



Minutes

Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee

Meeting date Friday 15 March 2024
 Meeting time and location 11am, Union Station Hotel - Woolsthorpe

1. Welcome

2. Attendees

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

3. Apologies

John Murphy, Community Representative

4. Declarations of interest

Nil.

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Moved by Glenn Britnell, seconded by Terri Barnes that the minutes of the CEC meeting held on 9 February 2024 be accepted. **CARRIED**

6. Business arising from previous Minutes

Who	Action
Council	Follow up on a request for an EPA representative to be invited to a CEC meeting to explain the EPA's role in wind farm noise compliance and noise complaints. Response: Council officers will raise this at their next meeting with the EPA.
Council	Question 11. from the <i>Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Too High Too Close Action Group Inc.:</i> <i>Who will ultimately be responsible for contractors not adhering to permit conditions? (Eg traffic management, as there has been lived experience from</i>

	<p><i>Hawkesdale wind farm, with repeated non-compliance of traffic management plan and disruption to public services) Will the police have to be contacted if this non-compliance is continually repeated. Will it be self monitoring as we know this does not work/comply?</i></p> <p>Council's response: The permit holder is responsible for ensuring that its contractors adhere to the Traffic Management Plan, which once endorsed by the Minister for Planning, forms part of the permit. The developer has indicated that a copy of the TMP will be made available on the project website once it is endorsed. If a member of the public believes there has been non-compliance with the TMP or has a complaint in relation to construction traffic, there will be a process set out in an updated Complaint Investigation and Response Plan which will be available on the project website once it has been endorsed. It is also expected that clear and concise instructions on how to lodge a complaint will be provided to the public in any communications from the developer to the community, whilst the wind farm is being constructed. TMP-related complaints can also be lodged with Council. Council notes that to date, it has received very few TMP-related complaints regarding traffic related to the construction of the Hawkesdale Wind Farm.</p>
Council	<p><i>Question 16. from the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Too High Too Close Action Group Inc.:</i> <i>While we are on the subject of boundaries we would like the Moyne Shire to explain why the township of Woolsthorpe's boundary was decreased in size around the time of a wind farm proposal being put forward(not sure of date, would like to know). We know our neighbour of Hawkesdale had their township boundary also decreased. Is there a coincidence that both townships have a windfarm on their outskirts?</i></p> <p>Council's response: Please clarify the question. Council notes that Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Pty Ltd lodged an initial planning application for the Woolsthorpe Wind Farm with the Minister for Planning in October 2006.</p>

7. Correspondence Incoming

Date received	Item	Attachment Number
28 February	<p>Questions submitted by the <i>Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Too High Too Close Action Group Inc.</i></p> <p>RESPONSES: Refer to General Business section 10.1</p>	1

8. Correspondence Outgoing

28 February, to the CEC: Response from Council to Q11 from the *Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Too High Too Close Action Group Inc.*

9. Reports

9.1 Project Update (Enerfin/ICA):

- Management plans are still being progressed.
- Plans that have been lodged and are under assessment by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) include the updated turbine location plan, pre-construction noise assessment, complaints management plan and the offsite landscaping plan.
The draft Bat and Avifauna Management Plan (BAMP) is under discussion with DEECA.
- Initial discussions have been held with Council officers regarding an updated Traffic Management Plan (TMP), and a meeting with Council and Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) is being scheduled to progress the draft.
Over dimensional turbine components will be delivered from the Port of Portland. The blades are longer than the Hawkesdale Wind Farm blades, so the route from Portland to the site is still to be confirmed.
The TMP can include a requirement for the community to be informed of the final delivery routes and schedules.
- Onsite geotechnical investigations are ongoing.
- Contracts are being negotiated with the preferred turbine supplier.
- The tender process for the Balance of Plant (BOP) contractor is underway.

9.2 Community Representatives

- Terri commented that not many copies of the minutes are being taken from the Woolsthorpe General Store.
Vicki will place a notice in the Woolsthorpe Primary School newsletter informing that copies are available at the Store.
- James had discussed Terri's question about whether the wind farm could affect internet connectivity with their consultant, who thinks it will be unlikely. Glenn asked whether improvement to internet and telecommunications could be considered as a future project.
- Simon raised that community members are asking when construction will start. It was noted that the monthly CEC minutes provide detailed updates about the project status. Cr Doukas suggested that updates could be placed in local newspapers, which some other proponents are doing.
- A community fund update was requested. James will provide more information on the community fund including clarification of the process and timeline, and noted that it is intended to start setting up the fund mechanism once the construction commencement date is confirmed.
Simon emphasised that clarity about the community fund will continue to be highly important to the community.
- John has asked for an update on the neighbour payments. James will also provide information to the CEC on this.

9.3 Council

- Council gave a brief update on the Hawkesdale Wind Farm, where all turbines have been erected and work is progressing on the external transmission line.

10. General business

- 10.1 Questions submitted by the *Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Too High Too Close Action Group Inc.* on 28 February (Att. 1):
James and Katelyn will provide written responses to the questions as soon as possible.
- 10.2 Simon asked if a visit to the site could be included for the next meeting.
James took this request on notice.

Next meeting – Friday 19 April 2024, 11am at the Union Station Hotel

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

Attachment 1: Questions submitted on 28 February by the *Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Too High Too Close Action Group Inc.*

Questions for Wind Farm Community Engagement Committee from the Woolsthorpe community and The Woolsthorpe Wind Farm Too High Too Close Action Group Inc.
For the meeting Friday 15th March 2024.

1. We see a request for an EPA representative to be invited to the CEC meeting has been put forward at last meeting, to discuss their role in wind farm noise compliance and noise complaints. We feel this is a great idea. Why not have an open house so that the community can hear it from the EPA, the proponent and the Moyne Shire while we can ask questions so that everyone is informed directly? Could we have the wind farm's noise expert attend this meeting to relay to the community what all the levels of noise calculations mean to the person that lives in the vicinity of the wind farms or the community as a whole. ie what does 40db LA90 (10 mins). This relates to the Noise Standard in the planning permit (2006/0220/D) on page 12 of 18.
Noise may become a major issue for the community. Who will really know until the turbines are operating? To have the community understanding how the wind farm measures it's noise before and after construction may give the community some reassurance.
2. South Australia's Redhill on February 7th had a turbine fire that burnt only 30 hectares of rural land thankfully.

We have asked before whether the wind farm has public liability insurance for the community and wildlife that is in very close proximity to their turbines in the case of a fire. Will the turbine worth around 2.2 million dollars, be the most grieved loss and not the communities' assets in the case of a fire? We have never had a direct response from the wind farm to this question. Is it the responsibility of the Moyne Shire to have this insurance??? We as a community are concerned as we hear of these incidents occurring from around the world and at home in Australia.

3. It was put forward in the December meeting that a large fire dam be built between Woolsthorpe and the Hawkesdale community. It was to be built by both communities' wind farms and the Moyne Shire. It would be a great gesture of good will. Is there any thoughts or response to this question?
4. What is the criteria for meeting the community grant funding from the wind farm? Is it correct that the wind farm does not have to give a reason for any knock back of request for the community funding? Who is the person or persons who will make that decision of yes or no.
5. Decommissioning. No 34 in the planning permit basically gives the wind farm an opportunity to be absent if all turbines cease to generate electricity at the same time. It states "in the absence of the operator" with regard to removing the turbines in the permit. What may/may not happen to our landscape if it is left to the land owner to decommission the 13/230 metre turbine towers?

No 35 of decommissioning, states that one or more turbines that cease to generate electricity prior to the whole facility ceasing to generate electricity, will have to be removed by the wind farm. What assurances, legalities and reporting do we have so that this will be adhered to at the time of the wind farm incrementally ceasing to be of any service to the Australian electricity grid? Has the Moyne Shire any input into making sure the permit is adhered to? Is there an opportunity for the wind farm to skirt their corporate responsibilities to our community by way of stating that all turbines are functioning until all are expired and then making a quick exit? The wind farm have investors who only see \$\$\$\$ and do not want the financial burden of decommissioning.

6. We see that the Hawkesdale wind farm is already having an imprint on our landscape. The Woolsthorpe wind farm is much closer and 50 metres taller than Hawkesdales. We have been told by the wind farm's expert that the increase in height is "insignificant". We do not accept that. The community and especially the nearest neighbours are about to be smothered by this wind farm. A one off payment for our loss? Once again there is no negotiation. We are expected to be quiet and take what is given to us and say thank you? The decrease in value of our properties the wind farm neighbours are likely to suffer is not accepted by the proponent. We know that this is real and about to happen to us in the community.