

Crookwell 2 and 3 Windfarm Community Consultative Committee

Minutes of the fourth meeting of the CCC

Time 4.00PM Wednesday 3 May 2017

Venue CWA Hall Spring Street Crookwell

Attendance: Peter Gordon (Independent Chair), Steve Ward, John Carter, Maurice Newman, Jean Dooley and Chris Croker as Community Representatives, and Shaq Mohajerani (Projects Development Manager) and William Alonso (Engineering Manager) representing Crookwell Development Pty Ltd.

Apologies: Councillor Paul Culhane from Upper Lachlan Shire.

Peter Gordon welcomed all to the meeting of the committee and in particular welcomed Maurice Newman to his first meeting. The Chair also welcomed a number of others to the meeting as observers: Humphrey Price-Jones and Charley Prell from the community, Isobel Newman from the Gullen Range Wind Farm, and David Santos Tomas and Mario Sanchez from Global Power Generation.

No new pecuniary or other interests were declared. John Carter completed the code of conduct and conflict of interest forms and the documents will be provided to Maurice Newman in advance of the next meeting.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of meeting #3 were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

Members noted that the minutes and other CCC records are now easily accessed through the company website www.unionfenosa.com.au

Business arising from previous minutes — response to issues raised or provision of additional information requested

Some discussion was held around the provisions of decommissioning turbines at end of their useful life. It was noted that it is presumed the decommissioning becomes applicable once the turbines cease producing power.

Correspondence – nil

Technical issues. Covered under the company report below.

Company reports and overview of activities:

Shaq reported on the closure of the consultation period related to the Crookwell 2 Wind Farm Modification Application (Mod-2) and the Crookwell 3 Wind Farm Addendum. Public submissions were invited until Monday 14th November 2016. Shaq also noted that eight government agencies had also provided written submissions.

Feedback following the public consultations is being consolidated and was to be presented to this meeting. Due to the nature of the submissions and the delays in receiving consultants input feedback on submissions will be provided at the next meeting, noting that it is initially the government responsibility to react to the various inputs.

Shaq noted that the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) will most likely hold another public hearing on the Crookwell 3 application at some time in 2017; and that as Crookwell 2 was approved and the current application is for an amendment and will be determined by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, and that PAC consideration was not required for this application.

It was noted that Crookwell 2 Wind Farm construction is likely to start in May 2017, and contracts have been signed for the turbine supply and installation, and for grid connection works, and also for the balance of plant (civil and electrical works). The construction works are planned to be completed by September 2018.

Members raised a number of points regarding transport and roadway issues. It is generally agreed that CDPL needs to take all steps necessary to minimise disturbance to traffic movements especially in peak times. Maurice Newman was particularly interested in the traffic impact on Woodhouselee Road which is narrow and has some difficult sections. Shaq noted that he had completed substantial negotiations with the Upper Lachlan Council and it is his view that the requirements of the approval will be complied with. That being said, Shaq mentioned the company will continue to work with the community on such matters as looking at the potential for two overtaking sections on the Goulburn Road and with a view to minimising disruption by over-dimensional vehicles on peak times affecting residents.

Maurice returned to the viability of Woodhouselee Road for heavy vehicle use and he suggested that Ministers might get involved. Maurice also noted that he believed that any approval process should have a time limitation.

John also noted his and others interest in monitoring how well CDPL met its approval conditions such as the environmental and heritage impact on such locations as Pigmans and Monument Hills. John noted that he understood that the NSW Government was further reviewing the environmental issues in this area affected by the development.

John Carter returned to his interest in understanding the company's turbine decommissioning strategies. Shaq also commented that he was not aware of details on the decommissioning provisions and commitments by the operators of Crookwell 1 Wind Farm, and is not in a position to make the enquiries to that operator, in consideration that the Crookwell 1 Wind Farm was approved by Council, they would be best placed to follow up on these provisions.

Issues identified by the community or local government representatives

Members generally supported the idea that CDPL undertake further discussions with relevant councils to look at making provision for an overtaking lane or at least two bypass sections on the road to Goulburn. This is in recognition of the fact that many over-dimensional vehicles will be using the Goulburn road and in most sections overtaking is extremely difficult, which is a safety as well as affecting traffic flow. The issue regarding the transport of the blades is complicated by the very specific times available to be approved by the authorities for the trucks to leave Port Kembla.

John asked what will be built under the current construction activities, Shaq responded that the Mod-2 amendment is now for 32 of the original 46 turbines, and as part of the ACT feed-in tariff contract the project will be building 28 of the 32 turbine locations, with the remaining 4 potentially packaged in a future power purchase agreement along with the turbines in the proposed Crookwell 3 Wind Farm project.

Steve asked for an update on the number of Neighbour Agreements signed. Shaq briefed the committee on the formula for the agreements and noted that 5 had been signed and another 3 were pending. Members generally discussed the impact of wind farms on property values.

Chris enquired if the Neighbour Deeds were transferable, Shaq confirmed that the Neighbour Deed payments will be made to the proprietor of that land, as such once a property has changed owners, the new owner has choice to sign a new Neighbour Deed with the same terms as the original Deed if they want be recipient of ongoing payments under the Deed for that land. The Neighbour Deeds are a voluntary process for the neighbouring dwellings and the wind farm owner.

A further enquiry from Steve about the grid connection for each of the two projects, Shaq informed the committee that the high voltage switchyard and the substation facility will serve both Crookwell 2 and 3 Wind Farm projects to reduce overall development footprint and to achieve economies of scale for the grid connection investment. The switchyard, substation, and control room facilities will be built as part of the Crookwell 2 Wind Farm approval.

Jean asked now that the site compound is setup on Ahgunyah property when the construction of the wind farm going ahead, William stated that the company is planning to continue further construction works in the few weeks.

Community complaints and response to complaints

CDPL will table a complaints register at future meetings as is required under the CCC guidelines. The company currently has a free call number (1800 457 181) for all community enquiries, this number will be used for the community complaints process once the next phase of construction in early 2017 has commenced. The company website also has an enquiry form that will be used for the community complaints process.

The Chair offered to share with CDPL a copy of the Gullen Range Wind Farm complaints register as a good example of such a process.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 June at 4PM at Crookwell.

The venue is the CWA Hall in Crookwell unless otherwise agreed and the meetings will commence at 4.00pm. The meeting schedule, venue and time may be changed subject to availability, and will be notified in advance of the scheduled event.

Peter Gordon

Independent Chair

Crookwell 2 and 3 Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee

May 2017