

FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes 22 February 2016

Date and Venue	February 22nd, 2016 Blayney Shire Council Conference Centre from 6pm
Attendees:	Mr. Mark Dicker (Blayney Shire Council) Mr. Kim Masters (Host landowner) Ms. Rachael Young (Wind farm neighbour) Mr. John Plantinga Mr. Jonathan Upson (Proponent–Infigen Energy) Mr. Ian Rogan (Chair)

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order just after 6:00pm by the Chair.
Grant Christopherson, NSW OEH, attended the meeting as an observer

Two other items of business were suggested for the agenda---the new draft CCC guidelines and a progress report on the potential Council amalgamation.

Following up on an action item from the previous CCC meeting, the Chair asked Joe Dalzell if he was interested in participating on the Flyers Creek CCC and he indicated he was interested. Kim moved that Joe become a member of the Flyers Creek CCC and this was seconded by John, and the motion was approved.

Apologies

The Chair stated he would also approach another potential CCC member and that was approved.

Joe Dalzell

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting held in November, 2015 were approved, and Jonathan stated they would be uploaded onto Infigen's Flyers Creek webpage.

Business Arising

The Chair stated he would also approach another potential CCC member, Basil Baldwin, to be on the CCC. It was suggested that the CCC encourage more female members of the Committee and there was agreement that this would be desirable, and that CCC members would think about potential female members of the community who might be interested.

Grant reported that he will find out if the results of a survey undertaken by NSW OEH asking how voluntary community enhancement funds are being administered is publicly available.

Renewable Energy Target and other Government Issues

Jonathan described how there had been little interest from the three large retailers to build, or write PPAs to enable, new renewable energy projects. The retailers are the 'liable parties' under the legislation, and if they did not make significant progress this year, one, or more, of the retailers would be subject to paying a shortfall penalty. Unfortunately, in an unregulated market, like NSW, the retailers could try to pass the cost of the penalty onto their customers. If the retailers continued in this way, it would make it more difficult for Flyers Creek, and other RE projects, to be constructed.

The NSW Government has put out a tender for about 40MW of new renewable energy to power the new NW Rail Link trains. The size of the tender favors solar projects, as there are no wind farm projects of this size in NSW.

Jonathan discussed how the Wind Farm Commissioner was progressing in his new role.

Jonathan mentioned the NSW Government's consultation process with regards to Community Consultation Committees for State Significant Development (SSD) projects (which includes wind farms) brought up earlier. Jonathan stated he had skimmed the draft guidelines and found them to be quite reasonable. He welcomed the fact the CCC guidelines would apply to all SSD projects (and not just wind farms).

It was suggested that Jonathan circulate the draft CCC guidelines and a copy of the most recent community newsletter.

Jonathan reported that there has been very little apparent progress within the NSW Government in trying to resolve the draft wind farm guidelines which were released over 4 years ago.

Flyers Creek Status

Jonathan reported that the grid connection studies, which were completed late last year, had been sent to Essential Energy, the owner of the distribution electricity network including the line the Flyers Creek intends to connect, for their comments. Unfortunately, no feedback has been received to date from Essential Energy.

Repeat background noise testing has been completed at the two locations specified in the NSW Government's approval of Modification #2.

Jonathan stated that Infigen has decided to delay the submission of Modification 3 to consider adding other modifications with the goal of submitting one 'big' modification rather than 2 or 3 modifications which would take longer to resolve. Jonathan agreed that a community newsletter, primarily aimed at explaining Modification #3, would be distributed prior to the Modification being submitted to the Department of Planning. Jonathan was asked what micro-siting was allowed with regards to changing the location of the wind turbines. Jonathan explained that turbines could be moved up to 100 metres without a planning modification. However, even within this 100 metres, turbines could not be moved closer to neighbouring residences within 2km of the turbine.

Community Consultation Plan and Processes

It was suggested that the next Community Newsletter include an article on the CCC, listing its members, and encouraging others to nominate.

Other Business

Mark Dicker reported on the potential amalgamation process of Blayney, Cabonne and Orange City Councils. Public hearings have been undertaken in all three Shires, and mixed emotions have been expressed. There is a concern that issues in regional areas may get less attention. Mark reported that an answer to the issue may occur in the June/July timeframe.

Future meetings

- The next CCC meeting was scheduled for 6pm on June 27th, 2016.

The CCC Meeting was closed by the Chair at about 7:15pm.

Agreed Decisions / Resolutions from Previous Meetings

Agenda Item	Proposed Resolution(s)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Committee member to nominate an alternate should they not be able to attend a CCC meeting In progress
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair to ask Basil Baldwin if he was interested in joining the Flyers Creek CCC Committee members consider if they knew any female members of the community who would be interested in joining the CCC
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jonathan to send draft CCC guidelines and most recent community newsletter to the Committee
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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 Modification 3 is submitted
2	CCC discuss and formulate a community consultation plan should the FCWF project be approved	All		Plan approved.
3	Blayney Shire to contact other Councils with regards to 'lessons learned' from their wind farm construction and operation	Mark		
4	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	On hold
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