

Minutes of Meeting

Granite Hills Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

Tuesday 11 September 2018

Date circulated 24 September 2018

Attendance – CCC Committee and Project Team

Peter Gordon Independent Chair

Vickie Pollard Community Representative

John Cook Community Representative

David Williams Community Representative

Mark Adams Cooma Monaro Regional Council

Jean Ballandras Project Representative GHWF

Shane Quinnell Project Representative GHWF

Sharyn Jones Project e

In attendance

Kitt Bryce

Jim Williams

Di Walker

Grant Walker

Hannah Taylor

Paul Scherek

Michaela Samman

Lyn Blair

Bobbie Sirks

Mark Reynolds

Apologies

Maria Linkenbagh Community Representative

Aidan Dalgliesh Community Representative

Tracey Lineham Community Representative

Will Jardine Community Representative

Keith Tull Bega Valley Shire Council

Introduction and welcome by the Chair

The Chair welcomed the committee members and especially acknowledged the community engagement consultant Sharyn Jones from Project e who is managing the development of the stakeholder engagement planning on behalf of Granite Hills WF.

The Chair again thanked Vickie for her outstanding catering.

The chair noted that the large number of visitors who had sought permission to attend the meeting. The Chair noted that they were in attendance as guests and that this was a committee meeting not a public meeting. The chair asked for all members to communicate in a respectful manner at the start of the meeting. Despite this, the chair had cause to ask the visitors to respect the conduct of the meeting at various stages. Any consideration of allowing visitors to attend Granite Hills WF CCC meetings in future is under review.

Declaration of pecuniary or other interests

No changes were recorded to previous declarations.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed out of session.

The schedule of matters arising is attached and is updated after each meeting.

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

The company representatives noted the development of the stakeholder engagement plan was in progress and near final. It was confirmed this was a high priority and a draft hard copy was circulated at the meeting for perusal by those present. A final version will be submitted to DPE and would be provided to the community as soon as it was complete.

The company representatives reported they had been in the process of trying to facilitate discussions with all neighbours, excepting Mark Reynolds whom they had not previously had contact details for, in the previous weeks. A draft neighbour scheme which attempted to include the suggestions of neighbours, including ongoing benefit sharing and opportunities provided based on impact had been provided to neighbours as a starting point for resetting the relationship. The representatives noted there had been some comments at the meetings which had been taken on board. They also noted they had requested comment the neighbours provide any further comments or concerns back to them directly but to date had no communication from any party they met with. Members noted the expectation that the neighbour agreement process would be raised later.

Finally the company confirmed they would be presenting on the company's previous work with local communities later in the meeting as was requested by the CCC at the previous meeting.

Correspondence

Nil

Company reports:

The company representatives present three comprehensive reports/presentations:

Project Update Presentation – Shane Quinnell, Akuo Energy Pacific

- Report on the status of the project including the Commonwealth Referral, status of various studies including Bird, Noise, Visual and Telecoms;
- Confirmed the design of the greater project has been in review based on community (including neighbours) and stakeholder comments;
- Confirmed heritage studies are being completed via an independent specialist who is advising the progress of the project in a manner which is sustainable considering site conditions.
- Provided comment on the status of the stakeholder management plan and introduced Sharyn to present her role in the project and the work on the plan;
- Discussed in details some changes which have been made to the design to improve its sustainability and some of the issues which neighbours and other stakeholders had raised including:
 - Removed turbines and infrastructure from East of site to eliminate environmental impacts in that area;
 - Infrastructure removal near Nat. Park and State forest;
 - Increased distance of turbines from residences;
 - Led to standardised neighbour consultation and communication of all owners included in this group;
 - Review of neighbour suggested groupings -> we are seeking ongoing communication with neighbours.
- Introduced Jean to complete a presentation about Akuo Energy's previous work with communities on their past projects as was requested by the CCC;
- In conclusion Shane reported the intention *'to have ongoing two-way communication with the community, listen to constructive feedback and use it to progress Granite Hills development in the manner of greatest benefit.'* He confirmed that to date the communication back from the community, outside of formalised meetings, has been scarce which was making it difficult to assist the community and deal with their concerns directly. He reconfirmed that people should get in touch, either with him directly, or using the details on the website to voice any feedback.

Stakeholder Management Presentation – Sharyn Jones, Project e

Sharyn Jones started by circulating six hard copies of the draft stakeholder engagement plan. She requested they be returned at the end of the meeting as they were still in draft form and subject to change and approval. A substantial presentation followed, some key points were:

- Introduction to her work and Project e;
- Introduction to stakeholder management and the philosophies being worked towards;
- Description of the work being completed for Granite Hills and the intention for moving forward with the community;

- Definition of stakeholders and brief discussion around the feedback loop and how the information is utilized;
- Discussion about the stakeholder management plan and the intent for finalizing;
- Intent going forward and actions including; neighbor facilitation, newsletters, community information session.
- Confirmed that feedback from the committee and community is invaluable in moving the project forward in a collaborative manner.

Akuo Energy Community Engagement Experience Presentation – Jean Ballandras, Akuo Energy Pacific

- Informative presentation of how Akuo had worked with local communities in various locations to create environmental and economic benefits to local communities where renewable energy projects are located;
- Included examples of various wind farms, solar farms, solar farms combined with agriculture etc;
- Jean concluded with Akuo's focus on community engagement and involvement and intent to work with the community around Granite Hills in a positive manner.

All of these presentations are available on the Granite Hills Wind Farm website.

Various questions were raised during the presentations which the presenters responded to. In addition to the questions, recurring points on the neighbour agreements were raised and lead to continued interruptions of the presentations. The chair reminded the visitors they were there as guests and to respect the presenters. The chair also reminded the combined group the CCC was not the avenue for the neighbour agreements to be resolved and they should be resolved separately. A number of visitors questioned the issue and where they could finalise the neighbour issue if not at the CCC, the company confirmed they had provided direct contacts and requested feedback which had not yet been provided following the meetings. They confirmed again they were awaiting feedback from the neighbours and would try again to arrange a meeting with all neighbours as had been tried previously but failed due to mixed availability of the various land owners.

There was considerable discussion regarding neighbour agreements. Shane went to some lengths to explain features such as the rationale behind the distances of 2.7km and 4km of a residence from turbines which were being used as the parameters for the involvement of land owners in ongoing agreements or impact mitigation respectively.. Bobbie put forward that she had created a document which she wanted presented by David at the meeting, but it had not been done so. The chair confirmed he had only been shown a hard copy of the document immediately preceding the meeting and had no time to consider it beforehand or add it to the agenda. Considerable discussion ensued. It remains an issue to be settled in the community.

Issues identified by the community or local government representatives

- There is a need to address the concerns of people who are outside the 2.7 zone but still fear that their lives will be significantly impacted.
- These concerns cannot necessarily be dealt with through addressing physical symptoms such as noise or visuals but are related to people's very reasons for choosing to live in the Steeple Flat area.
- That consultations have been very slow to involve the immediate "non-affected zone"

The community representatives were not prepared to accept the company's assurances that the process of finalising the neighbour agreements was on track. Various issues were raised, mostly by visitors, at the meeting which the company had not previously been made aware of. The company agreed to continue to treat this matter with the highest priority and asked the neighbours present to assist in providing feedback which could be used to move forward collaboratively.

Assurances were sought as to the treatment of culturally significant sites and particularly those with Aboriginal heritage. The company stressed that the independent professional were doing everything necessary to ensure the proper treatment of culturally significant sites and were responsible for advising on the way forward.

The company confirmed the website was up to date and if there are any issues or errors found they would appreciate notification so they can make the necessary updates.

Next meeting:

The next meeting is

Tuesday 4 December at 4pm in Nimmitabel.

A future meeting will consider how the next site visit can be arranged, including looking at some specific turbine locations. This will occur once the turbine layout has been revised likely in Q1/Q2 2019.

Action Schedule

Action	Person Responsible	Timing and completion date
Jim Williams to be sent new plans showing exact turbine locations and distances	GHWF/Antony	Completed
Stakeholder Engagement plan to be presented to CCC. Members are particularly interested in the process of stakeholder identification	GHWF	Draft presented on 11 Sept 18. Final to be provided. TBA

Material to be sent to Vickie and the two council reps for a public display of the wind farm plans. In advance of a public meeting scheduled for early November.	GHWF	
A work plan with critical dates and sequences of work to be presented	GHWF	Presented 22 May
Visual consultants –to be invited to present on visual impact study details and results Consideration to get heritage consultants invited to a subsequent meeting	GHWF	Clouston consultants to attend a future meeting if available and appropriate
Department of Planning and Environment to be invited to a CCC meeting	Chair	2018
Windfarm website update – correct information	GHWF	Completed