

FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
DRAFT Meeting Minutes 25 November 2015

Date and Venue	November 25th, 2015 Blayney Shire Council Office from 6pm
Attendees:	Mr. Mark Dicker (Blayney Shire Council) Mr. Kim Masters (Host landowner) Ms. Rachael Young (Wind farm neighbour) 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

Apologies

Eddie Wilson
John Plantinga

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

Business Arising

The Chair stated he had spoken with Eddie Wilson, and he will not be able to continue his role on the committee. The Chair asked if the committee knew of potential other interested individuals.

Kim stated that Basil Baldwin may be interested. The Chair indicated that Joe Dalzel may be interested, and the Committee agreed the Chair should approach both Basil and Joe to assess their interest.

Rachel suggested we could approach the Carcoar Progress Association as Carcoar is so close to the project; Mark said he would obtain the appropriate contact details. The Chair mentioned there is also a Millthorpe Progress Association, and that he was the Secretary.

Renewable Energy Target and other Government Issues

Jonathan discussed how the change in Prime Minister would likely benefit the renewable energy industry due to his well-known views on the importance of taking action on climate change. Jonathan stated that the wind farm commissioner and independent scientific expert committee have been appointed. He passed around the Terms of Reference for both the commissioner and the committee.

Jonathan reported that there has not been any apparent progress within the NSW Government in trying to resolve the draft wind farm guidelines which were released almost 4 years ago.

Flyers Creek Status

Jonathan reported that the grid connection studies have been completed and were being sent to Essential Energy, the owner of the distribution electricity network including the line the Flyers Creek intends to connect, for their comments. These are very complicated and expensive studies which model the impact of the wind farm on the electricity network and vice-versa. As expected, the addition of the wind farm is a benefit to the stability of the electricity network as having generation located close to a large load, such as the Cadia Mine, is a more stable situation than having the power come from 150km away. In addition,

modern wind turbines have sophisticated digital controls built into them to provide some level of grid support with regards to stabilizing voltage, frequency, current etc. Grant mentioned that a renewable energy 'hub' is being investigated in the New England area to enable more than one project to connect to the same electricity grid augmentation.

Modifications

Jonathan reported that Modification 2 was approved by the Department of Planning shortly after the last CCC meeting in September. This modification specified how the additional background noise monitoring would occur near residence 89 which is currently in progress.

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.

Other Updates

Jonathan reported that Infigen completed the sale of its US assets, and would now be focusing exclusively on its Australian development and generation plants.

Community Consultation Plan and Processes

The Chair mentioned two typos in the Community Consultation plan which will be corrected in the next revision.

Jonathan reported that a Flyers Creek community newsletter was distributed to all residences within about 3 kilometres of a wind turbine. As suggested by the CCC, copies of the newsletter were also distributed to local POs (Blayney, Carcoar, Millthorpe and Mandurama) to broaden its distribution. A copy of the newsletter was picked up by the Chair at the Carcoar Post Office. It was suggested that the newsletter list the members of the CCC and state that the Committee is looking for additional members. Mark suggested that a community newsletter should be distributed before submission of major modification proposals to better inform the community about the proposed changes. Jonathan agreed to do this.

Grant reported that the NSW OEH send CCCs of operating wind farms a survey asking how the voluntary community enhancement funds are being administered. Grant offered to send the Chair a copy of the results, who will distribute them.

Voluntary Planning Agreement with Blayney Shire

Mark reported that the VPA with Infigen Energy has been executed. The administration of the funds from the VPA was discussed again, and this should be revisited by the CCC when the project is nearer to starting construction.

Kim raised the issue of the potential amalgamation of Blayney Shire Council and how this could affect whether the VPA funds are spent locally.

It was mentioned that Yass Valley Council are considering a fixed \$/wind turbine installed figure for their VPAs.

Other Business

Jonathan suggested that the CCC discuss the ramifications of the potential amalgamation of Blayney Shire. Mark reported that Blayney Shire Council could consider a merger with both Orange City and Cabonne Shire. Blayney Shire was unlikely to consider other amalgamation options. It was mentioned that Cadia is currently about 45% of Blayney Shire's rate base; therefore, there would be significant pressure on even an amalgamated Council to spend money in the district.

Future meetings

- The next CCC meeting was scheduled for 6pm on February 22nd, 2016.

The CCC Meeting was closed by the Chair at about 7:35pm

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"> Actions by Chair and Jonathan to seek new members of CCC
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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 the next meeting
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	Ongoing
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