

Minutes

Mt Fyans Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Wednesday 11 March 2020

Meeting time and location 7pm, at Mortlake

1. Attendees

Cr Daniel Meade (Chair)
Cr Jim Doukas
Cr Ian Smith
Kelvin Goodall, Community Representative
Wendy Bickley, Community Representative
Lisa Parker, Community Representative
Catherine Doulis, Community Representative
David Mounter, Early Works Manager, Mt Fyans Wind Farm
Stephen Ross – General Manager, Woolnorth Wind Farm Holding Pty Ltd
Giles Rinckes, Construction Manager, Mt Fyans Wind Farm

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

2. Apologies

Jacinta Jubb, Community Representative

3. Declarations of interest

Nil.

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Kelvin Goodall, seconded by Catherine Doulis that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 2 October 2019 be accepted. **CARRIED**

5. Business arising from previous minutes

- 1.1 Update on the status of the planning permit application which was lodged in September 2018 – refer to Project Update Section 10.1.
- 1.2 WNH's consideration of whether the section of transmission line within the wind farm site could be placed underground, if the project receives approval – refer to Project Update Section 10.1.

7. Correspondence Incoming

Nil.

8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

9. Reports:

9.1 Project Update from Mt Fyans Wind Farm (MFWF) representatives

Please refer to **Attachment 1 – Project Update Presentation handout**.

Summary of further discussion regarding Attachment 1:

Page 1 – Project Status

- Additional Southern Bent Wing Bat studies have verified earlier findings that there are no roosting sites in the wind farm site area.
- Bat calls were detected during the study and work is now being done to identify the species.
- An additional study has also been undertaken for orchids.
- Brolga surveys have been ongoing for the last nine years and have identified Brolga flocking and nesting sites within 10km of the proposed wind farm site. Survey methods included:
 - Aircraft
 - Drones
 - Infrared imagery
 - Ground surveys
 - DELWP database and reports
 - Consulting with landholders

MFWF has adopted a 5km buffer distance between turbines and Brolga flocking sites.

MFWF advised that the completed Brolga reports have been submitted to DELWP, and that DELWP is satisfied with the reports.

MFWF can provide the CEC with a copy of the Brolga report that was submitted with permit application.

Lisa Parker noted that as a neighbouring landholder she had not been consulted about Brolga, and asked if MFWF would consult with her and other neighbours. MFWF took this request on notice.

- MFWF submitted an Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) referral to the Federal Government in December 2019.

Page 3 – Key Concerns

- It was requested that MFWF add school bus curfews and Brolga to the list of key concerns. MFWF will provide information about whether it is possible to impose school bus curfews on over-dimensional turbine component deliveries.
- MFWF acknowledged that Council and the community have had issues in the past with wind farm Traffic Management Plan (TMP) compliance.
- Catherine Doulis asked if the community could be consulted during the preparation of a TMP. Council clarified that MFWF could consult with stakeholders during the preparation of the TMP, prior to submitting a TMP to DELWP and Council for review.
- MFWF is currently reviewing a recent Moyne-based wind farm TMP to inform its preparation of a TMP for the project. Council noted that although the quality of TMPs has improved a great deal, there are always new learnings that result from each wind farm's construction stage.

- Cr Smith noted that all potential quarry sources and haulage routes should be known and stated in the TMP, rather than a developer having to return to Council after construction starts with requests for approval of additional quarry haulage routes via a 'secondary TMP' process.

Page 4 – Transmission Line

- Lisa Parker raised the issue of the CFA being advised by Ausnet that it could no longer undertake burn offs underneath the recently constructed transmission line in the road reserves of the Mortlake-Ararat and Castle Carey Roads.
Council will forward MFWF the minutes of the Dundonnell Wind Farm CEC meeting that discussed this issue.
- MFWF are assessing three options for connecting the 3km section of line between the onsite substation and the shared transmission line:
 - Overhead
 - Underground
 - Relocating the substation closer to the intersection of the Mortlake-Ararat and South Roads.

Page 5 – Setbacks from Residences

- There are 7 dwellings within 1.5km of a turbine in the current proposed layout.
- The maximum turbine tip height in the current application is 200 metres.
- If in the future a higher turbine tip height was proposed, it would require a further assessment process that would be guided by the Minister for Planning.

Page 6 – Setback from Mortlake town boundary

- Council will provide to the CEC a map of the zoning layout and boundaries for the Mortlake township.

Page 9 – Cumulative Impact

- Kelvin Goodall noted that the potential cumulative visual impact from multiple wind farms is a major issue in the community. As time passes there may also be people who were previously supportive of the project that are now unsure.

Page 10 – Cumulative Noise Impact contour map

- Marshall Day Acoustics was engaged by MFWF to undertake the background noise testing and the noise prediction report.
- The noise predictions are based on Nordex and Vestas machines.
If the turbine choice changed, the noise predictions would have to be redone.
- The background noise monitoring has been completed.
- MFWF will provide the CEC with a map showing the background noise monitoring locations ('sensitive receptor locations').

Page 11 – Community Engagement

- Woolnorth Wind Farm Holding has developed and operates three wind farms in Tasmania. It funds an annual student bursary program to assist Year 12 students to attend the University of Tasmania, and provides funding towards community events such as agricultural shows and festivals.

- It is expected that the shopfront will be open 2 days per week. The person on duty will be able to answer basic questions about the project and for more detailed enquiries, make appointments for people to meet with project staff. MFWF will place an item in the local newspaper about the Community Engagement Manager Tanya Waterson, and the newly appointed person.
- Kelvin Goodall highlighted the importance of MFWF directly involving community groups such as the Mortlake Community Development Committee in their stakeholder engagement process. Council agreed, noting that the CEC is only one of many engagement tools for developers to use, and direct interaction with other community groups is strongly encouraged. This engagement will add to a broader understanding about the project throughout the community.
- Lisa Parker advised WNWF to increase the frequency of engagement with neighbouring landholders.

10. General Business

- 10.1** Lisa Parker was not happy with the decision to postpone the CEC meeting date. Council responded that the reason for the postponement was explained in an email to Lisa after the decision was made. The Charter states that meetings are to be held 'monthly or as required'. Community representatives are encouraged to communicate with MFWF representatives and Council representatives between meetings if they wish.
- 10.2** Wendy Bickley asked about the organisational relationship between Hydro Tasmania, Woolnorth Wind Farm Holding and Mt Fyans Wind Farm. MFWF will email the CEC with a response.
- 10.3** MFWF took on notice three questions raised by Kelvin Goodall:
- What is the capacity of the 500KV electricity transmission network?
 - What impact would a closure of the Alcoa smelter in Portland have on that capacity?
 - Will the Coronavirus effect the progress of the project?
- 10.4** Lisa Parker reported that some community representatives from Council's CECs invited all CEC community representatives to a meeting held recently to discuss wind farms in Moyne. Issues that were discussed included:
- Brolga.
 - Biosecurity in relation to host and neighbour landholders.
 - Contributions to local road upgrades.
- Lisa will provide a copy of the meeting notes to Council.
- 10.5** Lisa Parker asked how decommissioning would be addressed by MFWF if the project was constructed. MFWF responded that a permit would contain a condition requiring a Decommissioning Plan. Lisa raised an example from Europe of a wind

farm no longer operating but with all infrastructure left in place. MFWF responded that European examples are not comparable to what would occur in Australia when a wind farm reached the decommissioning stage because of different ownership arrangements.

10.6 Lisa Parker asked why the project did not require an Environment Effects Statement (EES). Council explained that as reported at the last CEC meeting, it wrote to the Minister for Planning in September 2018 requesting that the Minister reconsider his decision that an EES was not required. Council will email an extract from the Ministers reply to the CEC members.

10.7 MFWF advised that DELWP has agreed to a 1.1km setback between turbines and Brolga breeding sites. MFWF referred to the current Brolga Guidelines in preparing the report, and had access to Brolga data from the Dundonnell Wind Farm. Cr Doukas asked that MFWF pay attention to Inka Veltheim's data.

11. Date of next CEC meeting

Wednesday 22 April, 7pm at the Council office, Mortlake.

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