

Collector Wind Farm - Community Consultative Committee (CCC) - Meeting Notes

Date	27 February 2019	Time	6.30pm – 8.30pm – Bushranger Hotel, Collector
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Attendees

Margaret Harvie (MH) Chairperson		
Brian Mor (BM)	John Hoskins (JH)	James McKay (JMck)
Martha Truelove (MT)	Gary Poile (GP)	Mayor Mr John Stafford
Neil Weston (NW) Ratch Australia	Ian Lawrence (IL) Ratch Australia	Rene Kuypers (RK) Project Construction Director, Ratch Australia
Matt Willis, Project Director, Civilex	Nick Loucaides, Project Manager, Civilex	NOTE TAKER: Kaye Paterson

Apologies: Tony Walsh

Item	Discussion	Actions
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Margaret Harvie (MH) welcomed participants ▪ Introductions around the room for the benefit of the Mayor (first meeting) and others attending who are representing the construction team for the project. ▪ MH reported that a resignation from Richard Stacey was delivered by hand 5 minutes prior to the meeting. The resignation stated reasons as objection to the draft Terms of Reference (ToR). Attached to the resignation was an email from another former member of the CCC who shared concern about the lack of power for community representatives on the CCC. ▪ The Draft ToR was tabled at the last meeting and deferred for discussion at this meeting. ▪ James McKay (JMck) reminded the group that the CCC is an advisory body only – not a decision-making body. We can only work within the constraints of the law. ▪ MH noted that the draft ToR are consistent with the relevant Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) guidelines. The final agreed ToR need to comply with these. 	
2	<p>Standing declaration of pecuniary or other interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gary Poile (GP) will be a wind turbine host ▪ Martha Truelove (MT) gets financial benefit due to proximity of her property to the wind farm ▪ JMck indicated that he may be offering to rent his Studio/ cottage to members of the construction team (no arrangements yet in place) 	

3	<p>Actions from the minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Email had gone back to Charlie Prell thanking him as per the last minutes ▪ MH noted that the group had been keen to have ongoing representation from Council. It was great that Mayor John Stafford was present and we hope that there will always be a Council representative at the meeting even if the Mayor is not able to attend. JS confirmed that it was important, and he will ensure attendance of a ULSC representative. ▪ The action item about current CCC membership review and potential refresh will follow on as part of further discussion on the Terms of Reference. 	
4	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No Correspondence received 	
5	<p>CCC Update – round the table with anything that we are hearing in the community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MT – has not been hearing much at all about the windfarm. ▪ Brian Mor (BM) – commented on the Collector community weariness, given the extended time for the project to progress ▪ John Hoskins (JH) – has not heard anything. ▪ GP – Only when he goes to Goulburn is he asked questions about the Collector Wind Farm, with businesses very keen to see it go ahead. He directs these questions to RATCH. ▪ JM – Commented on a conversation with one person who assured him that in the opinion of this person the Collector Wind Farm would not be going ahead. ▪ John Stafford (JS) – He is not seeing and hearing anything in particular. ▪ Neil Weston said that only 20 to 30 people came to talk to RATCH during the community meetings held over 3 days in late Nov 2018. He gleaned from this that there is limited local interest at this stage. <p>The CCC draft terms of reference was to be discussed as an item at this point but was deferred in the interest of the importance of having an update on the project progress, and the fact that visitors are present for this item.</p>	
6	<p>Ratch Update – Neil Weston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There were issues with the planning modification application for the upgrade of Lerida Road South. Following design changes agreed with Council and agreement with landowners, a revised design is in preparation. ▪ NW is progressing the completion of updated applications to Dept of Planning and ULSC for approval for required upgrade works on Lerida Road South. Targeted submission by end of next week. 	

- Based on indicated timeframes, Ratch anticipates final approvals in early April, to allow construction commencement some time in April 2019
- The upgrade of the road will be the first construction activity for the project.
- Once on site, the focus will be to construct access to the substation site, to enable Transgrid to start work on the substation as soon as possible
- Project updates will be posted to the Collector Wind Farm website when the schedule is confirmed, along with a newsletter and information sessions. Similarly, compliance information / reports etc will be uploaded prior to construction start

Presentation from Civilex - Matt Willis

- Civilex is a Melbourne-based civil construction company that specialises in large civil projects.
- This is their first construction project in NSW, to be part of planned business expansion into the State.
- The overall construction program for Collector is 20-24 months, dependent on weather etc, with project commissioning scheduled in late 2021.
- Basis for “Practical Completion (PC)” of the project was discussed, in particular the link between PC and the commencement of the Community Funds.
- NW noted that written into the agreement is clarification around the funding and Practical Completion. *Subsequent to the meeting, it is confirmed that the Funding Deeds are ‘live’ once PC has been achieved by the project.*
- Similarly there was some discussion about the relevant date for calculation of CPI increases on the Community Fund. *Subsequent to the meeting it is confirmed that the index-linked increase commences from the date of approval of the wind farm project, namely Dec 2013.*
- JM raised the issues / problems of split funding between section 355 and the trust. It is worthwhile to think about the most practical way to distribute the funds in the interest of all. Those in Collector village are concerned that Collector is a neglected part of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council.
- JS – responded that he lives beside the Taralga wind farm which has two community representatives who have say over funds received in Taralga. He feels this works well.

MH requested that the discussion be returned to the presentation from Civilex and that further discussion about the fund be held over.

- RK explained that Vestas Australian Wind Technology is the main contractor. Vestas has appointed subcontractors including Civilex for civil engineering works and RJEGlobal for electrical work.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All three contractors are based in Victoria, and have extensive experience in the successful delivery of wind farm projects. NW noted that representatives from Vestas will attend subsequent CCC meetings. ▪ Civilex have been in discussion with local contractor Divalls (led by Andy Divall who most people know) who is most likely to be engaged to complete the earth works for the project, beginning with the upgrade works for Lerida Road South and following works for the access to the Substation. ▪ A map was shown to the CCC. Lerida Road South and the location of the substation were highlighted. ▪ JH wanted to know if there is any excess soil arising from the works. Civilex explained that there is a comprehensive cut & fill plan designed to minimise potential for excess soil to minimise effort and cost of disposal off-site. ▪ NW noted that, based on the current schedule, it is expected that by the end of this year, 2019, the turbine components will start to be transported to the site. ▪ JH asked what will be the width of the site roads to be built for the project? ▪ MW indicated that these roads will be between 5 to 7 metres wide and will have drainage including V Drains and storm drains. ▪ NW indicated in relation to environmental issues Arcadis consultants have been appointed as the independent Environmental Representatives (ER) for the site. The ER role is to act as ‘eyes and ears’ for DPE to assess compliance with conditions of approval. ▪ MT asked will Lerida Road South be closed/ will there be traffic control? ▪ MW advised that full access for the general public would be maintained at all times. Measures to manage traffic will include either escort or electronic stop and go signs options at all times. There will be a Traffic Management Plan that outlines all of these measures. ▪ Civilex indicated that they are keen to meet all stakeholders. ▪ RK indicated that at the peak of construction there will be 180-200 people on site. 	
7	<p>Terms of Reference for the CCC</p> <p>The Terms of Reference had been circulated for discussion before the last meeting and this current meeting. (discussion deferred due to low number of attendees for the last meeting)</p> <p>MH asked if there were any concerns about the content of the ToR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MT – No concerns. ▪ BM – No concerns. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GP – reiterated his concern as per that expressed in the last meeting that the CCC does not represent a cross section of the current Collector demographics. ▪ JH – no concerns about the ToR ▪ JM – Believes that there is a risk in having all new people and starting again ▪ GP – believes that gender balance is important. <p>MH outlined the process that is used to select a CCC to create a mix of representatives, including those representing a range of groups, locations and interests in the community.</p> <p>8.00pm Rene, Matt and Nicholas left the meeting as the discussion about the ToR for the CCC is not directly relevant to their work.</p> <p>MH asked who members would like to see represented on the CCC?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MT – it should consist of young, old, male and female and the demographic that represents the area. ▪ BM – accepts the comments made and would be quite happy to step aside to allow for new members to be added to the forum. ▪ JH – Agrees with previous comments and stated that Richard Stacy and Tony Walsh are towns people (residents of Collector itself). It would be a shame to lose that representation. He is also happy to step aside to allow for new members to be added to the CCC. ▪ MH – Suggested that the Committee would help to guide the criteria for decision on future representation. ▪ GP – reiterated that demographic mix including a gender mix is important. Expressions of Interest could be asked for to see if there is interest or not? Gary is also happy to step down if other community members would like to join the CCC. He is also aware that he is a host of the windfarm. He understands that the process of reforming the CCC may take some time. ▪ JM – Given Richard Stacy’s resignation and Tony Walsh’s non-attendance he thinks that reforming the CCC is a great idea. He feels that people from the village should be appointed but that this could be MH’s role as the Chairperson (note that the DPE guidelines require that the CCC members are selected by the Chairperson and appointed by the DPE). ▪ JM also feels that as the project moves forward to construction this may generate more interest and interest from different people in the community. The idea of having a new CCC membership has merit. ▪ MH reiterated that the intent was not to have a spill of all members but to call for nominations with the intent of having some new and some old members. A new CCC allows for all members to be on an equal footing. ▪ JS – Believes that diversity is particularly important. There are new people in town that come with a new perspectives. 	<p>Action – MH to work with Ratch to facilitate advertising of all positions on the CCC as soon as possible.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BM - suggested that it not be put off and that expressions of interest be called for now. ▪ MT – is concerned about representation of people from the village but also that expressions of interest cover the area of extent of potential impact. ▪ MH proposed that the next meeting of this group be confirmed and go ahead in May but that prior to this meeting that an advertising process commence on the basis of the CCC being reformed. That is the next meeting is the last meeting of this CCC. ▪ All members of the Collector Community Consultative Committee that were present at the meeting agreed to the advertising and reformation of the CCC. 	
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing need to look at business opportunities for the village and surrounds. ▪ Noted that Ratch is in conversation with the Bushranger Hotel publican about opportunities during construction. 	
9	<p>Next meeting – will be 15 May 2019.</p> <p>Meeting finished at 8.30pm</p>	