

Minutes

Mt Fyans Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Tuesday 15 December 2020

Meeting time and location 7pm, via Zoom

1. Attendees

Cr Daniel Meade
Cr Jim Doukas
Cr Damian Gleeson
Kelvin Goodall, Community Representative
Lisa Parker, Community Representative
Giles Rinckes, Project Director, Mt Fyans Wind Farm
Tanya Waterson, Community and Stakeholder Engagement, Mt Fyans Wind Farm

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

2. Apologies

Jacinta Jubb, Community Representative
Catherine Doulis, Community Representative
Stephen Ross, Woolnorth Wind Farm Holding Pty Ltd

3. Declarations of interest

Tanya Waterson noted that she also works for Wind Prospect, developer of the Hexham and Willatook Wind Farm projects.

4. Election of Chairperson

Moved Giles Rinckes, seconded Kelvin Goodall that Cr Meade be elected Chairperson.

CARRIED

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Kelvin Goodall, seconded by Lisa Parker that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 2 September 2020 be accepted.

CARRIED

6. Business arising from previous minutes

6.1 *Lisa Parker will provide a copy of the notes from the meeting held between some of Council's CEC Community Representatives to discuss wind farms in Moyne:*

Lisa advised that the notes will not be provided to the CEC.

6.2 *Lisa Parker will summarise her questions regarding the Brolga surveys and the project's Brolga report in an email to MFWF:*

Summary of discussion:

As the email was not received by MFWF, Lisa will resend it and cc the Committee.

7. Correspondence Incoming

- 7.1 24 November – Project update November 2020.
- 7.2 13 December – from Lisa Parker – Willatook Wind Farm noise contour map.
Summary of discussion:
Lisa will email the Committee with questions on notice about landholder indemnity, as they were not included with the map.
- 7.3 15 December – set of letters which were tabled at the Council meeting on 15 December.

8. Correspondence Outgoing

9. Reports:

9.1 Project update

- Woolnorth Renewables is continuing to work on securing planning approval for the Mt Fyans Wind Farm.
- The shopfront is now open twice a week and Project Director Giles Rinckes spent several days throughout November also working from the shopfront.
- We have recently written to all neighbours within three kilometres of the turbine envelope to offer no obligation visual screening. While the Mt Fyans project does not yet have approval, Woolnorth Renewables would like to commence this process to allow more time for visual screening measures to grow and develop.
Visual screening would involve the planting of native tree tube stock and associated plant establishment works, as well as advice and support to ensure their successful growth. Woolnorth Renewables has engaged landscape consultants Urbis to assist in developing plans for these landscaping works.
- Woolnorth Renewables has also undertaken aerial broilga surveys to five kilometres from the turbine envelope.
The report is still being completed, but three sites have been identified; one several kilometres to the north of the project which Woolnorth was aware of; another on the Mortlake Common and another in the south-east. The latter two are at least five kilometres from the turbine envelope, which is sufficient distance for flocking and nesting under both the old and the new guidelines. Particular attention was paid to the area between North Road and Nine Mile Lane and the surveys found no evidence of any broilga nesting.
- Following on from the April announcement that the project is a controlled action under the EPBC Act, we have been actively working with the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and other relevant government departments to progress works around the Southern Bent-winged Bat, Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains – Critically Endangered; and Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains – Critically Endangered. We are continuing discussions with the relevant government departments around these areas.

Summary of further discussion regarding the project update:
- Lisa Parker spoke of additional nesting sites that she believes have been missed in the aerial survey. Lisa noted that these sites have not been entered by landholders onto the Victorian Broilga Atlas. A proposed meeting between Lisa, MFWF and Biosis had not been held.
MFWF responded that aerial surveys are an accepted survey method and the most recent survey was in addition to several that have been done for the site

in past years. The survey involves 2 spotters and takes 2 full days. The methodology will be included in the survey report.

9.2 Community Representatives

Kelvin Goodall commented that the angst in the community is mainly regarding the proliferation of wind farms in the district.

Lisa Parker noted the set of 605 letters that had been given to Council at today's Council meeting, opposing the wind farm. Cr Meade will pass the letters on to MFWF.

9.3 Council

Cr Gleeson encouraged ongoing frequent communication between MFWF and the community regarding the project.

10. General Business

- 10.1 MFWF agreed to provide a copy of the aerial Broilga survey report to the CEC, and took on notice a question about when the report could be provided.

11. Date of next CEC meeting

Thursday 18 February 2021, 7pm – venue to be confirmed

Confirmed this / /

Chair

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