

Minutes

Hexham Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Wednesday 7 April 2021

Meeting time and location 11am, Mortlake Recreation Reserve

1. Welcome

2. Attendees

Cr James Purcell
Cr Jim Doukas
Rod Jubb, Community Representative
Lucy Gubbins, Community Representative
Leanne McDonald, Community Representative
Mark Madden, Community Representative
Lyn Baker, Community Representative
Rory McManus – Development Manager, Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Tanya Waterson – Hexham Wind Farm Pty Ltd

Vicki Askew-Thornton, Moyne Shire (non-member)

3. Apologies

Ann Harris, Community Representative

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

5. Confirmation of previous minutes

Moved by Rod Jubb, seconded by Cr Doukas that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 9 December 2020 be accepted, once the following addition has been made: *Mark Madden noted that the Ellerslie CFA has declined WP's offer of new radios.* **CARRIED**

6. Business arising from previous minutes

- 6.1 All of the 216 dwellings within 6km of the site (based on the current proposed turbine layout) are non-participating.
- 6.2 WP tabled an interim map to the CEC that included road names, updates to participating landholdings and showing the existing 500kV line. As stated at the December 2020 CEC meeting, WP noted that the turbine locations shown on any map at this stage are only proposed. The turbine

layout cannot be finalised until all studies currently being undertaken for the EES referral are completed.

Summary of further discussion:

WP will provide the CEC with an updated map with the following amendments:

- Removal of the yellow dots indicated on the Hexham, Ellerslie and Woolsthorpe townships.
- Participating landholder dwellings marked in a different colour.

(Updated map is included as Attachment 1)

An onsite terminal station is not included in the map as there may be a need for more than one. The terminal station/s will most likely be as close as possible to the existing 500kV line.

- The next turbine layout will have a reduced number of turbines.
- The CEC requested that a map be produced showing the existing waterways and wetlands.

- 6.3 Council provided the following clarification regarding a suggestion from CR Doukas that AEMO is planning to have a second transmission line constructed next to the existing 500kV line:
- The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) has released an Integrated System Plan (ISP) that outlines high priority transmission projects for eastern and south eastern Australia. The 2020 ISP does not propose a second 500 kV transmission line adjacent to the present line.
- The Victorian government has recently released a draft Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Development Plan for comment. Moyne Shire forms a part of the South West Victoria REZ. The Development Plan outlines possible future transmission projects for the REZ, including minor substation upgrades, high voltage power lines, large scale batteries and synchronised condensers. This draft plan also does not propose a second 500kV line adjacent to the present one, however it does put forward options for future 500 kV transmission lines from Bulgana to Mortlake (on a new easement) and North Ballarat to Mortlake (western part may be alongside the existing route but would require a new easement).
- DELWP were receiving comments on the REZ Development Plan until 31 March 2021. Due to the short timeframes available to make a submission, Council placed advertisements in the Warrnambool Standard and on social media to ensure interested community members were aware of how to make their own submission.

Council's submission has been placed on Council's website at:

<https://www.moyne.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/Advocacy/Council-Submissions>

Link to the REZ Development Plan:

https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/512422/DELWP_REZ-Development-Plan-Directions-Paper_Feb23-updated.pdf

7. Correspondence Incoming

Nil.

8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

9. Reports:

9.1 Project update – Wind Prospect

- WP is progressing the technical assessments which will influence the project design and the information to be provided to the Minister for Planning with an EES referral, which WP aims to submit in coming months.
- WP briefed Council in March 2021 about the project. Council received the same information that WP has provided to the CEC.
- WP encourages members of the public to contact its 1800 number or the project email address if they have any questions about the project and the benefit sharing program.

9.2 Community members

9.2.1 RE-Alliance – proposed combined Community Benefit Fund:

- RE-Alliance (formerly the Australian Wind Alliance) is a non-profit organisation. Wind Farm developers may choose to be a member of RE-Alliance. It is funded via membership fees and donations.
- Council resolved in July 2019 to *'Assist in the facilitation of joint discussions between wind farm proponents, Global Power Generation, Woolnorth Wind Farms, and Wind Prospect in regard a more strategic approach to community funding and benefits from wind farms in the Moyne Shire.'*
The RE-Alliance proposal that was reported recently in the local media relates to that resolution. The model is at the proposal stage. RE-Alliance has informed Council that it now intends to consult with the community.
- The model does not propose to have localised wind farm community funding programs replaced with a joint strategic fund. It would include local decision making on how a joint fund would be allocated.
- Wind Prospect, along with several other wind farm developers from the Moyne Shire have discussed the proposal with RE-Alliance.
- Several CEC community representatives expressed strong concern about RE-Alliance and the proposed fund.

Cr Purcell and Cr Doukas will discuss this matter further with the other Councillors.

9.2.2 Wind Farm Living:

- Lyn Baker asked how her email address would have been provided to Wind Farm Living for its email address list.
Council noted that it does not provide CEC members' email addresses to the public without the permission of CEC members.

9.2.3 Wind Farm Transmission Lines:

- The Hexham Wind Farm proposal would not require an external transmission line or terminal station. WP will consider the option of constructing its internal transmission line underground.
- Council has expressed its position to the Minister for Planning that underground transmission lines be mandatory for all future wind farm projects, and states this position to all developers of proposed wind farms in Moyne. Although this is Councils position, there is no compulsion for a developer to build its transmission line underground.

- WP explained that the 500kV line has capacity, and the current grid-access issues are moreso in relation to grid stability and the number of new projects feeding into the network. Any new project needs to undertake a detailed 'connection enquiry' process with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO).

9.2.4

- All participating landholders are currently contracted.
- WP announced in 2019 its proposed neighbour and community benefit sharing programs. WP will be requesting that neighbour and community benefit sharing agreements are included in any future planning permit that may be issued to it by the Minister for Planning.

9.3 Council

Nothing further to add.

10. General Business

Nil.

11. Next meeting date

Wednesday 21 July 2021, 11am at the Mortlake Recreation Reserve

Confirmed this / /

Chair

Minutes are to be registered in Moyne Shire's electronic document management system by the committee reporting officer immediately following the Minutes' confirmation and signing

Attachment 1

