

Minutes

Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Friday 19 February 2021
Meeting time and location 10.30am, via Zoom

1. Welcome

2. Attendees

Mayor, Cr Daniel Meade
Cr Damian Gleeson
Cr Jim Doukas
Terri Barnes, Community Representative
Scott de Keizer, Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Pty Ltd (WWF)
David Holroyd, Powercor

Vicki Askew-Thornton, Senior Energy Projects Liaison Officer, Moyne Shire (non-member)

3. Apologies

Mark Thompson, Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Pty Ltd
Barry Thebes, Powercor

4. Declarations of interest

Nil.

5. Election of Chairperson

Cr Gleeson nominated Cr Meade for the position of Chair. Seconded by Cr Doukas.
CARRIED

6. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Cr Gleeson, seconded by Scott de Keizer that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 4 December 2020 be accepted.
CARRIED

7. Business arising from previous Minutes

- 7.1 Update on Committee vacancy process:
Council will advertise the community representative vacancy as soon as possible. CEC members will be informed of the advertising dates when finalised.

- 7.2 WWF released a detailed distribution line information brochure in January. It was posted to all landholders adjacent to the line's corridor, and a copy has been placed on the project website via the following link:
https://4991f6c0-778c-42fc-8262-d82ae9453853.filesusr.com/ugd/6a122b_bcc53d66fa8d42e89d4e1881240aa220.pdf

Committee members are encouraged to read the brochure, and refer any enquires they field to the company.

WWF received some calls after the brochure was distributed. WWF is updating the instructions on its 1800 number.

The brochure was also placed on the Koroit community Facebook page.

WWF will also place a copy on the Woolsthorpe community Facebook page, and arrange for hard copies to be left at the Woolsthorpe General Store and other key locations in Woolsthorpe and Koroit.

8. Correspondence Incoming

Nil.

9. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

10. Reports

10.1 Woolsthorpe Wind Farm P/L (WWF):

- The final connection agreement package is with AEMO and WWF is awaiting AEMO's response.
- WWF is now progressing other work streams including the preparation of an application to the Minister for Planning for an extension of time for the permit. The current permit expires if construction is not completed by March 2022. The application will only:
 - Request an extension of time for completion of construction to March 2024.
 - Include a resubmission of the Traffic Management Plan with updated dates for the project construction stages.As this is a minor amendment, the Minister for Planning may not require it to be publicly notified.
- WWF is considering holding its next community update meeting in March.
- WWF is hoping to be able to commence construction in June 2021.

Powercor:

- The Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) has been approved by Aboriginal Victoria.
- The construction schedule and stakeholder management plan have not been finalised.

10.2 Community Representative feedback

- Background noise monitoring and assessment:
Terri Barnes raised that several neighbours are asking if Council can pay for independent background noise monitoring to be done, as it has agreed to do for the Hawkesdale Wind Farm site.
WWF noted that it was required to have background noise testing and a noise assessment report prepared, which was completed in 2019 by Resonate.

The report predicts full noise compliance at all receptor points, and considered cumulative impact from the Hawkesdale Wind Farm. The report was reviewed by an EPA accredited auditor. The Pre-Construction Noise Assessment is available on the project website at:

https://4991f6c0-778c-42fc-8262-d82ae9453853.filesusr.com/ugd/6a122b_abcb37edeefe45518b6b301b50503940.pdf

The Noise Complaint Investigation and Response Plan is also available at: https://4991f6c0-778c-42fc-8262-d82ae9453853.filesusr.com/ugd/6a122b_b4634573f4d544c3928e9db19f54124c.pdf

It was noted that for Council to consider a request for it to pay for additional background noise testing, a formal request should be made by the relevant neighbouring resident/s directly to Council.

Privately-commissioned background noise testing is another option that could be considered by neighbours who have concerns.

- WWF will re-send the CEC the turbine layout map, which will show the distance between the nearest turbine and the edge of the Woolsthorpe township.
- The WWF turbines have an estimated lifespan of 30 years. At their end of life, there would be several options including decommissioning or repowering. The permit contains a decommissioning clause. Repowering would require a new permit.

10.3 Council

- Cr Gleeson encouraged WWF to set a date for the next community meeting, and stressed the importance of regular communication with the public.

11. General business

Nil.

12. Date of next CEC meeting:

Friday 16 April 2020, 10.30pm – method to be confirmed

Confirmed this / /

Chair

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