

Minutes: Minutes of the Proposal Update for the Hills of Gold Windfarm Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Thursday, 13 October 2022

Meeting Venue: Held via Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Kay Burns (Tamworth Regional Council); Ian Worley; Jamie Chivers (Wind Energy Partners); Jacqueline Niemand (Engie); John Krsulja (Hills of Gold Preservation Inc Representative); Megan Trousdale (Nundle Business Tourism & Marketing Group Representative); Meredith Anderson (Engie)

Apologies: Bruce Moore; Margaret Schofield; Michael Chamberlain; Nathan Skelly (Liverpool Plains Shire Council); Paul Smith (Upper Hunter Shire Council); Peter Schofield

Independent Chair: David Ross

Secretary: Debbie Corlet

Agenda Items	Who to Present
1. Introductions and Apologies	David Ross
2. Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests	David Ross and All
3. Previous Minutes	David Ross
4. Business Arising from Previous Meeting	David Ross
5. Correspondence	All
6. Update on Proposal a. Questions and Answers	WEP / Engie
7. Close	All

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
1.	Introduction and Apologies Meeting commenced at 6:40 pm. David welcomed everyone to the meeting and described the apologies for the night. DR was mindful that he had previously thanked the CCC members for their involvement and had advised that DPE had informed him that the CCC would be put on hold. However, there are some notable amendments that should be discussed.	
2.	Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests David advised that he was paid a fee to chair the meeting as is Debbie for taking the meeting minutes.	

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3.	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>It was agreed by all in attendance that the Previous Minutes were true and correct.</p>	
4.	<p>Business Arising from Previous Meeting</p> <p>With reference to providing the location of the access roads to Crawney Road, Jamie mentioned they were in the original amendment submitted to DPE; he shared his screen and described these roads to members.</p> <p>The traffic volumes on Crawney Road for the oversized and over mass vehicles have been updated in the Traffic Management Assessment to be submitted to DPE as part of the new amendment.</p> <p>With respect to the heritage site near the proposed switching station, an isolated artefact was found 45 metres away from the power line when the surveys were undertaken. It was determined to be of low heritage significance and there has been commitment made since it has been found to record it.</p> <p>On the Hills of Gold website, there is a flyover of the proposed infrastructure and visual impact of the roads. At the 1.07-minute mark, Jamie noted that viewers will see some visuals. It can be watched, paused and enlarged.</p> <p>Meredith discussed how they are working with Simply Energy to work out the electricity offer. It would be offered to residents and businesses within a 20 km radius of the turbines. We'll guarantee we will be 10% better than any Simply Energy public offer in the market. You'll have to sign up with the Simply Energy company to receive this of course.</p> <p>David had an action on him to look into a member's pecuniary interest. He observed that he hasn't done anything about this action due to the committee being shut down by the Department.</p> <p>Community member observed that this issue should still be considered and provided an example of how the person in question could potentially receive a payment from the proponent. Looking at the timeline going forward, what's the guarantee we won't be waiting for a response many months into next year? What is the status of this CCC going forward. If the CCC continues, this pecuniary interest needs to be addressed.</p> <p>In response, David was agreeable with this action being left open. He'll discuss the future of CCC with the Department.</p> <p>Another community member reminded the committee that they asked at the last CCC if the DPIE and IPC read the CCC minutes.</p> <p>David observed that he believes that there are about 150 CCCs in place at the moment. Consequently, it was his personal opinion that not all minutes are read by DPE staff. He expected that the IPC commissioners would be interested in the minutes once a hearing takes place.</p>	<p>Action 1 – David to discuss the future of CCC with DPE</p>

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	<p>A discussion then took place about where minutes are uploaded to. It was confirmed that minutes are uploaded to the Engie website. A member expressed concern that minutes were not being uploaded quickly enough. David reminded the committee that minutes are to be uploaded onto the proponent's website shortly after minutes are finalised.</p> <p>Community member noted that, reading through the April minutes and then considering what is to be discussed and presented tonight, that so many points are the opposite to what was recorded in previous minutes. For example, statements on oversized vehicles on Crawney Road, and use of improved farm tracks east of Crawney Rd (south of the Dag and immediately south of Teamsters Rest).</p> <p>Request was made for Engie to add in the roads mentioned into the amendment report.</p>	<p>Action 2 – Jamie to add in the roads mentioned to the amendment report</p>
5.	<p>Correspondence – No correspondence received since last CCC.</p>	
6.	<p>Update on Proposal (see attached presentation)</p> <p>Meredith discussed the Tamworth Regional Council objection and how Engie had a long discussion with them. Engie are reworking our main access to site; now looking at Crawney Road with the transport route through Nundle. We are looking at a substation and assessing that in further detail. Dealing with contractors and turbine suppliers and doing some further detailed design and making sure that contractors are comfortable to build this project. This will be included in the Project Amendment, to be lodged for the end of this month.</p> <p>Community member asked to table the Tamworth Regional Council rejection letter.</p> <p>Jamie then went on to note that a key amendment to the proposal is the change from Devil's Elbow to Crawney Road which is fundamental to address issues raised by Tamworth Regional Council's in their letter to the Proponent.</p> <p>Community member – At last meeting, it was discussed initially there were six route options. What are they and where? Jamie – They were all presented in the EIS, but I don't think there were six. I'd have to double check.</p> <p>Community member mentioned that an archaeologist recently noted that she was assessing the project and the heritage listed buildings for the proposal. Is she commissioned by Engie or by the Council. Jamie wasn't aware if the archaeologist was one engaged by Engie. Kay happy to clarify.</p> <p>Community member asked about the house on the corner, where you turn right onto Jenkins Street. Does that need to be demolished to allow the blades to sweep over there? Jamie – Yes, that property would need to be demolished. We have spoken to the landowners.</p>	<p>Action 3 – David to attach TRC letter with minutes for website upload</p> <p>Action 4 – Jamie to report back on how many route options were presented</p> <p>Action 5 – Kay to find out if Council had a female archaeologist look for heritage list buildings</p>

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	<p>The member then asked what the blue squares with a blue line through them on the proposed tracks mean. Jamie – Because we’ll have construction going on and people around, these markers help identify, for example, where we could locate batching plants for concrete. All of these changes are being assessed for biodiversity, visual, swept path and traffic impact, heritage, noise and vibration, bushfire, aviation, and further engagement etc.</p> <p>A discussion was held about what consultation there had been with people on Crawney Road. These people have been emailed and, Jamie believes, been offered consultation.</p> <p>Another community member asked about the Crown Land and whether Engie are asking Nungaroo to drop a lands claim. Jamie – We’re seeking to reach an agreement with Nungaroo as part of that land. Meredith – Can you let me know where that was proposed. Will follow up.</p> <p>A separate community member – Asked about the 2.1 km that you are going to seal on Crawney Road and does that take you all the way up past Option 3. Why are you only going to seal 2.1 kms of that road? Jamie – I’d have to double check how far 2.1 km is. What do you think is appropriate.</p> <p>Community member mentioned that it should be from the end of the dirt road past Back Creek Road along Crawney Road past the Dag. I would assume you would seal that part of the road up to Option 3 now. Jamie – Would propose to seal the road after construction to where the construction area is located.</p> <p>Community Member – These changes are significant, and I request a community meeting take place. David – I’ll leave with Jamie and Engie to consider.</p> <p>Jamie – It is clarified in our documentation. We are going to include some sort of sealant on Crawney Road as we mindful of the dust. This is considered in our commitments made as well.</p> <p>A discussion was held about the proposed use and expansion of a Forestry quarry.</p> <p>David asked Jamie to respond to community member’s earlier comment about concerns that what was proposed in the April minutes are different to what is being said tonight. Jamie – Fair comment that things have changed. The challenge is that things change as we respond to feedback. We are reacting to the feedback and then need to assess and address the issues. We had to make a change to address Devil’s Elbow etc that wasn’t going to be accepted by Council. The project understands the committee wants certainty which we try to provide, but sometimes we have to make changes as required.</p>	<p>Action 6 – Meredith to report back about the Nungaroo claim details</p> <p>Action 7 – Jamie to check on the 2.1 kms of road being sealed on Crawney Road and exact locations</p> <p>Action 8 – Jamie to provide a map of location of quarry and transport route from quarry to proposed project area.</p>

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	<p>Jacque – The information shopfront opened in late August and is open on Fridays. The team will be up there again in November, with dates to be advertised. We’ll assess what the need is for us to be there again later in November.</p> <p>Community member asked Jamie about the Devil’s Elbow impact route and would that mean that Crawney Road has a higher impact, both socially and environmentally. Jamie – It requires more footprint. More access tracks. There is a change in biodiversity impacts. It all depends on where you live. Previously some residents were not going to be impacted and now some are - but some will have reduced impact.</p> <p>Community member– Coming along Crawney Road, if used it may reduce the impact on some residents but now you have to go right through the village of Nundle and along Crawney Road. A member had a disagreement on perspective about comments of less traffic for some, as they felt the new access route is going to have an impact on more people. Jamie – I didn’t say that. I said it was appreciated that there was going to be a larger impact for some and less for some.</p> <p>A discussion then took place about the information hub at the Nundle bowling club in June. A member found the meeting unsatisfactory, with some questions answered by the landowner rather than Engie staff. They did not believe that the landholder’s behaviour or actions (asking people to leave) were appropriate. Jacqui noted there were comments thrown around on all sides of the room. A number of attendees became agitated in the room and it was not how we had planned the event to go.</p>	
8.	Next Meeting – DR – Thanked everyone for their time.	

Meeting closed 7.45 pm.

Appendix 1: Actions

Page No	Action No	Description	Date Raised
		David to discuss pecuniary interests with committee memberS	April 2022
2	1	David to discuss the future of CCC with DPE	13 October 2022
3	2	Jamie to add in the roads mentioned to the amendment report	13 October 2022
3	3	David to attach TRC letter with minutes for website upload	13 October 2022
3	4	Jamie to report back on how many route options were presented	13 October 2022
3	5	Kay to find out if Council had a female archaeologist look for heritage list buildings	13 October 2022
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