

Minutes

Salt Creek Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Tuesday 18 August 2020

Meeting time and location 5.30pm - via Zoom

1. Attendees

Cr Jill Parker (Chair)
Cr Ian Smith
Heather Cameron, Community Representative
Barend van der Poll – Asset Manager, Tilt Renewables
Cara Layton - Stakeholder and Environment Manager, Tilt Renewables
Martine Holberton - Community and Stakeholder Advisor, Tilt Renewables
Marita Giles - Environmental Development Advisor, Tilt Renewables (via telephone)

Vicki Askew-Thornton - Major Projects Liaison Officer, Moyne Shire

2. Apologies

Grant Cameron, Community Representative
Carol Muir, Community Representative

3. Welcome

Cr Parker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4. Declaration of interest

Nil.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Cr Smith, seconded by Barend van der Pol that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 30 October 2019 be accepted. **CARRIED**

6. Business arising

- 5.1 At its meeting held on 28 July 2020, Council endorsed the *Salt Creek Wind Farm Bat and Avifauna Management Plan – First Annual Report*, and the *Salt Creek Wind Farm Post Construction Noise Monitoring Results report, August 2019 and the peer review report*.
- 5.2 Regarding questions on notice received from David Allen, requesting:
- 'predictive noise information'
 - 'noise data for the year in 'full original format''
 - 'fauna mortality survey information'
- Council will now write to David Allen in response to his questions.

7. Correspondence incoming

7.1 SCWF CEC TR Update, 18 August.

8. Correspondence outgoing

Nil.

9. Reports

9.1 Tilt Renewables (TR)

Refer to **Attachment 1: SCWF CEC TR Update 18 August 2020.**

Summary of further discussion:

Wind Farm Operation:

The wind farm is operating well with no major issues to date. Having the maintenance crew located at the Dundonnell site will mean that issues can be addressed quickly.

The number of households referred to in the Update is based on average annual electricity usage per household in Victoria.

The Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the project was relevant to the construction period. Now that the wind farm is operating, the construction TMP does not apply. However, if TR needed to bring, for example, a large delivery to the site it would require traffic management measures to be developed in consultation with Council.

Compliance:

The following reports have been loaded onto the SCWF website:

- SCWF Noise Compliance Test Plan endorsed
- SCWF Post Construction Noise Monitoring Results report endorsed
- SCWF Peer Review of Noise Reports ARUP endorsed
- SCWF BAM Plan Year 1 report endorsed

Cr Parker raised the question of how Council's endorsement of these reports relates to ongoing permit compliance, monitoring and enforcement.

- It was noted that as the reports propose that compliance had been achieved for Year 1, Council's endorsement of the reports accepts that position.
- However, TR is responsible for ensuring compliance with the permit for the life of the wind farm. Barend referred to Condition 13 of the permit as an example, in relation to noise compliance:

If Condition 12 is determined to have been breached, the Responsible Authority shall notify the wind energy facility operator with a request that steps be taken to rectify the breach, which may include, ascertaining the relevant meteorological circumstances at the time of the breach and requiring the operator to noise optimise the operation of the relevant wind turbine or turbines if such meteorological circumstances occur again. If a further breach is determined to have occurred in similar meteorological circumstances and at the same receptor location, the Responsible Authority shall notify the wind energy facility operator, with a request to selectively reduce or modify the operation of the relevant wind turbine or turbines in such meteorological

circumstances. If a third breach occurs in the same meteorological circumstances and at the same receptor location, notwithstanding the procedures outlined above, the Responsible Authority may take further action, as appropriate.

- Therefore, the submission and endorsement of monitoring reports is not the sole mechanism for ensuring compliance. If complaints are received or an issue arises, TR is required to investigate.
- Year 2 monitoring has been concluded and TR aims to submit the reports to Council in September.

Cr Smith asked which quarter TR expected rabbit numbers to decrease, and whether total eradication of rabbits was aimed for to decrease the amount of raptors attracted to the site.

- Total eradication is not possible, but TR wants the rabbit numbers to get closer to the baseline level which was determined via the pre-construction pest animal surveys.
- The landowner is vigilant regarding pest animal control, and when those measures extend beyond normal, TR offers to cover the additional costs.

Benefit Sharing:

TR is working with the Dundonnell Wind Farm CEC community representatives on a community fund model for the Dundonnell Wind Farm.

Heather and Martine reported that the SCWF Lend a Hand Fund is going well with several allocations made recently including to the Mortlake Kinder, Mortlake College and the Woorndoo Football Netball Club.

Applications are emailed from TR to the fund committee members, who meet every few months to consider the applications.

If the yearly allocation is not expended the remaining amount rolls over to the next year.

There are still funds available for the current year and this will be advertised in the next project newsletter.

Cr Parker noted that at the recent Dundonnell Wind Farm CEC meeting, community representatives asked if TR would consider making an ongoing per-turbine donation to the local CFA, and asked if this could be considered for the Salt Creek Wind Farm.

Covid-19:

Cara spoke about TR's strict workforce Covid-19 protocols as detailed in the project update.

9.2 Community Representatives

Nothing further to report.

9.3 Council

Nothing further to report.

10. General business

10.1 Cr Parker noted that Councillors had been asked by members of the public about the Bushy Creek Wind Farm.

TR confirmed that the Bushy Creek Wind Farm is a joint proposal between NewEn and Tilt Renewables.

- The project is in the feasibility stage, and preliminary studies have been put on hold due to the Covid-19 situation.
- The proposed site is in the south eastern corner of the Southern Grampians Shire Council, and the proposed transmission line route is through Moyne Shire to the Salt Creek Wind Farm substation.
- TR contacted Council officers last week to inform them of the proposal.

11. Date of next meeting

Next meeting: Tuesday 13 October 2020 (TBC)

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Confirmed this / /

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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.