

Minutes of Meeting No. 1

Granite Hills Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

Present	Peter Gordon	Chair	PG
	Maxime Descournut	Project Representative, GHWF	MD
	Caitlin Connellan	Project Representative, GHWF	CC
	Mark Adams	Representative, Snowy Monaro Council	MA
	Cecily Hancock	Representative, Bega Valley Council	CH
	David Williams	Community Representative (associated landowner)	DW
	Vickie Pollard	Community Representative	VP
	Will Jardine	Community Representative	WJ
	Maria Linkenbagh	Community Representative	ML
Apologies	Aidan Dalgliesh	Community Representative	AL
	Tracey Lineham	Community Representative	TL
	John Cook	Community Representative	JC
	Antony Shingler	Project Representative, GHWF	AS
Date	3 rd October 2017		
Venue	Nimmitabel Community Hall		
Purpose	GHWF Community Consultative Committee Meeting No.1		

Minutes

Item	Agenda / Comment / Discussion
1. Introduction	The Chair opened the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) meeting at 4:10pm and welcomed all attendees to the meeting. The Chair provided a brief introduction to his background and appointment.
2. Apologies	Apologies received as above.
3. Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests	DW declared interest as associated landowner neighbouring GHWF. All members present signed the pecuniary interest and code of conduct forms.
4. Project Update	<p>MD presented the project update including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project proponent is Granite Hills Wind Farm Pty Ltd, a joint venture between local company Willy Willy (who first initiated the project) and Akuo Energy (invested into the project in 2016). - Introduction of Akuo Energy is an experienced French renewable energy independent power producer (IPP), over 10 years' experience across 50 projects and 1000MW in construction or operation. - Akuo remains actively involved projects throughout their life cycle, from early development, construction and operation. - As a long-term operator of the project, Akuo is therefore committed to securing strong community support for GHWF. Akuo sees the CCC as an opportunity to receive constructive feedback on relevant issues, potential mitigation strategies and new ideas to bring real long-term

	<p>benefits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand there are many lessons learned from the community's previous experience, and plan to remain transparent and open to listening community concerns in order to avoid these being repeated. - GHWF is proposed to be located 12km south of Nimmitabel off Steeple Flat Rd, across two host landowner properties. - Applied and received SEARs this year, currently in process of undertaking studies in preparation for submission of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in early 2018 as part of Development Approval (DA) Application. - GHWF targeting DA Application submission in January 2018. Confirmed GHWF will not submit DA application until at least three CCC meetings have been convened. - Following submission of DA Application, NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will review over approximately one month, then place the EIS on public exhibition for another one month. DPE will then conduct their final review and determine their decision and conditions for Development Approval by mid-2018. - If DA is received, GHWF will conduct final development activities (such as project financing and finalising grid connection) in 2018 in preparation for starting construction in January 2019. - Anticipated construction time is 1.5 years. Operational life is 25 years. - Previously had considered up to 35 turbines but have now reduced to maximum 32 turbines, due to turbine technology improvements and updated optimised layout. - Maximum turbine tip height will be 200m, and maximum hub height 120-140m. - Project has 2 host landowners, 5 adjoining landowners and 10-12 potentially visually impacted. - Anticipate full-time job creation of 150 during construction and 10 during operation. - GHWF met with Cooma TAFE today to discuss potential for establishing temporary electrical training facility in preparation for project. - GHWF currently preparing independent photomontages for visually impacted neighbouring landowners, to be provided in coming weeks and form part of negotiations with these landowners. <p>Questions from Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WJ questioned what measures will be taken to ensure real involvement of Nimmitabel community and local landholders following past experience, MD reaffirmed commitment to creating a two-way communication channel to ensure all concerns are heard and constructively addressed. - WJ also asked if any tax subsidies were a factor on the decision to invest in this wind farm. MD confirmed that subsidies were not a factor. - WJ also commented that there was a view in the community as to the transparency of the Willy Willy approach to date and there were further questions as to the accuracy of the Willy Willy submissions to government.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ML questioned land lease/ownership, MD responded that the land is occupied via long-term lease over host lots of lands required for each turbine. - DW questioned use of turbines after 20 years, MD noted option to upgrade turbines and revamp plant after 20 years if new technology available, if not plan to operate for 25 years, dismantle and remove accordingly. - DW questioned risk that original company may be gone by 20 years and left with turbines on property, MD highlighted contractual requirements will ensure removal and remediation is undertaken appropriately. As the project is planned to be structured under non-recourse project finance, these remediation requirements will be up to the highest lenders' standard. - DW and WJ noted there may be 1-2 more potentially impacted that have not yet spoken with GHWF, MD noted that GHWF has tried to be in contact and will continue to follow up. - ML questioned impact on rural roads and road access, MD noted have undertaken independent traffic study to make assessment of least impact route from planned Port of Eden. VP noted will need to avoid use of Old Bega Rd due to local school bus and community impact. - ML questioned bushfire risk, MD noted will engage independent consultant to evaluate all construction and operation risks and mitigation plan; GHWF can also improve bushfire safety with lightning conductors in turbines, improved access roads and real-time bushfire monitoring. - DW questioned if cement mixing will be done on-site and source of large amount of water required, CC noted likely to be batched on-site, aquatic and hydrology surveys are undertaken by independent consultant as part of EIS and will determine feasibility of possible water sources available. - PG noted that he had been approached by a member of the community on matters to do with photo montages. This matter has been further pursued post the meeting.
<p>5. General Business</p>	<p>PG noted the following as part of general business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforced purpose of CCC is to achieve open communication and finding common ground. - All members received Code of Conduct and Pecuniary Interest documents to be signed and delivered to PG before next meeting. - Meeting minutes will be published on GHWF website within 28 days. - All formal complaints will be registered anonymously on the public complaints register, with published status of resolution until resolved. -
<p>6. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Action items to be discussed at next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EIS and DA Application status update - Visual impact photomontage and status of agreement with associated landowners - Bushfire protection assessment (aviation and road access) - Cement batching and water source update - Turbine removal and remediation requirements <p>Timing and Location of Next Meeting:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scheduled for 28 November 2017 – agreed by all present members.- Proposed site visit from 1:00pm and formal CCC meeting from 4:00pm at same Community Hall location.
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