

## Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting Minutes

### Gullen Range Wind Farm

<b>Date:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
<b>Location:</b>	CWA Rooms Spring Street Crookwell NSW 2583
<b>Time:</b>	5.30pm to 7.30pm
<b>Attendance:</b>	Peter Gordon (Chair) Dimity Taylor (Community Representative) Louise Wakefield (GMC) Councillor Paul Culhane (ULSC) Derek Powell (New Gullen Range Wind Farm Pty Ltd) (NGRWF) Isabel Nelson (NGRWF)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Charley Barber (Community Representative) Rosemary Howe (Community Representative)

#### **Introduction by Chair (Peter Gordon)**

- No declaration of and changes to pecuniary or other interests by Committee members.
- Minutes from 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 were confirmed by the Committee members.
- Business arising from the previous meeting - Following Charley's (Barber) request at the previous meeting, NGRWF provided information about its school 'program' to date.
- No correspondence received since the previous meeting.

#### **Issues identified by the community or local government representatives**

- Paul (Culhane) announced that the council is investigating reclassification of land hosting turbines. This would result in higher land rates, providing an extra income for the council from wind farms. Dimity (Taylor) asked how the rezoning of land would affect rates if the turbine is only on a small portion of a lot of land. Paul did not know how the new rates would be determined but he would find out. **Action - Paul Culhane to provide more information about the reclassification of land at the next meeting.**
- Noise levels close to wind turbines were discussed. Derek (Powell) explained the process of operational noise compliance testing that was undertaken in 2015, which showed that the wind farm was compliant with allowable noise levels.
- The impact of wind farms on property prices was discussed. **Action - Derek Powell to provide a NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) report reviewing 'the impact of wind farms on property prices' to the Chair for circulation prior to the next meeting.**

## Company reports and Overview of Activities (Derek Powell and Isabel Nelson)

- Bird and Bat Monitoring was discussed. Monitoring as per the Bird and Bat Monitoring Plan has now finished and the report has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and OEH. NGRWF is awaiting comment on any further monitoring required but is continuing to undertake incidental searching for carcasses.
- A sub-adult Wedged tailed eagle strike by a wind turbine was recorded on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The DPE has been notified and a financial contribution to WIRES has been made, which is required by condition 2.37 of the Project Approval.
- An update was given on progress in the PVP (Property Vegetation Plan) area required under condition 2.35 of the Project Approval. Trees have been planted in zone 2. Pest monitoring cameras have been removed and a pest report is being prepared. Nest boxes have been installed to offset hollow bearing trees removed during construction. These nest boxes have been inspected by NGRWF once since installation. **Action - NGRWF to confirm whether the Men's Shed constructed the nest boxes. Action - NGRWF to make photos of the nest boxes available to the public through the website and possibly through an article in the local newspaper.**
- An update on the 2017/2018 GRWF Community Fund funding round was provided. The Section 355 committee managed by ULSC will provide \$74,185.95 to six community groups comprising (1) Kiamma Creek Landcare Group, (2) Lions Club of Crookwell, (3) Crookwell Progress Association, (4) Grabben Gullen Hall, (5) Bannister District Hall Association and (6) Crookwell Golf Club. The Funding round outcome will be posted on the wind farm website.
- An update was provided on the Clean Energy Programme (CLEP). Approximately 65 applicants have completed Stage 1 of the Program. 22 Stage 2 applications have been approved so far with 13 installations fully completed. In Q2 2017, a total of 6 applications have been received to date. It was discussed that it was challenging for residents to find suppliers. **Action - NGRWF to update the CLEP suppliers list on the wind farm website. Action - NGRWF to make a media release about the CLEP.**
- An update was given on proposed plans for NGRWF wind and solar farm tours. Waiting to find out if the DPE will approve replacing the Open day with the tours.
- The recent school visit to the wind and solar farm by Crookwell High School students was described.
- An update on the complaints register was given. Three complaints have been received since the previous meeting. **Action – NGRWF to clearly mark complaints #4, #5 and #8 as closed to ensure that there is no ambiguity as to whether they are closed or not.**
- The Community Information Plan (CIP) was discussed. The CIP, required under condition 5.3 of the Project Approval, describes how communications are maintained with the local community. The current plan was prepared pre-construction. NGRWF intends to update the CIP in consultation with the CCC. To receive feedback from the committee prior to the next meeting, Derek (Powell) gave each of the committee members a questionnaire and draft table of CIP communication tools, with the aim of identifying key objectives and tools that NGRWF should use.
- Initial discussion of the draft objectives and tools took place with the following ideas generated:
  - There should be fewer objectives and they should be clearer.
  - The Committee suggested that tools used to achieve these objectives could include: social media, a mobile phone application, a mailing list, newspapers, radio, education sessions about renewable energy (e.g. at Clubs, such as the Rotary Club, pubs etc.);

NGRWF stand at community events, e.g., the Potato Festival; school visits, and sponsorship.

- The Committee also discussed putting up a display located in Crookwell showing 'real time' wind farm information, including how much energy the wind farm is generating.

**Action - Committee members to provide any additional information about the CIP prior to the next meeting. Action - NGRWF to present a summary of the Committee member feedback at the next meeting.**

### **General business**

- No general business.

### **Next Meeting**

- Confirmed for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 starting at 5.30pm.
- September meeting location to be confirmed by NGRWF.

**Next Meeting: 5.30pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017**