

FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
Final Meeting Minutes For Meeting 2 18 March, 2013

Date:	18 March 2013 Blayney Community Centre
Attendees:	Mr. Grahame Collier (Chair) Mr. Leon Rodwell (Blayney Shire Council) Mr. Kim Masters (Host landowner) Mr. Ian White (Neighbour) Left the meeting at 7:00pm Mr. Simon Wright (Orange resident) Mr. Jonathan Upson (Proponent–Infigen Energy)
Apologies:	Mr. Kevin Scott (Neighbour) Dr. Colleen Watts (Neighbour)

Welcome & Introductions

The Chair, Grahame Collier, called the meeting to order shortly after 6pm. The two apologies were noted and the committee members and observers welcomed to the meeting. The agenda circulated prior to the meeting was confirmed. The minutes from the previous meeting in December 2012, circulated prior to the meeting, were confirmed.

Business Arising

The Chair reminded committee members to nominate an alternate to attend meetings to which they are unable to attend. A sheet was passed around the table for committee members to nominate their alternates. The proponent was asked to provide an overview of their roles and responsibilities in relation to the CCC. Jonathan discussed the following items as their principal roles within the CCC:

- Provide updates with regard to the status and progress of the project
- Assuming approval, once the wind farm project enters the construction or operation phase, there would be a lot more information and community consultation, including
 - Tours of the wind farm site for the Committee
 - Discussion of Construction and Environment management plans
 - Review of any audits, such as noise compliance audits
 - Review of the complaint register, etc.
- Organise logistics for the CCC meetings
 - Book & pay for meeting rooms
 - Take and draft meeting minutes
 - Pay a sitting fee and travel expenses for the Chair
- Last, but not least, listen to the advice of the CCC on how to improve communication and information flow to & from the local community

The Chair stated that he had no updates with regards to the status of the draft NSW wind farm guidelines. Jonathan agreed that the release date for the finalised guidelines remained unclear some fifteen months after the release of the draft guidelines.

Current Status of the Proposal

Jonathan reported that there had not been a lot of progress since the last CCC meeting. The proponent has submitted their third response to submissions earlier this month. Each time Infigen submits a revised response to submissions, the Department of Planning seeks further clarifications and raises additional issues to address. The current draft of the response to submissions is over 200 pages long.

Jonathan outlined the process going forward, as he understood it, once the Response to Submissions are accepted. The Department of Planning will prepare a planning assessment report for the project and submit it to the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC). The PAC will meet with the Department of Planning, and the proponent, and will conduct a local hearing. After this process is complete, the PAC will make a decision to approve or reject the planning application. It was noted that formally, the Director General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure has delegated his powers of approval to the PAC.

Consultation Process and Future Opportunities

The Chair asked the proponent to provide an overview of consultation provided to date. Jonathan provided this overview which was similar to that provided in the previous CCC meeting. The Chair asked for comments from the Committee about past and future desired consultation. Simon stated that for large infrastructure projects like this, one cannot consult too much. Leon volunteered to have a page on the Blayney Shire Council website provide updates on the status and progress of the project. One of the observers, who works for the Blayney Chronicle, suggested that Infigen could write a regular column for the paper.

Some discussion followed about how the need for information about the project and level of community consultation would need to rise substantially should the project be granted planning approval. There was general agreement on this. The Chair suggested that we could discuss a post-planning-decision community consultation plan at the next meeting. What steps should be taken after the planning decision?

Jonathan raised the matter of a previous list/map?, provided by Council to Infigen, of the names and contact details of landowners within the immediate site or adjacent or to the site – Jonathan was to provide to Leon whatever info provided previously and Leon would check with Council's Public Officer if any updated info could be provided'

Community Enhancement Fund

As a start to the discussion, Jonathan listed the four items of annual funding requested by Blayney Shire in their submission to the State Government which were:

- \$20,000 Sponsorship of Community & Environmental programs
- \$80,000 Community Grants and Facility Funding
- \$20,000 Community Education Grant
- \$90,000 Economic Development Officer

Jonathan indicated that Infigen Energy was amenable to the first three items, but that there would likely be further discussions with the Shire in this regard. Jonathan asked if the CCC should be involved in deciding which groups and projects should receive the above funding. Leon pointed out that the proponent is free to provide additional community funds beyond the above items. Kim mentioned that Cadia formally requests submissions and a panel decides which requests are granted.

Jonathan stated Infigen Energy takes their responsibility of being a good corporate citizen very seriously, because after all, it is a 20+ year partnership with the community. He described some of the community grants provided in conjunction with their Capital Wind Farm including purchasing a new fire truck for the RFS and being the primary sponsor of the major arts festival in the district.

There was more discussion about whether the Flyers Creek Wind Farm CCC was the appropriate group to decide on the allocation of community funds. Then, Leon moved that the CCC note the discussion that has occurred and revisit the issue after a planning decision is obtained for the development application. The motion was passed unanimously.

Other Business

Jonathan tabled the Executive Summary from a recent study by the South Australian EPA measuring infrasound, or very low frequency sound, at 11 different locations including two houses near wind turbines. He went over the conclusion from the study which was that,

“This study concludes that the level of infrasound at houses near the wind turbines assessed is no greater than that experienced in other urban and rural environments, and that the contribution of wind turbines to the measured infrasound levels is insignificant in comparison with the background level of infrasound in the environment.”

An observer mentioned that there was a rebuttal to the SA EPA study available. Jonathan thanked the observer for previously sending him the rebuttal by Stephen Cooper. He then went on to table a letter from the Australian Acoustics Society which was written to The Australian newspaper as a reply to Cooper’s rebuttal.

The Chair commented that he welcomed new credible research being presented by Committee members, but he will limit the number of papers tabled if they become excessive, given the major task of the CCC is to focus on consultation, the community benefits scheme etc.

Next Meetings

The committee agreed to schedule the meetings the rest of the year on June 17th¹, September 2nd and November 25th at the same location (Blayney Community Centre). It was noted that these dates might need to be amended pending any approval announcement.

Conclusion

The Chair thanked committee members for their involvement in the meeting and observers for their attendance and the meeting was concluded at 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 meetingIn progress
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CCC discuss the community enhancement fund at the next meeting Discussion occurred at March Meeting; motion to revisit the topic after a planning decision passed
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The proponent clarifies their role and responsibilities in relation to the CCC (Appendix

¹ This meeting has been subsequently changed to a week later---June 24th.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> C of the NDWFG). Completed
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule CCC meetings for the rest of CY 2013 at next CCC meeting Completed
5	

Key Issues

#	Proposed Resolution(s)	Who	When	Status
1	Infigen to consider a regular newsletter to the neighbours of the project	Jonathan	Before Next CCC meeting	Infigen to issue a newsletter in April
2	CCC discuss and formulate a community consultation plan should the FCWF project be approved	CCC	Next Meeting	