

**SAPPHIRE WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)**



CCC MEETING #2 MINUTES

10.30am, Monday 12 May 2014
Danthonia Community

Present:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chair
Adrian Maddocks (AM)	CWP Renewables
Richard Ennis (RE)	Community Representative
Neil Eigeland (NE)	Community Representative
Helen Hewens (HH)	Community Representative
Don Hollingworth (DH)	Landowner
Merlene O'Brien (MO)	Country Women's Association (Alternate)
Chris Voll (CV)	Church Communities Australia
Cheryl Rudd (CR)	Wellingrove Progress Association
Anthony Alliston	Inverell Shire Council

Apologies:

Colin Price (CP)	Mayor – Glen Innes Council
Karen Weller (KW)	Country Women's Association

Absent:

Carol Newberry (CN)	Community Representative
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ITEM	ACTIONS
<p>1.0 Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Meeting opened at 10.35pm by Lisa Andrews. All present were welcomed to Danthonia and LA thanked the Bruderhof community for hosting the CCC meeting. Members were invited to introduce themselves and explain their role on the CCC.</p>	
<p>2.0 Apologies</p> <p>As above</p>	
<p>3.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes</p> <p>Moved: Cheryl Rudd Seconded: Merlene O'Brien</p>	
<p>4.0 Declaration of Interests</p> <p>LA declared her interest that she has been engaged by CWP Renewables (CWPR) to chair the CCC.</p>	
<p>5.0 Business Arising</p> <p>Action Items from the previous meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Link to be provided to the Major Projects section of the Department of Planning & Infrastructure's website. 2 Ed Mounsey to provide information on renewable energy. 	<p>Included in draft minutes. Emailed 08/10/14 to CCC members.</p>

6.0 Correspondence

08/10/13 – Email to CCC members with information on renewable energy from Ed Mounsey

14/10/13 – Email to CCC members with draft minutes of the meeting held on 1st October 2013

13/03/14 – Email to CCC members postponing the April 2014 meeting

09/04/14 – Email to CCC members advising that meeting will be re-convened

21/04/14 – Email to CCC members with Meeting Notice & Agenda for today’s meeting; and just a few incidental emails back and forth to do with timing, catering and directions.

Moved: Lisa Andrews

Seconded: Helen Hewens

7.0 Reports

Adrian Maddocks gave a presentation to the CCC on the current status of the project, including information on the Renewable Energy Target currently under review by the federal government as well as the change to the environmental offsets.

Questions & Responses:

RE: Does having more wind masts change the design of the project, after it has got planning consent?

AM: More masts increase the certainty of how the wind performs across the site. It allows us to determine the most appropriate size of turbine that will perform best, within the constraints of the planning consent.

AM: The department has increased the environmental offsets required from 600 hectares to possibly 1,000-3,000 hectares.

NE: On a project of this size, isn't this a small cost?

AM: Well that’s \$7M upfront to secure as well as maintenance in perpetuity on the land, which could cost \$3M-\$5M. The money has to be provided up front before you start building the project.

NE: Would you purchase or lease the land?

AM: This would need to be determined, but ideally we would purchase the land as this is the least cost option.

RE: This project will be in limbo for 2 years?

AM: We hope to have an answer to the RET review by the end of the year, but we have been in limbo for 6 months, so that will mean another 6 months before the project can pick up.

NE: Why is it so important? The economics of the project and cost of infrastructure is high.

Copy of presentation by AM to be distributed electronically to CCC.

AM: The funding/return for the project comes from two sources, the sale of electricity and the sale of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs). The RET forces companies to supply renewable (green) energy and to purchase the electricity from projects like Sapphire

NE: What is the current government proposing?

AM: Without the RET to force suppliers to buy green energy, electricity is not a high enough cost to provide investors with a reasonable rate of return. Investors want to see a return on their investment (12-15%). Without the RET, the rate of return could be only 1-3%, which is too low to stimulate much interest.

NE: I'm not sure if people saw the article in the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) on battery technology, which stated that within 5 years, technology will be at a point where batteries will be able to store the energy, making renewables financially viable as opposed to coal.

AM: Wind farms are currently cheaper to build than coal fired power stations. Yes battery technology is improving, providing electricity storage options for re-depatch on demand. It's feasible that 100% of power can be generated from renewable energy, using a mix of renewables, ie biofuels for generators, solar, wind, etc.

RE: How far away is this technology?

AM: According to a study carried out by the UNSW, it could be feasible to have 100% renewable electricity generation by 2030 before it becomes cost effective.

See the following presentation:

<http://ceem.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/event/documents/Wind%20Prospect%20-%20100pc%20renewables%20-%202013-11-04a.pdf>

RE: Until then, it can't be stored, so it's a wasted proposition.

AM: Not at all, power is still produced and distributed in the network.

CV: Any submissions about the RET should be made as individuals.

NE: I agree, it should be outside the committee.

LA: Yes, those wishing to put in a submission on the RET, must do so as individuals and not as representatives of the CCC.

NE: Focus on jobs in the area, income for landholders and ongoing maintenance requirements creating economic stimulus to the region.

RE: Do the foundations for the turbines go to bedrock?

AM: Ideally, if the local geology allows it. The foundation design, which supports the turbines, is based on the geology of the turbine location. Foundations will normally be gravity based, such that the weight of the foundation keeps the turbine upright.

<p><i>CR: What vandal proofing measures are in place for the wind turbines?</i></p> <p>AM: They are secured with a locked door and located in remote areas with locked access gates. However, at the end of the day – if people want to break into them – they will.</p>	<p>Link to article to be provided for all CCC members information</p>
<p>8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS</p> <p><i>HH – I heard on the news this morning, that the federal government is scrapping 50 government agencies. Will this have an effect on the project?</i></p> <p>AM: This is another example of the government not supporting renewables. Doing away with the likes of ARENA, will have no direct impact on the project, but shows that clean energy is ‘off the agenda’ for the federal government.</p> <p><i>DH: I have two properties next to me that are causing trouble in terms of feral animals and weeds. Will I be better off when this land is managed as part of the wind farm?</i></p> <p>AM: Management plans will be put in place to manage weeds and feral animals, in order to minimise the presence of non-native species.</p> <p><i>DH: Who will be the person I complain to?</i></p> <p>AM: There will be a manager for the biobanking sites. This will be an advertised position. OEH will ensure that the management plan is met, which is a requirement of setting up a biobanking agreement. Each year a report will be sent to OEH for its sign off. Failure to comply can result in the land being seized due to non-compliance.</p> <p><i>CR: Does Sapphire Wind Farm own the offsets or are they under the control of the Department of Environment?</i></p> <p>AM: It will be a requirement for CWPR to set it up. Ideally we will buy the offsets, so we will manage them, or if we lease the land a covenant will be placed on the deeds. There is a legal framework which ensures offsets are properly maintained.</p> <p><i>HH: The website doesn’t seem to be updated on a regular basis, such as the Community Consultation pages? When I look on the site, nothing seems to have changed for months.</i></p> <p>AM: I will ensure that quarterly updates are made to the website, which has been neglected for several months due to the lack of any reportable progress. Of course please ring me if you have specific questions that are not addressed by the website.</p> <p><i>AA: It should be the role of the CCC to encourage updates.</i></p> <p><i>CV: What trigger points are in place for the calling of meetings, ie milestones?</i></p>	<p>Quarterly updates – on going</p>

<p>LA: I have this issue listed as the next item on today's agenda, for setting the next meeting, to ensure that the CCC coincides with project milestones.</p> <p>AM: Things will hopefully start ramping up when the review is complete.</p> <p>CV: <i>Perhaps bulletins on the website can keep the CCC updated and we should only get together when there is something to talk about.</i></p> <p>AM: The guidelines state that the CCC should meet on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>AA: <i>(Circulated a flow chart that he had produced) and suggested that the CCC determine what they wish to do during the progress of the project and milestones. Consider whether the meeting should be taped and what big decisions are being made.</i></p> <p>CV: <i>Who is the spokesman for the committee?</i></p> <p>LA: I am the spokesperson for the CCC. Any contact should be made to me. LA asked AA to email the flowchart to her.</p> <p>AM: We aim to be doing more mail-outs, speaking with community groups, radio, etc keeping people informed of what is happening.</p> <p>CR: <i>From this meeting, I take notes back to my community (Wellingrove) and report on our discussions and provide them with an update.</i></p> <p>LA: I will place the flowchart on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion. The CCC is not a decision making body, it is an information sharing opportunity for the company to provide updates on the project and for the members to discuss any concerns raised by the community.</p>	<p>AA to email flowchart.</p>
<p>9.0 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>The results of the RET review are due early December 2014, accordingly a meeting will be arranged shortly after this time to receive information from CWPR on the results of the review and specifically in relation to its effect on the Sapphire Wind Farm project.</p> <p>At least one month's notice will be provided to CCC members with the proposed meeting date.</p> <p><i>Meeting closed at 11.53 am.</i></p>	