

## Minutes

# Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Friday 16 April 2021

Meeting time and location 10.30am, at the Woolsthorpe Hall

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### 1. Welcome

### 2. Attendees

Mayor, Cr Daniel Meade  
Cr Damian Gleeson  
Cr Jim Doukas  
Glenn Britnell, Community Representative  
Scott de Keizer, Enerfin/ICA  
Mark Thompson, Enerfin/ICA

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

### 3. Apologies

Terry Barnes, Community Representative  
Barry Thebes, Powercor  
David Holroyd, Powercor

### 4. Declarations of interest

Nil.
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### 5. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Cr Gleeson, seconded by Cr Doukas that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 19 February 2021 be accepted. **CARRIED**

### 6. Business arising from previous Minutes

- 6.1 Update on Committee vacancy process:  
Council will consider the nominations it has received at its meeting on 6 May.
- 6.2 Enerfin/ICA (E/ICA) will place a copy of the distribution line brochure 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:  
E/ICA was unable to gain access to the Woolsthorpe community Facebook page. Hard copies were made available.

- 6.3 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: **Attachment 1** was tabled by E/ICA.  
Council will print A3 colour copies of the map and post them to the CEC members.

## 7. Correspondence Incoming

Nil.

## 8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

## 9. Reports

### 9.1 Enerfin/ICA (E/ICA)

- The connection agreement package is being progressed with AEMO. For all new generator connection requests, AEMO requires the applicant to submit detailed modelling on how the generator (wind farm) would react to various system scenarios in the electricity network. E/ICA hopes to receive the final connection agreement by June, leading to site mobilisation in August.
- 3 community open day sessions were held on 25 March. Around 25 people attended across the 3 sessions. Some of the attendees were from outside the Woolsthorpe area. Topics that attendees discussed with project staff included native vegetation approval processes, noise monitoring, neighbour agreement program, traffic management during construction, and land values. Staff were able to answer most of the questions asked and are following up on some others. As a result of the sessions, E/ICA is putting together an information sheet explaining the background noise monitoring process and the post-construction noise monitoring plan. E/ICA will share the draft with the CEC for feedback.

### 9.2 Community Representative feedback

- Glenn had received questions from some people about why information sessions were held instead of a community meeting. E/ICA responded that:
  - o Covid attendee number restriction of 50 people was a factor.
  - o 3 sessions give a range of time choices for people to attend.
  - o Sessions provided the opportunity for more information to be displayed, and more detailed questions and answers to be given.Glenn noted that a community meeting brings matters out into the open in a group setting.
- Glenn raised that a community member felt their questions on the neighbour agreement program wasn't addressed. Scott responded that the information was clear, and he will contact the person to discuss in more detail. The neighbour agreements are at the discussion stage until the project timelines are confirmed. The agreements will not remove the right of a neighbour to make a complaint regarding the wind farm.

E/ICA took on board Glenn's feedback about the information sessions.

- Glenn asked about the decommissioning requirements for the project. E/ICA responded that there is a decommissioning condition in the Permit (extract below):

**DECOMMISSIONING**

34. The operator under the permit must, no later than 2 months after all the wind turbines have permanently ceased to generate electricity, notify the responsible authority in writing of the cessation of use. Within a further 12 months of this date, the operator under the permit, or in the absence of the operator under the permit, the owner of the land on which the relevant turbines are located, must undertake the following to the satisfaction of the responsible authority within such timeframe as may be specified by the responsible authority:

The Condition does not require a bond.

A copy of permit is available on the project website:

[woolsthorpewindfarm.com](http://woolsthorpewindfarm.com)

The host landholder agreement aligns with the Permit condition, and contains more detail.

The permit and the host landholder agreement will remain in place if the project is sold in the future.

### 9.3 Council

- Cr Doukas asked about the background noise monitoring. Summary of response:  
Background noise monitoring was undertaken at 3 locations.  
Cumulative noise from the Hawkesdale Wind Farm was considered as a separate section of the process and the report. If the Hawkesdale Wind Farm is not constructed, it does not affect the noise modelling for the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm.  
The time of year is taken into account.  
The information sheet will cover these items.
- Council will follow up on whether it would be responsible for wind farm decommissioning if neither a permit holder or a landholder undertakes the decommissioning process.
- Council noted the following, in regard to Re-Alliance:
  - o Re-Alliance recently made a presentation to a Council workshop about its proposal for a combined community benefit fund.
  - o In 2019 Council resolved to facilitate discussions between wind farm developers in Moyne to discuss the idea of a combined strategic community benefit fund. Re-Alliance then took the lead, invited developers to meet with it, then drafted a model that would see some community benefit funding from participating wind farm developers set aside for larger, more strategic community benefit projects.
  - o Both Council and E/ICA stressed that the recent newspaper articles were not accurate.

## 10. General business

- 10.1 Terri Barnes submitted a question at the information session and requested a response from E/ICA in regard to whether a wind farm would affect the value of a neighbouring property.  
E/ICA responded that a 2016 NSW Auditor General's report on this topic showed that property values were affected during wind farm construction, but

property values prior to construction and once a wind farm was operational didn't show deviation from Council valuations.

There is very little data available on whether there is a relationship between wind farms and the value of small acreage 'lifestyle' properties.

E/ICA has no knowledge of wind farms affecting the value of township properties.

E/ICA will email the CEC a link to the 2016 NSW Auditor General's report.

### 11. Date of next CEC meeting:

**Friday 25 June 2021, 10.30pm at the Woolsthorpe Hall**

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**

### Attachment 1







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