

Minutes

Mt Fyans Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Thursday 18 February 2021

Meeting time and location 7pm, via Zoom

1. Attendees

Cr Daniel Meade
Cr Jim Doukas
Cr Damian Gleeson
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

Kelvin Goodall, Community Representative
Jacinta Jubb, Community Representative
Catherine Doulis, Community Representative
Wendy Bickley, Community Representative

3. Declarations of interest

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

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Giles Rinckes, seconded by Cr Doukas that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 15 December 2020 be accepted. **CARRIED**

5. Business arising from previous minutes

5.1 Lisa Parker will email MFWF and the CEC members a summary of her questions regarding the Brolga surveys and the Brolga report and landholder indemnity.

The following questions were emailed on 18 February:

Q : If the acoustician (MDA) are found to be guilty in a law of court for falsifying reports - then what happens to the host's indemnity against neighbours suing. If the acousticians loose their professional indemnity insurance - how does this affect the permit/ and or host family?

- Helipad

- Brolga collision risk Modelling(CRM) why has this not yet been provided ?

- In 2018 why would Carmen Whitley at Mt Fyans refuse to answer questions and include Brolga nest sites ? Even initially refusing to communicate.

- Why is the Biosis Data only for their breeding season and not the hatching and raising ?

- Have Mt Fyans looked at the Sth West Victoria Brolga Report ?
- Can we add another member to the CEC?
- A few meetings ago i brought up about Community consultation in particular in my area i was going to be given road names of the roads around us that had consultation.
- Daniel handed Mt Fyans the 605 objection letters.
- Have you yet consulted with David Sweatman about all of his years of hard work with the Brolgas in our area ?

5.2 MFWF to advise the CEC of when it can provide a copy of the aerial Brolga survey report.

6. Correspondence Incoming

Nil.

7. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

8. Reports:

8.1 Project update – Mt Fyans Wind Farm (MFWF)

- Work is continuing on progressing the MFWF planning permit application.
- MFWF have received feedback on the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) referral and are providing more information to the relevant government departments.
- MFWF has looked at the letters of submission passed on to it by Council in February. Some of the letters were dated 2018 and addressed to the Minister of Planning and cc'd to Council. MFWF noted that the remaining 268 letters are from 175 households and it is currently reviewing those.
- The brolga aerial survey has been completed and the report was received by MFWF today. MFWF will review the report before providing a copy to the CEC via Council. The methodology of the aerial survey is described in the report and followed the same methods as the 2009, 2014 and 2019 surveys and was consistent with the methods outlined in the '*Interim guidelines for the assessment, avoidance, mitigation and offsetting of potential wind farm impacts on the Victorian Brolga population 2011*' (DSE 2012).
The report notes that the three nests found are all greater than 4.3km from the closest turbine.
In the Victoria Biodiversity Atlas, since 2018 there have been 31 recorded brolga sightings with all but one being sighted outside the MFWF project area.
- MFWF have made an offer of visual screening to all dwellings within 3km of the project site, and aims to make the plantings this year. This is a no obligation offer which will be honoured to those that accept even if the project does not go ahead. The offer has been made to 48 home owners, of which 8 have accepted to date. MFWF is contacting those dwelling owners to work with them on the design of the plantings. The offer is still open and MFWF hopes to hear from more dwelling owners who received the offer.
- MFWF is compiling a 'frequently asked questions' document which will be distributed next month.

- The MFWF information centre in Mortlake remains open when COVID regulations allow. A number of people have dropped in to ask about the project - some are not keen on it and some support it.

Summary of further discussion regarding the project update:

- Information about the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas was discussed at the previous CEC meeting.
- The Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) team and the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) need to be satisfied that the information provided by MFWF meets the conditions set out in the Minister for Planning's decision that the project does not require an Environment Effects Statement (EES). MFWF hopes to submit the final document by the end of April. It will then be reviewed by DELWP and the EPBC team. Once satisfied, DELWP will then instruct MFWF to advertise/notify the planning permit application. Following the advertising period, a planning panel will be appointed by the Minister to consider the application and any submissions received on it. The planning panel will then make recommendations to the Minister for Planning, then the Minister will make a decision on whether to grant a permit.
- MFWF is reviewing the more recently dated letters received in the batch of letters that was given to Council at its December meeting. MFWF is discussing how to address the items raised in those letters.
- MFWF asked what actions had been taken regarding the letters that were addressed to the Minister of Planning and cc'd to Council.

Cr Meade responded that Council referred to the letters when it wrote to the Minister for Planning, and the (former) Mayor Cr Wolfe and the CEO met with the Minister for Planning.

The CEC Councillors will follow up on whether a written response was received from the Minister.

- Lisa Parker noted that the new helipad had not been used during several recent landings in Mortlake. MFWF understood that the helipad was meant to be used when it is too wet for a landing on the oval.
- MFWF noted it had not contacted Dave Sweatman to discuss broilga, and that it had used the Victorian Broilga Atlas to inform its broilga study.
- Cr Gleeson requested that MFWF provide the CEC with a response to Lisa Parkers questions on notice submitted today.

8.2 Community Representatives

The CEC Charter allows for up to 6 community representatives. There are currently 5, therefore there is a vacancy. Council's process for advertising a community representative vacancy includes a newspaper advertisement and letters to landholders in the vicinity of the project site.

8.3 Council

It was noted that there are several ways for questions to be asked regarding the project, including via CEC representatives, directly to MFWF, directly to Council or directly to the Minister for Planning.

9. General Business

- 10.1** Cr Doukas moved, Lisa Parker seconded that Council proceed with advertising the community representative vacancy. **CARRIED**

10.2 The Committee noted that community representative attendance at meetings has been low, and agreed that it is important for community representatives to attend meetings and take an active part in the Committee's discussions.

10.3 The Committee agreed to change the meeting night to Monday, pending Vicki contacting the absent community representatives to discuss.

10. Date of next CEC meeting

April – date to be confirmed

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

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