

**FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes 6 July 2015**

<b>Date and Venue</b>	July 6th, 2015 Blayney Community Centre from 6pm
<b>Attendees:</b>	Mr. Mark Dicker (Blayney Shire Council) Mr. Kim Masters (Host landowner) Ms. Rachael Young (Wind farm neighbour) Mr. John Plantinga (Wind farm neighbour) Mr. Jonathan Upson (Proponent–Infigen Energy) Mr. Grahame Collier (Chair)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order just after 6:00pm by the Chair. The Chair welcomed new committee member John Plantinga.

### **Apologies**

Eddie Wilson

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting held in November, 2014 were approved, and Jonathan stated they would be uploaded onto Infigen's Flyers Creek webpage.

### **Business Arising**

There was a discussion of Key Issue 5 which suggests Blayney Shire contact other NSW Shires who have had wind farms recently constructed to inquire as to what had worked well, and what issues arose that could have been dealt with better.

Key Issue 4 was closed as the Errowanbang School is no longer operating and the land is for sale.

The Chair announced he had submitted his resignation to the Department of Planning.

### **Renewable Energy Target and other Government Issues**

Jonathan discussed how amendments to the RET has been legislated with bipartisan support. The changes primarily included a reduction in the RET to 33TWh in 2020, an end to biennial reviews, and 100% exemption of Emission Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) industries. While the RET target was reduced, it still represents an 80% growth level from where we are today which needs to be completed in 4 ½ years. As such, there is plenty of 'room' in the revised RET for wind projects such as Flyers Creek.

John asked about the cost of the RET scheme to households, and Jonathan replied that the Queensland Competition Authority has recently ruled that the cost of the large scale RET scheme that retailers could pass through to customers was less than \$2/month. As the RET is Commonwealth legislation, this ruling would be accurate for NSW as well. One of the observers pointed out that beside this cost, the renewable energy target served to lower wholesale electricity prices which mostly, if not entirely, offsets this cost.

Jonathan also discussed the recent letter agreement between Minister Hunt and the three crossbench Senators with respect to the interim recommendations from the current Senate Committee inquiry into wind farms. The key parts of the agreement were appointment of a Wind Farm Commissioner and appointment of an independent scientific committee. Jonathan agreed to circulate the letter to the Committee.

The topic of the draft NSW wind farm guidelines was raised and Jonathan indicated he understood the NSW Government was progressing this issue again, and was seeking to have some sort of resolution by the end of the year.

### **Flyers Creek Status**

Jonathan discussed how they believed they had satisfied nearly all of the Deferred Commencement Conditions, the deadline of which was extended until September 2015. Dynamic grid connection studies were continuing as was work required by other planning consent conditions.

Jonathan also discussed the three major requirements to commencing construction of wind farm projects---satisfying all planning conditions, negotiating a grid connection agreement (after technical studies have been completed) and obtaining financing for the project which was facilitated by a long term offtake agreement from a retailer. John asked about the rumor that the landowner agreements had expired, and Jonathan responded that the 30 year lease agreements were in place with the landowners; they had not expired and remained registered on the titles.

There was some discussion about management of construction traffic which was a concern for the community. Jonathan responded that a comprehensive traffic management plan would be developed in consultation with the Blayney Shire Council, NSW Roads Department and other stakeholders once a turbine supplier and construction company had been selected. Rachael suggested that reminding the community of the current traffic routes being proposed and that any upgrades required would be at Infigen's expense could be addressed in a future community newsletter, although there was some discussion this might be a bit premature. A section on Frequently Asked Questions was also suggested to be included in the newsletter.

### **Community Consultation Plan and Processes**

The Chair stated a draft of the Community Consultation Plan written by Jonathan and Rachael was circulated to the Committee for comment including some comments from the Chair. It was decided that Jonathan would circulate an updated draft for the Committee's consideration prior to the next meeting.

Jonathan agreed that it was appropriate timing for another community newsletter and he would work to try to get this out prior to the next meeting. He also stated that despite having his contact details at the bottom of every newsletter, he had yet to receive any feedback from the previous newsletters. It was suggested that copies of the newsletter also be sent to the Millthorpe, Carcoar, and Blayney post offices, the Mandurama news agent as well as local contractors who might be interested in working on the project.

There was a discussion about other methods to inform the community about the status of the project including use of local media. Jonathan stated he tried to interest the local papers and ABC radio on running a story about the RET legislation, but there were no takers. He stated there appeared to be less interest from the media after a planning decision had been reached.

### **Voluntary Planning Agreement with Blayney Shire**

Mark stated that the final draft of the VPA, incorporating some minor changes suggested by Infigen, comes off public exhibition on Friday. No submissions had been received to date. Assuming no significant issues arise from the submissions, the Council will vote on accepting the VPA at a council meeting in the near future.

### **Other Business**

The Chair announced that the NSW Government had appointed Ian Rogan to be the new Chair of the Flyers Creek CCC and he would take over after this meeting. Ian was an observer for this meeting of the CCC. The Chair stated Ian had extensive experience in a number of areas including being a past General Manager of Narromine Shire Council. Jonathan thanked the Chair for his ideas, initiatives and excellent work chairing the CCC on behalf of the rest of the Committee.

### **Future meetings**

- The next CCC meetings were scheduled for 6pm on September 7<sup>th</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup>. Mark indicated he would make a reservation for the Community Hall for these evenings.

The CCC Meeting was closed by the Chair at about 7:40pm

### Agreed Decisions / Resolutions from Previous Meetings

Agenda Item	Proposed Resolution(s)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Committee member to nominate an alternate should they not be able to attend a CCC meeting</li> <li><b>In progress</b></li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCC discuss the community enhancement fund at the next meeting</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedule CCC meetings for 2015 at next CCC meeting</li> <li><b>Completed</b></li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actions by Chair and Jonathan to seek new members of CCC</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jonathan and Rachael to draft communications/consultation plan</li> <li><b>Final draft to be circulated</b></li> </ul>

### Key Issues

#	Proposed Resolution(s)	Who	When	Status
1	Infigen to continue writing and distributing newsletters to the community	Jonathan		Newsletter to be circulated before the next meeting
2	CCC discuss and formulate a community consultation plan should the FCWF project be approved	All		Draft written and being reviewed
3	Jonathan to contact Blayney Shire CEO with respect to participation of a Shire Councilor on the CCC	Jonathan		Email sent 4 July 2014
4	Jonathan to contact Errowanbang School in relation to participating on the CCC	Jonathan		School is now closed; issue is therefore closed out
5	Blayney Shire to contact other Councils with regards to 'lessons learned' from their wind farm construction and operation	Mark		Ongoing
6	Decision making process for VPA funds needs further discussion with regards to local expenditure of funds	All	After VPA executed and project proceeds toward construction	