

Minutes of Meeting No. 2

Granite Hills Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

Monday 27 November 2017

Final- Date circulated 12 January 2018

Attendance

Peter Gordon	Chair
David Williams	Community Representative
Vickie Pollard	Community Representative
Will Jardine	Community Representative
Maria Linkenbagh	Community Representative
Aidan Dalglish	Community Representative
Tracey Lineham	Community Representative
John Cook	Community Representative
Maxime Descournut	Project Representative, GHWF
Caitlin Connellan	Project Representative, GHWF
Antony Shingler	Project Representative, GHWF

Apologies

No apologies had been received.

Introduction and welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed John Cook, Tracey Lineham and Aidan Dalglish to their first meeting of the CCC as representatives of the community and Antony as a company representative.

The Chair also thanked the company for organising the site visit which members agreed was extremely useful in allowing a physical dimension being brought to the committees view. The visit to David Williams' property, was especially revealing.

Declaration of pecuniary or other interests (note members to commit to Pecuniary Interests Declaration)

Note: all 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 posted on the project website.

The Chair informed the committee that he would be taking the minutes in future and that every effort will be made to see the approved minutes available publicly within 28 days.

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

Will raised again the matter of whether Akuo Energy had anticipated or budgeted for a government subsidy in undertaking the financial modelling for the project. Max noted that no such subsidies are included however he could not rule out a future application.

The company representatives noted that the Environmental Impact Statement is currently being prepared and scheduled to be lodged with the authorities in first quarter 2018.

It was also confirmed that all relevant documentation had been delivered by post to neighbour Jim Williams with the exception of the revised turbine layout plans and distances from each turbine to his house.

Correspondence

Members discussed an email by Michael Daniel which had been sent to all CCC members and attached to the agenda. Extract from Michael Daniel's email is shown below:

-----start of quote-----

1. 'Have they carried out a community consultation on landscape values as described in the Visual Impact Assessment Bulletin (Aug 2016 page 4 & Dec2016 page 7) ?
2. If so then where have they published the results?
3. If not, do they intend to do so and how do they propose to do it?
4. Do they think that the sentence referenced below is a satisfactory assessment of the community views on landscape value bearing in mind the requirements that are specified in the Bulletins referenced in question 1? i.e. "The existing views from and toward the Site are not pristine natural vistas as they are disturbed by transmission lines, roads, logged forest, pine plantations and the existing telecommunications infrastructure on Brown Mountain." Granite Hills Wind Farm Preliminary EIS 24/01/2017 (page 50)

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 EARs 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. (see question 3)

-----end of quote-----

After much discussion it was apparent that the company representatives' answer was not satisfactory to the other CCC members The chair asked for a response satisfactory to him be prepared and which would be circulated with the draft minutes.

Issues identified by the community or local government representatives

Members raised the specific issue of compensating affected land owners. 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 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.

GHWF advised the CCC that it had completed 4 of a possible 7 agreements to date.

John asked why he had not been consulted as his property could be affected. After some discussion about earlier contact having indeed happened between a GHWF representative and John Cook and partner, it was agreed that GHWF will meet again with John separately.

There was agreement by the community representatives that compensating land holders needed to be finalised before negotiations regarding company donations to Nimmitabel community projects. Members were not prepared to compromise the ability of affected land owners to settle favourably by funding other community projects in advance of the individual settlements. GHWF representatives pointed out that they understood and agreed with this way to proceed.

The committee agreed that it is keen for the company to assist with priority community development projects at the right time. While the company could not specify a specific budget for such matters it has been given a list of possible projects by the Nimmitabel Advancement Group. That list was tabled at the meeting and is as follows:

COMMUNITY WISH LIST 2017 - 2020

1. ***NIMMITABEL PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOTPATH, CURB AND GUTTERING***- Nimmitabel Advancement Group/Nimmitabel P&C. Much needed works outside the Nimmitabel Public School includes continuation of kerb and guttering along the front of the school. There also is the need of a footpath along the entire front the school. Both works would be of great benefit to the safety of the school children as this would enable the parents to park on the school side of the road to collect their children. As there is a slight rise in the road approaching from the north, it is quite unsafe and dangerous for the children crossing the road to reach their parents.
2. ***EXERCISE STATIONS at LAKE WILLIAMS or NIMMITABEL TOWN PARK***– Nimmitabel Advancement Group. To promote and encourage a healthy and fun lifestyle.
3. ***NIMMITABEL PLAYGROUND FLYING FOX & BBQ*** - Nimmitabel Advancement Group. Completion of Nimmitabel Town Park upgrade.
4. ***LAKE WILLIAMS PICNIC TABLES/SEATS/SHADE (New & repairs)*** – Nimmitabel Advancement Group/Nimmitabel Lions Club. Lake Williams is a very popular place for tourists and locals to visit.
5. ***MAIN STREET BEAUTIFICATION -Heritage style planter boxes and plants.*** Nimmitabel Advancement Group/Community. Heritage style planter boxes and plants will compliment future streets scape plans to be carried out through Stronger Country Communities Funding.
6. ***NIMMITABEL CEMETERY TREES and SHRUBS*** – Nimmitabel 355 Cemetery Volunteer Committee. Due to the partial rocky bush landscape of the cemetery, the committee have plans for the rocky sections to be transformed into native gardens.
7. ***CWA TOILETS & EXTENSION OF FRONT VERANDAH*** – Nimmitabel CWA
8. ***LAKE WILLIAMS STAGE 3 WALKING & CYCLING PATHWAY*** – Nimmitabel Lions Club. This will complete the path around the lake.
9. ***LAKE WILLIAMS STAGE4 WALKING & CYCLING TRACK TO NIMMITABEL RAILWAY-*** Nimmitabel Lions Club. Meeting up with existing Heritage trail.
10. ***NIMMITABEL PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL*** – Nimmitabel Primary School.

11. **RAIL TRAIL FUNDS TOWARDS FEASIBILITY STUDY** – Rail Trail Nimmitabel Advancement Group Sub Committee
12. **SKATE PARK** –Nimmitabel Lions Club.

The committee agreed to consider this list as non-exhaustive, and conduct another round of community advertising (local newspapers, bulletins etc.) to collect more ideas direct from the community.

Telecommunications:

Following a question from David, GHWF gave an assurance that GHWF has conducted extensive electromagnetic interference surveys in line with the DPE requirements, and any significant and detrimental effect that a turbine has on telecommunications will be tracked and rectified immediately.

GHWF affecting the quality and volume of spring water:

After much discussion as to the prevalence and quality of spring water the committee was satisfied that the EIS will study potential effects and any further discussion can follow the publication of the EIS.

GHWF was asked for details of the likely source of water for construction, GHWF advised several options are being studied in conjunction with the EIS hydrological survey outcomes therefore could not specify until these studies have been completed. GHWF understands this is a sensitive issue for the community therefore is undertaking detailed scientific studies to confirm.

Weed management:

GHWF went through the procedures for minimising weed infestation during construction including vehicle wash down provisions. Members sought an assurance that sand for the project would not be sourced from Bredbo and Chakola due to weed issues. GHWF could not reply with certainty on that matter, but insured that mitigation measures would be implemented should this be needed (as an example: having the trucks wheels washed after coming from nearby areas exposed to weeds)

Members noted that if lovegrass gets into this country, eradication will be almost impossible. Further information on “mitigation measures” is sought.

Land Offsets:

Discussion around land use and offsets was raised. GHWF noted that preliminary estimates indicate that construction would see about 7% of available land cleared. The matter of offsets for environmental purposes was raised and the details will be provided at a later date. GHWF advised that an offset strategy will be established with the independent environmental consultant upon completion of the environmental surveys.

Traffic Management

GHWF will be required to prepare a traffic management plan. Max noted that the disciplines which it is able to exert through sub-contractors will allow GHWF to take all reasonable steps to assure compliance.

Max commented further that it has contracting and direct payment coming from a strict non-recourse project financing structure which mitigate against problems experienced at Boco Rock Wind Farm when a head contractor defaulted.

Company reports:

Max confirmed that landholder agreements were the company priority. Other major tasks included evaluating the various turbine options.

Issues arising from site inspections

Further site inspections are considered important and necessary.

Community complaints and response to complaints

NA

Information provided to the community and any feedback

NA

Press release

Chairman to circulate a release of progress of the CCC to Cooma and Bega radio and press.

Next meeting:

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

The next two meetings are

Tuesday 30 January and 27 February at 4pm in Nimmitabel.