
Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date 3 June 2022
Meeting time and location 10.30am at the Woolsthorpe Hall

1. Welcome

Cr Gleeson welcomed Simon Poynton to the CEC, and Katelyn Nash to the meeting.

2. Attendees

Cr Damian Gleeson, Chair
Cr Jim Doukas
Terri Barnes, Community Representative
Glenn Britnell, Community Representative
Simon Poynton, Community Representative
John Murphy, Community Representative
James Taylor - Development Manager, Enerfin
Mark Thompson – ICA Partners
Katelyn Nash – Planner, KLM Spatial (guest)
Vicki Askew-Thornton, Senior Energy Projects Liaison Officer, Moyne Shire (non-member)

3. Apologies

Nil.

4. Declarations of interest

Nil.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Terri Barnes, seconded by Glenn Britnell that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 1 April 2022 be accepted. **CARRIED**

6. Business arising from previous Minutes

- 6.1 Project staff are working on updated studies and a new turbine layout for the wind farm.
ACTION: Once this is finalised, a newsletter will be distributed at the end of July.

7. Correspondence Incoming

- 1 June: Information regarding consultation on Councils draft revised wind farm position.

8. Correspondence Outgoing

Nil.

9. Reports

9.1 Project Update (Enerfin):

- Enerfin is preparing to submit an amendment application to the Minister for Planning for the following changes to the project:
 - Increase the blade tip height of the turbines from 168 metres to 230 metres.
 - Decrease the number of turbines from 20 to 13 and alter the turbine layout.

The ground level clearance of the blades would increase from 35 metres to approximately 66 metres.

The power output of the wind farm would remain at around 73MW. The power output of individual turbines would be between 6.0MW and 6.2MW.

- The turbine model the current project is based on is no longer available.
- To prepare the application, a range of studies are being updated including:
 - Flora
Some additional native vegetation would need removing at the site entrance to accommodate the increased swept-path for over-dimensional turbine component deliveries.

Acoustic

The existing pre construction noise assessment is being reviewed by independent auditor Infotech Research in light of the proposed changes to the size and type of the turbines.

Blade and Shadow Flicker and Visual Impact

New assessments are being undertaken.

Southern Bent Wing Bat (SBWB)

It is proposed that the impact on SBWB will be reduced due to the increase in the ground level clearance of the blades from 35 metres to approximately 66 metres.

- The planning process will be:
 - o Lodgement of the amendment application with the Minister for Planning.
 - o The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) will then have 28 days to ask for further information if required.

- When further information is provided, DELWP will review it. The time required for the review would depend on the complexity of the information.
 - DELWP will then advise the applicant to advertise the application, most likely for a period of 28 days.
 - If objections are received, the Minister may decide to appoint a panel.
 - If a panel is appointed a hearing will be held. Following the hearing, the panel will provide a report to the Minister.
 - The Minister will then make a decision on the application.
- The caretaker period for the State election may impact the timing of the decision, but not the process.
 - Prior to the advertisement of the amendment application, Enerfin plans to hold a community drop-in information session.
 - Enerfin is visiting neighbouring residents to inform them of the proposed changes to the project design.

Summary of further Discussion:

- The Committee members expressed concern that given the significant increase in turbine height and a new turbine model, background noise testing has only been done at three locations. Enerfin responded that it is awaiting the audit of an updated noise assessment which should be finalised in the next week. An explanation of the selection of noise testing locations will be provided at the next meeting and at the community drop-in information session.
- Simon Poynton and Cr Doukas asked if the Warrnambool Airport had been taken into account regarding the new design. Enerfin responded that it is consulting with the Airport, and Argus Consulting Group is analysing possible impacts of the proposed height increase on airport activities.
- Enerfin is awaiting the final 'offer to connect' from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). Enerfin needs to demonstrate to AEMO that the new project will meet or exceed the performance standards of the original project and will not affect network stability.

9.2 Community Representatives

- The Council representatives and Community Representatives asked Enerfin to undertake background noise testing at additional locations including to the south and east of the site.
ACTION: Enerfin took this question on notice.
- Enerfin confirmed that the annual funding pool would remain at \$60,000, and this would be a condition of sale if it ever sold the project.

After construction is completed, a committee will be set up with two Enerfin and two community representatives to assess applications. It was noted that ideally the fund would attract applications for innovative projects.

ACTION: Enerfin took on notice a question of whether the fund would increase annually with the CPI.

9.3 Council

- Council is currently consulting with the community on its draft revised wind farm position. Council will receive written submissions until 30 June 2022. Submissions can be made by:
 - using the [Online](#) questionnaire;
 - post to Moyne Shire Council Offices, Princes Street (PO Box 51), Port Fairy 3284;
 - email to moyne@moyne.vic.gov.au . Please place “*Draft Wind Farm Position*” in the title of your email.

10. General business

10.1 **ACTION:** Enerfin will stay in touch with the CEC between now and the next meeting on the progress of the amendment application process.

10.2 John Murphy requested written information regarding the community fund, neighbour agreements and the complaints handling process. Enerfin noted that neighbour agreements will continue to be negotiated.

11. Date of next CEC meeting:

Friday 5 August 2022, 10.30pm – venue to be confirmed

Confirmed this / /

Chair

Minutes are to be registered in Moyne Shire’s electronic document management system by the committee reporting officer immediately following the Minutes’ confirmation and signing