

Collector Wind Farm - Community Consultative Committee - Meeting Notes

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| Date | 21 November 2018 | Time | 6.45pm – 8.10pm – Bushranger Hotel, Collector |
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Attendees

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| Margaret Harvie (MH) Chair | Martha Truelove (MT) | Richard Stacy (RS) |
| Gary Poile (GP) | Neil Weston (NW) Ratch Australia | NOTE TAKER: Kaye Paterson |

Apologies: Brian Mor (BM), Anthony Walsh (AW), John Hoskin (JH), James McKay (JM)

| Item number | Discussion | Actions |
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| 1 | <p>Welcome and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting started at 6.45 - delayed in the hope that more would arrive. Margaret Harvie reminded the meeting that it takes resources for Ratch to coordinate and attend these meetings. Early notification would be appreciated if CCC members are not able to attend the meeting to have the option make a decision to reschedule the CCC meeting. | |
| 2 | <p>Standing declaration of pecuniary or other interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GP will be a wind turbine host MT indicated that she will receive financial benefit when the windfarm is constructed | |
| 3 | <p>Report from last meeting ACTION ITEMS</p> <p><i>NW to review the public facing information (including the website) from the perspective of people new to the area to be sure that they would understand the location of turbines in relation to their property.</i></p> <p><i>In response</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new dedicated Collector Wind Farm Website has been created with updated information. This will be the prime source of project information through final development and construction. Three maps are now on the site and these are able to be downloaded. One map is to show where the Wind Turbines are located and another is of Collector and the distance to the Wind Turbines. The nearest Wind Turbine is located approximately 3.6km from the Collector village. These maps will be available for discussion at the public sessions on Friday, Saturday & Sunday - 23rd – 25th November 2018 | <p>ACTION: MH to correspond back to Charlie Prell thanking him for his work and his interest. Welcoming his input to other forums in Collector but indicating that the CCC did not see any particular benefit from having him attend a CCC meeting at this time.</p> |

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| | <p><i>Margaret Harvie (MH) to ask Charlie Prell to outline what he might be able to offer the meeting and the request to attend will be reconsidered by CCC members based on his response.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlie Prell - Wind Farm Alliance. Email response from Charlie dated 14/11/2018 was tabled. • Martha Truelove (MT) felt that Charlie Prell or any other visitor needs to be able to offer something specific to our meetings. • Gary Poile (GP) suggested that he has access to other Collector meetings and forums in the community where he may add benefits and share his knowledge. • Neil Weston (NW) considers that Charlie Prell has a lot of information & experience to offer. | |
| 4 | <p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlie Prell – as per the above • From Council indicating that Mayor John Stafford is to be the appointed person and Councillor John Searle the alternate. <p>Members noted that it is disappointing that neither Council nominee was in attendance. The integrity of the CCC as established by the Department of Planning and Environment relies in part of the participation of Council representatives.</p> <p>ACTION: <i>MH to write to Upper Lachlan Council – Mayor John Stafford to advise that the CCC requires a council representative to be in attendance at meetings and notify of the date of the next meeting.</i></p> | <p>ACTION: MH to write to Upper Lachlan Council</p> |
| 5 | <p>Some members of the CCC were keen to understand the status of the project and so it was decided to come back to the round the table ‘what we are hearing’ and go straight to the Report from Ratch.</p> <p>For most of the detail of this report see the attached written document/ report provided after the meeting by Neil Weston. This was at request of a member for a level of detail and because of the low attendance at the meeting.</p> <p>Additional items from the meeting/ discussion to note are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project manager has been appointed by the EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contractor and this person will quite likely attend future CCC meetings (by invitation). • The Environmental Representative (whose task is to assess compliance with DPE conditions of approval) has been selected and nominated to the Department (this appointment is yet to be confirmed). • The modification to Lerida Road has involved discussion with Council and with DPE around clearing of vegetation. <p>NW provided the meeting with a list of the conditions of approval that are to be met by the project before commencement.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The website will continue to be updated | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further information will continue to be distributed including via the 'Collector Windfarm Newsletter' format, the most recent of which was sent to residents a few weeks ago. ▪ NW will be in Collector until this coming Sunday and available to speak to any residents as required – through formal sessions or individual appointments. ▪ A stakeholder engagement officer has been appointed by Ratch – this person has oversight of stakeholder engagement across all Ratch sites nationally with the Collector site being a key focus of his time. He will likely attend the next meeting. | |
| 7 | <p>CCC Update – round the table with anything that we are hearing in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Richard Stacy (RS) – indicated that the people he associates with do not want the Wind Turbines to be built in Collector. ▪ GP - has received one email regarding funding from the Upper Lachlan Trust. GP also mentioned there might be value in the project forging relationship with the Community Association /Sustainable Village Program with objectives of this group being the creation of a Carbon Neutral Collector with an interest in solar/ renewable energy etc. Next meeting for this group is 17/12/2018. ▪ MT – believes that the people have a genuine interest in the Wind Farm and she has not heard negative comments. | |
| 8 | <p>Consideration of CCC draft Terms of Reference:</p> <p>- <i>RS left the meeting @8.00pm</i></p> <p>The reading of the Draft TOR triggered questions for GP around the representativeness of the CCC.</p> <p>GP - Commented the CCC does not represent the Collector Community in terms of gender (as has been mentioned previously) but also in terms of the age demographic – perhaps more younger people are needed.</p> <p>MT – considered that there is need for more young people and rural people</p> <p>Key Questions we might explore at the next meeting might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How can we better communicate with the community either through this CCC or by other means. ▪ Do we need to review the membership of the CCC and look to refresh this? <p>It was decided to delay the discussion about the CCC draft Terms of Reference until the next meeting when more are likely to be present and /or this discussion should be in the context of the representativeness of the group.</p> | <p>ACTION: MH to put on the agenda for the next week a session to explore our level of representation and how we can/ should improve this.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Thank you to those attending. Next Meeting – 27 February 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting closed at 8.10pm | |

Delivery update - Neil Weston, Ratch – 23 November 2018

EPC (construction) contract status

The EPC contract for construction / delivery of the Collector wind farm was signed last week, between Ratch (as proponent) and Vestas (as EPC contractor). Following execution, an 8-figure \$\$ initial payment was made to Vestas as the first element of the contract payment schedule. Under the terms of the agreement, we are targeting construction commencement in early January 2019, timing dependent on compliance with all relevant approval conditions.

Elements of this EPC contract have been provided to the Department of Planning & Environment (DoPE) to demonstrate compliance with condition A5 (ie a wind turbine order has been placed) thereby obviating the lapsing date of the planning approval (2 Dec 2018). Ratch is awaiting confirmation from DoPE that this contract meets the requirements of that lapsing condition (with feedback expected at the end of this week).

Financing status

As has previously been discussed, the costs of delivery of the wind farm, essentially as defined in the EPC contract, will be covered by project financing – ie limited recourse debt with the revenues from the output paying off debt interest and returns on equity. The equity will come from a combination of Ratch Australia and its parent company (Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Company, Thailand); the debt will come from the Clean Energy Financing Company (CEFC).

Essentially the debt has been approved by CEFC, but Financial Close (ie execution of the debt contracts between Ratch and CEFC) has not yet been achieved as there are a number of outstanding project conditions that need to be finalised in order for that to happen. These include issues such as:

- execution of connection agreements with TransGrid (owner of the transmission line for connection) and AEMO (operator / manager of the National Electricity Market (NEM) which are dependent on completion of technical analysis of the connection (targeted in Dec 2018);
- completion of the planning modification application for Lerida Road South (see below)
- completion of a range of outstanding legal agreements between all the various parties / contractual counterparties involved in the project
- etc

Target for FC is next month (Dec), but it is dependent on completion of these issues (mostly involving 3rd parties).

Construction – primary contractors & roles:

Vestas Australia is the overall EPC contractor with responsibility for delivery of the overall project in accordance with contract schedule and budget. Vestas is primarily a wind turbine manufacturer and hence will be sub-contracting much of the actual delivery work – eg civil and electrical engineering works, turbine delivery (haulage), turbine erection (craneage), etc. This obviously opens up the business opportunities for local contractors to get heavily involved in the project construction.

The primary sub-contracts for the project will be the civil and electrical balance-of-plant works ... we had understood that Downer Engineering would be that subcontractor, but now understand from Vestas that they will be sub-contracting directly with the civil & electrical engineers that have been working with Downer to date. Clarification of this detail will be communicated (and updated on our website) as soon as possible.

Construction – construction program

As noted above, our target is for construction commencement in early Jan 2019 (dependent on compliance with consent conditions – we believe that the contractors will be fully mobilised and ready to go by then). There is a preliminary construction timeline / program laid out on the Collector

wind farm website (<https://www.collectorwindfarm.com.au/construction/>), based on a ~21 month construction timeframe.

Expansion of this construction program into significantly more detail will be a key element of early works, as we will need to work closely with the landowners to manage ongoing farming activities with timing of specific construction activities to minimise impacts, as well as to ensure the wider community is informed of when particular works of interest will be happening (eg turbine haulage & erection).

Construction – initial construction activities

The first works will be the upgrade of Lerida Road South, as construction access to the site itself is prohibited until the road is upgraded to the satisfaction of ULSC. It is anticipated that this will take 2-3 months, followed by establishment of the construction compound and construction of the road to access the substation site (so that TransGrid can proceed with construction of the new substation)

Collector Planning Update:

Modification application status

The planning modification application for the upgrade works to LRS, plus revision of connection infrastructure design, was submitted in early October. It was placed on public exhibition for 2 weeks in November, and received 2 public submissions plus a number of agency submissions.

As part of that process, the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) advised DoPE that it was concerned about the scope of the LRS upgrade and hence the associated vegetation clearing impacts. Given that the scope of the upgrade is driven by ULSC requirements, as embodied in the current planning approval, DoPE is currently in discussions with ULSC about options to review / revise the scope of the LRS upgrade requirements. Unfortunately, until that is resolved between the two parties, DoPE is not able to progress through the subsequent planning assessment steps.

Hence we do not yet have an indication of when the assessment / determination of the modification application will be completed – this is critical path as no physical construction work can proceed on LRS until that determination is made.

Pre-construction conditions

In parallel, we continue to progress with completing / complying with all the pre-construction consent conditions (approximately 32 in total, 19 requiring submission to DoPE) such that construction can commence

Collector wind farm website

There is a dedicated Collector wind farm website (<https://www.collectorwindfarm.com.au/>) that has been upgraded over the last few months to provide access to all relevant information for the project (eg new downloadable maps, all planning documentation (downloadable as individual documents), updated project information, all newsletters, CCC minutes etc). This has replaced the CWF information that was (sort of) accessible from the Ratch Australia website, and all new updates / information / documents will be provided on this site (only).

LRS upgrade status

As noted above. I would also like to note that we have had the extent of the upgrade design surveyed and pegged (with green & red survey pegs) all along LRS, so it is clear to all the additional land required to deliver that. This has provided survey detail for sharing with landowners on the extent of additional land required to achieve the upgrade, and hence form the basis of commercial negotiation. We have also had the intersections between LRS and site roads surveyed and pegged to help make these works 'visible'.