

# MINUTES OF CRUDINE RIDGE WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (CCC)

# Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Pyramul Hall, Pyramul

Owain Rowland-Jones ORJ Community Representative	
Alan Heath AH Community Representative (Host)	
Karen Croake KC Community Representative (Host)	
Cr Alex Karavas AK Mid Western Regional Council Delegate	
Vera Tomlinson VT Community Representative	
Ingrid Saywell IS Alternate for Max Price (Community Representative)	ative)
Malcolm Healey MH Community Representative (Host)	
Lisa Andrews LA Independent Chairperson	
Mark Branson MB CWP Renewables – Development Manager	
Apologies  Pathomat Basis and Council	
Loretta McLean Bathurst Regional Council	
Judith Rowland-Jones Community Representative	
Max Price Community Representative	
Esme Martens Community Representative	
Observers	
Sue Lane Hundy Family Representative	
Laureen Price Price Family	

Item	Details and Actions		
1.0 Welcome and Introductions	Meeting opened at 9:36am.		
	LA welcomed all present.		
	Sue Lane and Laureen Price were acknowledged as being		
	granted observer status.		
2.0 Apologies	As listed above.		
3.0 Declarations of Interest	LA declared that she is an Independent Chairperson, approved by the Department of Environment & Planning and engaged by CWP to chair the meeting.  No changes to members' previous declarations.		
4.0 Business arising from Finalised Minutes of 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 CCC Meeting	<ol> <li>Distribute final layout plan of turbines, including coordinates – once confirmed. (MB) Hard copies of plan provided to all attendees. Electronic version to be emailed by LA.</li> <li>Distribute updated Traffic Management Plan – when finalised. (MB) Complete - Members advised on the 10th January that this Plan &amp; others were now available on the project website.</li> <li>Provide information on how much water will be required for each base (550m3 concrete) (MB) Included in this meeting's presentation.</li> </ol>		

	4. Hard copies of documentation to be provided to Max Price		
F.O.C.,	<ul> <li>(LA). Ongoing.</li> <li>11/12/17 – Draft minutes to CCC members for review.</li> </ul>		
5.0 Correspondence	<ul> <li>11/12/17 – Draft minutes to CCC members for review.</li> <li>19/12/17 – Finalised minutes sent to CCC members.</li> </ul>		
Moved: LA Seconded: IS	<ul> <li>19/12/17 - Infalsed Minutes sent to CCC members.</li> <li>19/12/17 - Letter to Max Price with the finalised minutes.</li> </ul>		
	• 10/1/18 – Email from Mark Branson advising that the		
	Environmental Management Strategy and the four		
	Management Plans (Aboriginal Heritage, Biodiversity, Bird		
	& Bat and the Traffic Management Plans were approved by		
	the Department and uploaded on the project website.		
	• 11/1/18 – This information forwarded onto CCC members.		
	• 11/1/18 – Letter to Max Price with the same information.		
	• 18/1/18 – Email from Mark Branson with a project update		
	regarding financing the turbine layout.		
	• 19/1/18 – This information forwarded through to members.		
	• 19/1/18 – Letter to Max Price with the same details.		
	1/2/18 – Email received from Mark Branson advising of the new project website and providing a link to the media.		
	new project website and providing a link to the media release for the Power Purchase Agreement.		
	<ul> <li>1/2/18 – Email forwarded to members with this</li> </ul>		
	information.		
	• 9/4/18 – Email to members with the meeting notice and		
	agenda for this meeting		
	• 12/4/18 – Email from Owain Rowland Jones requesting		
	observer status for Mrs Sue Lane. This request was		
	forwarded through to CCC members for their		
	consideration.		
	• 16/4/18 – Email from Esme Martens with an apology for		
	this meeting.		
	• 17/4/18 – Email from Ingrid Saywell on behalf of Max Price seeking observer status for Mrs Laureen Price. This request		
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	was forwarded through to CCC members for their consideration.		
	• 17/4/18 – Email from Ingrid Saywell on behalf of Max Price		
	asking to see the projected sound profile & enquiring who		
	would be building the roads. This request forwarded		
	through to Mark Branson.		
	• 21/4/18 – Email to members advising that observer status		
	has been granted to Sue Lane & Laureen Price.		
	• 23/4/18 – Email from Ingrid Saywell on behalf of Max Price		
	asking where the water would be sourced for the concrete,		
	dust suppression, etc. This email was forwarded through to		
7.0 Community Concerns	Mark Branson for inclusion in this CCC's presentation.		
7.0 Community Concerns	LA reminded members of the new agenda item "Community Concerns", where members or the broader community are able		
	to submit questions two weeks out from the proposed CCC, for		
	response from CWP at the meeting. Questions and answers		
	will be recorded in the minutes.		
	It was noted that the questions from Max Price, received in		
	correspondence, would be included in the project presentation.		

## 8.0 Project Update / Discussion

#### **Construction Timeframe**

- The Voluntary Planning Agreements have been endorsed and signed by Council.
- CWP has entered into a Power Purchase Agreement with Meridian Energy, who own and operate the retail energy company Powershop.
- Whilst a final decision has not been, GE remain the preferred supplier for turbine supply. GE are one of the world's leading turbine manufacturers and its turbines are operating and performing in a number of countries. It was suggested that CWP investigate the company's financial position as this may affect its ability to maintain the equipment. MB indicated that the contract teams would be undertaking their due diligence throughout the contracting process.
- Biodiversity surveys and design works for Aarons Pass Rd are complete, with tendering underway for the road upgrades required to service the project
- Financing and due diligence is underway with debt and equity being a combination of Australian and International funds.
- The construction phase will commence in May 2018 with the first generation commencing in approximately Q2 2019.

# **Visual Impacts**

- Visual impacts have been significantly reduced due to the decrease in turbines from 77 to 37.
- If wire frames are requested, CWP will provide to those residences with entitlements under the Development Consent.
- Acquisition Rights: It was confirmed that owners of properties nominated within the consent conditions, have 5 years from commencement of construction to request acquisition. Neighbour Agreements are a voluntary option, which are offered at the discretion of CWP. There is no time frame imposed to enter into neighbour agreements.

# **Noise Impacts**

 The project's development consent sets the limits for noise with the EPA being the agency who will enforce the EPL (licence) requirements. MP's question was clarified with MB advising that he will investigate the low frequency level obligations and provide decibel limits. It was noted that noise monitoring is required to be undertaken within three months of the project's operation.

# **Water for Construction**

- A third party, Australian Resources Development Group (ARDG) has been investigating the availability of water supply for project construction.
- The water requirements for dust suppression, foundations, wash down areas, rehabilitation, etc amount to .25ML per day throughout construction.
- 70 KL of water per foundation will be required = 2.5ML for the project.

- It will be necessary to go the market to obtain the required water licences as no new licences are being issued by WaterNSW.
- Preference will be to source as much water from existing bores and dams on site and have them licenced under a Water Access Licence with a zero share component.
- A list of water sources was requested to be supplied.
   Following investigation and identification, this information will be provided to the CCC.

## **Material Sourcing**

- As previously advised, Council has asked that the project not use the existing Council quarries in the area due to its need for the resources to meet Councils road maintenance requirements.
- The contractor is investigating opportunities for sourcing the hard rock and gravel within the project area.
- It is understood that one quarry will be located to the south of the A4 turbine and one near the A13 turbine.
- ARDG has submitted three DA's for quarries to be used during the project construction. CWP are not the applicants. These DAs are currently being assessed by Council.

# **Geotechnical Study**

- Surveys are underway to assess rock and soil structure for the construction of foundations, access roads, substation and compound areas.
- These works are permitted under the development consent.

## **Bombandi Road**

The upgrading of Bombandi Road and Castlereagh
Highway Intersection is required. Concern was raised with
the dotted line that appears on the plan, which would
indicate the drivers are able to overtake in this area. It was
also noted that there is no turning lane. RMS will be
undertaking a review of the concept plans prior to any
construction taking place,

#### **Aarons Pass Road**

- The road design upgrade works for Aarons Pass Road have been completed and signed off by MWRC. Concerns were raised about the additional upgrades required to enable the vehicles to manoeuvre the road, which was not available at the time of the PAC's consideration. It was explained that concept plans were provided at the DA assessment stage and that civil designs require more detailed investigation and plans for safety and road standards.
- Discussions on equipment being delivered by helicopter drops instead of via road ensued. It was explained that this was not a viable option (safety, costs, etc).
- Additional biodiversity survey of Aarons Pass Road has been undertaken to minimise impacts with the road design.
- The projects impacts will be offset with the establishment of the 674ha Stewardship Site in Hill End (Glen Maye). A

- Management Plan will be developed to ensure the property is operated in perpetuity in accordance with OEH requirements, ie weed management, fencing, de-stocked, etc
- It was confirmed that this land has similar fauna and flora of the project site, including white box, yellow box, native grass land, etc. During the construction phase, fauna will be managed in accordance with the Biodiversity Plan.

# **Road Upgrades**

- MWRC Council has advised the Project to externally tender the road upgrade works. Its Works Department will supervise and audit the works to ensure they meet Council's standards.
- Concerns were raised regarding the current dry conditions impacting on the amenity of residents due to dust. The existing gravel roads are also causing problems with driver safety.
- The CCC were informed that the traffic routes have been limited by CWP to ensure contractor vehicles use Illford and Sofala Roads instead of Sallys Flat Road. Heavy Vehicle routes will be in accordance with the Traffic Management Plan.

## **Management Plans**

- In consultation with MWRC the following management plans were approved by NSW DP&E in December 2017:
  - Environmental Management Strategy
  - Biodiversity Management Plan
  - Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan; and
  - Traffic Management Plan.
- All plans are available on the project website.
- Following an enquiry regarding the Bush Fire Management Plan, it was advised that the contractor will be preparing an emergency response plan to address all potential emergencies, including bush fire.

## **Community Benefits**

- CWP has committed to contribute to help run the Pyramul Hall over three years. The first payment has been made.
- \$167k per annum (+CPI) will be contributed to the region annually across the two Council areas.
- Concerns were raised regarding the expenditure of these funds by Council. All expressed their desire in ensuring the money is spent where the project has the most impact and not in other areas of the shire.

Moved: That the chair write to MWRC & BRC expressing these concerns and requesting that Council allocate the funds paid by CWP for community benefit, to be spent within the project area and its environs.

• Extensive road upgrades and their maintenance will be undertaken throughout the construction phase.

9.0 General Business	ORJ questioned CWP's transparency and integrity. He stated
	that is was likely that there will be change in the federal
	government to Labor/Greens at the next election. He
	requested that a written undertaking be provided from the
	company, stating that they would not attempt to apply for the
	project to be increased at a future date.
	MB stated that CWP had no intention of altering the project
	and re-opening this issue. Whilst CWP were disappointed,
	they have heard the concerns of the community and the
	project has been reduced significantly to address these
	concerns. CWP are confident that it has a viable commercial
	project it can deliver, without requiring additional turbines.
10.0 Next Meeting	The next meeting was set down for <b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018</b> at
	the Pyramul Hall, commencing at <b>9.30am</b>

# Meeting closed at 11:17am. LA thanked all present for their attendance.

# **Action Items:**

Item	Issue	Action By:
1	List of water sources to be provided, once available	MB
2	Low frequency noise and decibel levels to be provided, once available	MB
3	Write to MWRC & BRC regarding the allocation of community funds	LA