

**Minutes of Meeting held
on Thursday 27th April 2017
Memorial Hall Meeting Room, Yass**

Attendees:

Lisa Andrews (LA)	Independent Chair
Kristy Old (KO)	CWP Renewables (Development Manager)
Ed Mounsey (Ed)	CWP Renewables (Head of Development)
Andrew Winterflood (AW)	Community Representative
Terry Sellwood (TS)	Community Representative (<i>arrived at 11.15</i>)
Jayne Apps (JA)	Boorowa District Landscape Guardians (<i>arrived at 11.21</i>)
Chris Corcoran (CC)	Hilltops Council Delegate

Apologies:

Thomas McGrath (Community Representative/Host Landholder)
Cr Geoff Frost (Yass Valley Council Delegate)

Invited Observers:

John McGrath (JM) – Yass Landscape Guardians
Nicole Brewer (NB) – Team Leader, Resource Assessments, DP&E
Diana Charteris (DC) – Senior Planning Officer – Resource Assessments, DP&E

Meeting commenced at 10:07am.

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Bango Wind Farm (BWF) Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and welcomed the new Development Manager for the Project, Kristy Old. The Chair also acknowledged the attendance of Nicole Brewer and Diana Charteris from the Department of Planning & Environment who were present to explain the assessment process moving forward, following the exhibition period. Also, acknowledged was John McGrath from the Yass Landscape Guardians who was granted observer status for the meeting. Mr McGrath was reminded of the requirements of this approval.

The attendance sheet was distributed for signing.

Declaration of Interest

The Chair declared her interest as Independent Chair of the BWF CCC, approved by the Department of Planning and Environment and engaged by CWP Renewables.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes of CCC held 26th October 2016 were confirmed by CC and seconded by TS.

Business Arising

- 1 SI to follow-up a replacement representative for Yass Valley Council – *LA received a response from the Council which was moved to correspondence*
- 2 SI to email the “Open Day” poster to JA & LA – *Completed – emailed 30/10/16*
- 3 SI to distribute “Open Day” posters & current newsletter amongst businesses in town and to CCC members. *Completed.*

Correspondence

- 27/10/16 – Email from Chair to CCC members with a copy of the article from the Yass Tribune
- 30/10/16 – Email from Chair to CCC members with the BWF Open Day Poster
- 17/11/16 – Email from Chair to CCC members with the draft minutes from the meeting held on 26 October 2016.
- 23/11/16 – Response from Yass Council advising that Cr Geoff Frost is the new delegate on the CCC with Cr Nathan Furry being the alternate. (Both have now been included in the distribution list.)
- 24/2/17 – Email from Chair to CCC members with an Update on the BWF Project and advising of the new Development Manager, Kristy Old.
- 4/4/17 Email to CCC members with an update on the project, attaching the revised layout plan and suggesting a “Save the Date” for 27/4/17.
- 4/4/17 – Letter to Terry Sellwood with the same information.
- 11/4/17 – Email to CCC members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting.
- 11/4/17 – Letter to Terry Sellwood with the same information.
- 19/4/17 - Email advising that Nicole Brewer & Diana Charteris from DP&E would be attending.
- 21/4/17 – Email from John McGrath seeking observer status at this meeting
- 23/4/17 – Email to members seeking their consideration of John’s request
- 24/4/17 – Email to John McGrath granting observer status, subject to conditions
- 26/4/17 – Email from Chris & Toni Rolls seeking observer status at a future meeting.

Moved: LA

Seconded: AW

Reports and Updates

KO provided an update on the project, with questions asked by CCC members throughout the presentation and answered:

- KO advised that they were currently preparing responses to submissions received during the exhibition process. The figures indicate that 34% are in support of the project, 54% objected and 12% were comments.
- As a result of the feedback, submissions and liaison with DP&E, a revised and reduced turbine layout plan was produced to address concerns raised. The reduction addresses issues in relation to visual impact, noise, etc.
- The revised plan will be re-submitted to DP&E, who will make the decision on whether it will be re-advertised. It is possible that because of the reduced impact, that it may not need to be re-exhibited.
- The modification will also decrease the number of access roads required to be upgraded.

- Most of the oversized vehicles will be coming from the south via Lachlan Valley Way, which will transport the turbines and sub-station components.
- There are no plans to go through the township of Boorowa, except for construction, delivery and contractor vehicles.
- A Transport Management Plan will be prepared.

General Business

- LA provided a briefing on the new Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Developments (November 2016) and also distributed the Code of Conduct and Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interest forms for completion.
- The briefing provided a summary of the more significant changes:
 - The guidelines cover all SSD projects (mining, wind farms, solar, extractive industries, infrastructure, etc)
 - The committees can now be set up early in the assessment process
 - Improved governance; Code of Conduct & Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interest Forms
 - A pool of Independent Chairs will be recruited by DPE
 - Review of the guidelines every 5 years.
 - Increase in community membership – now up to 7.
 - Chair's to provide an annual report to DP&E for publishing on the website
 - Change to draft minutes and finalising of minutes
 - Observers – chair's consult with CCC.
- AW raised concerns regarding the migratory pattern and location of the Superb Parrot.
- EM advised that the Office of Environment & Heritage had some concerns also and as such recommended that the cluster in this area be removed.
- AW stated that most of the people don't want towers nearby. Whilst renewables are in line with community expectations, companies have to do the right thing on where they are situated; which he believed, hadn't been done.
- AW further raised the issue of the effect of the project on land valuations.
- TS stated that the department needed to consider the cumulative impacts in relation to other wind farms in the area. NB confirmed that cumulative impacts are a factor that is taken into consideration during the assessment process.
- EM advised that there is a balance between the ecology impacts, commercial viability, access to the grid, etc. Different projects have different impacts.
- TS asked questions in relation to the capacity of the grid, which was clarified by EM.
- JA commented that turbines had been removed from the village areas, due to representations from residents, however, other towers were not removed that were close to other people. NB advised that the assessment of these factors was merit based.
- NB further advised that comments from agencies are taken into consideration in relation to biodiversity, noise, etc as well as the local government councils.
- TS enquired about noise complaints and who was the appropriate regulatory authority. NB advised that the project will be licenced by the EPA and any noise complaints should be directed to that agency.
- NB further informed the committee about the Compliance staff within DP&E, whose role it is to ensure the conditions of approval are met.
- LA recommended that Compliance Officers be invited to attend a future CCC meeting, to explain their role – should the project be granted approval.
- JA made comment about conditions of consent on previous wind farm projects (Gallen Range), in relation to eagles and compensation payments for their death. NB advised that these types of conditions will not be imposed anymore and the impact on biodiversity will be addressed during assessment.
- NB further advised about bird and bat monitoring plans.

- JA stated that land host owners should also be on the CCC.
- LA advised that Thomas McGrath was the representative for the hosts, however, was an apology for this meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The next CCC meeting will be held when there is something further to inform, with the next meeting proposed for Boorawa.

Meeting closed at 12.31pm with LA thanking all for their attendance.

***NOTE:** Cr Geoff Frost (Yass Valley Council) arrived after the meeting had closed due to a mix-up with emails between the first 'save the date' and the formal meeting notice.*

Action Item

1. LA to write to Mr & Mrs Rolls regarding observer status requirements
2. Question taken on notice regarding the Superb Parrot (KO) – *response provided before finalisation of minutes. The Bird Utilisation Survey (BUS) was conducted between 1 August 2012 to 23 February 2013.*