally, two meetings before submission (present findings at one meeting and discuss at the next meeting).

Project future

- WJ asked if the project is up for sale.
- SQ explained, as a global developer, investor, owner and operator of large renewable energy projects, Akuo Energy constantly reviews opportunities on all of its projects including possible partnerships. However, presently there are no partnerships other than with the original developer Willy Willy. The Granite Hills Wind Farm project has not been sold.

8. Community Engagement Report

(Presentation attached. Below is a summary only)

- DF introduced herself and team member, EP.
- DF provided members with a community engagement report. She explained Granite Hills Wind Farm is proactively engaged in community and stakeholder consultation, in both the Bega Valley Shire and Snowy Monaro Regional Council areas.
- KB questioned the need to meet with community groups and people who live further afield from the project. He claimed the meetings were used to gain project support through promises of funding.
- DF explained the importance of meeting with as many neighbours and community groups as possible to:
 - assess information needs with respect to the project,
 - gather feedback on current issues and concerns,
 - explain how the assessment process works,
 - highlight how to provide feedback to the project team and to the EIS when it is available,
 - reference the long-term opportunity for groups to access community benefit sharing through application to an independent community fund which would be established if the project is approved.
- DF also explained that meeting the relevant community members is a requirement of the EIS defined in the SEARs
- A member of the gallery asked if OPF needed to provide a report for the EIS. DF explained OPF has not been commissioned to do so at this stage.
- JC asked if OPF Consulting could provide a summary on the primary issues (Action item) expressed by local community members and rank – fire, water, hydrology etc.
- PG explained OPF does not work for the CCC and it would be up to Granite Hills Wind Farm to request this report.

9. General Business

- A member of the gallery explained there is a landowner in South Australia being paid \$200,000.00 and regrets it. No comment by CCC.
- DW asked for a copy of his meeting notes with OPF. EP to send. DW also requested a copy of the meeting notes from Project E. (Action item)
- PG explained a site visit will be on the agenda at the next meeting.



Meeting closed: 5.30pm

Next meeting date: Tuesday 30th July 2019, 4pm.

ACTION ITEMS ON NEXT PAGE

Action Items:

Action	Person responsible	Timing and completion date	Completed
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 - TBA	OUTSTANDING
Confirm a date for the next site visit	Peter Gordon	Next meeting in July 2019	IN PROGRESS
Provide information on how much water will be used per average wind turbine foundation	Shane Quinnell	Next meeting in July 2019	IN PROGRESS
Community Engagement Summary of top concerns from nearby neighbours and stakeholders	Elizabeth Picker	Next meeting in July 2019	IN PROGRESS
Department of Planning and Environment to be invited to a CCC meeting	Chair	Completed April 2019	YES
Provide a copy of the Infrasound Report to the CCC	Chair	Completed December 2018	YES
Provide an electronic copy of the CSEP	Elizabeth Picker	Completed December 2018	YES
Provide contact details to realtor to provide property valuations	David Williams	N/A	N/A
Compile and provide a list of contacts who would like to receive a hard copy of the CSEP	Will Jardine	To be actioned in December 2018	OUTSTANDING
Provide links to new bird monitoring device	David Williams	To be actioned in December 2018	OUTSTANDING
Provide an electronic version of the Infrasound report to PG	Michaela Samman	1. Report one 2. Report two	YES
Provide a link to the TV documentary	David Williams	1. Link one 2. Link two	YES
Review and prepare answer to smoke/aircraft question	Shane Quinnell	Completed April 2019	YES
Provide answers about carbon footprint offset	Shane Quinnell	Completed April 2019	YES
Provide SQ with a list of BMRG members	Kitt Bryce	To be actioned in December 2018	OUTSTANDING



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