

FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes For November 25, 2013

Date:	25 November 2013 - Blayney Community Centre
Attendees:	Mr. Grahame Collier (Chair) Mr. Leon Rodwell (Blayney Shire Council) Mr. Kim Masters (Host landowner) Dr. Colleen Watts (Neighbour) Mr. Jonathan Upson (Proponent–Infigen Energy)
Apologies:	Mr. Simon Wright (Orange resident) Mr. Ian White (Neighbour)

Welcome & Introductions

The Chair, Grahame Collier, called the meeting to order shortly after 6pm. The two apologies were noted and the committee members and observers welcomed to the meeting. The Chair will follow up re Ian White's continuing involvement in the CCC.

The agenda circulated prior to the meeting was confirmed.

The minutes from the previous meeting on the 24th of June 2013, circulated prior to the meeting, were confirmed. The adopted minutes will be circulated.

Business Arising

The Chair noted the primary business arising was the publication and circulation of a community newsletter concerning the proposed wind farm which occurred in September. Comments were solicited by the Chair with regards to the newsletter. Colleen suggested that copies of the newsletter be provided to the Carcoar, Millthorpe and Blayney Post Offices to enable those living further than 4km to obtain a copy. There were no comments on the content of the newsletter, and Jonathan stated he had received no feedback. It was suggested that Infigen consider another community newsletter once the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) hearing date has been set.

Committee Membership

The Chair announced that Kevin Scott has resigned from the Flyers Creek CCC. Jonathan stated that the Blayney Chronicle published an advertisement asking for expressions of interest to join the committee and that a separate email was sent to the Flyers Creek Wind Turbine Awareness Group. No responses have been received to date. The Chair reminded those who had not nominated alternates to please do so.

Current Status of the Proposal

Jonathan advised that release of the Department of Planning's Planning Assessment Report for the project was 'very close'. Jonathan went over the process after the report is released. The PAC will hold at least 3 meetings---one with the Department, one with the proponent, and a public meeting in the district for neighbours to make representations about the project. Jonathan said the public meeting in the district would most likely occur in the same building as the CCC meetings---the Blayney Community Centre.

It was suggested that Jonathan circulate a copy of the PAC's report with respect to Infigen's Bodangora wind farm project as the PAC discusses their meetings with, and opinions received from, a few expert authorities including NSW Health.

Colleen asked about the progress of Infigen's Capital 2 and Bodangora wind farm proposals, and Jonathan indicated that both were progressing, although more effort was going into the Bodangora proposal at the moment.

Colleen also asked if a wind turbine had been selected for the Flyers Creek wind farm, and if a different wind turbine than the indicative turbine used in the Environment Assessment (EA) were to be selected, would Infigen submit a new noise report? Jonathan stated that a wind turbine had not been selected and this was not unusual at all as the project had not obtained a planning decision. Jonathan indicated that wind turbine models are rarely selected before a planning decision is obtained for a variety of reasons. Jonathan also confirmed that a new noise report would be written and submitted to the Department for their approval should a different turbine model be chosen, and that this commitment also appears in the EA.

Consultation Processes and Future Opportunities

A short discussion was held with regards to future community consultation opportunities. Jonathan indicated that when the Planning Assessment Report is released, he would make sure that local media (print, radio & TV) were notified to make sure the community was aware the report was available. The Shire could also consider posting the report and/or the details of the local PAC hearing on their website.

Leon told the Committee that the Blayney Shire Council was in discussions with Infigen Energy with regards to a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA). Leon indicated that negotiations were in progress, and once they were complete, and Council had approved the draft VPA, it would be on public exhibition for 28 days.

When invited by the Chair, an observer commented that he was very concerned that the draft Planning Report is recommending that the only turbine on his property be deleted from the project. He was also frustrated that the Department did not consult with him, in any way, prior to making their recommendation. The observer stated the reason the Department gave for not consulting with him was, "we don't have to". There was general agreement within the Committee that the Department could have handled this better.

Community Enhancement Fund

Colleen asked if Infigen would have a community enhancement fund as well as funding the VPA, and Jonathan replied that Infigen Energy would have such a fund as well. The size and governance of the community enhancement fund has not yet been determined.

Other Business

Jonathan provided an update on the progress of the community renewable energy co-operative, CENREC, including a short discussion of the seminars in process throughout the district.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was tentatively set for Thursday February 6th, at 6pm, depending on the scheduling of the local PAC hearing. Scheduling on the remainder of the CCC meetings for 2014 on hold until after the PAC meeting

Conclusion

The Chair thanked committee members for their involvement in the meeting, and observers for their attendance, and the meeting was concluded at 7:35pm.

Chairman's Note: The Planning Assessment Report was released by the Department of Planning the day after the CCC meeting and can be accessed at:

http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view_job&job_id=2644.

The local PAC hearing has also been scheduled for February 11th at 3pm at the Blayney Community Centre.

The date of the next meeting will be reconsidered in the light of this information.

Agreed Decisions / Resolutions from Previous Meetings

Agenda Item	Proposed Resolution(s)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Committee member to nominate an alternate should they not be able to attend a CCC meeting In progress
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC discuss the community enhancement fund at the next meeting Discussion occurred at March Meeting; motion to revisit the topic after a planning decision passed
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proponent clarifies their role and responsibilities in relation to the CCC (Appendix C of the NDWFG). Completed
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule CCC meetings for the rest of CY 2014 at next CCC meeting On hold pending clarification of the planning process timetable
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Key Issues

#	Proposed Resolution(s)	Who	When	Status
1	Infigen to consider a regular newsletter to the neighbours of the project	Jonathan	Before Next CCC meeting	First newsletter Completed
2	CCC discuss and formulate a community consultation plan should the FCWF project be approved	CCC	Next Meeting	
3	Membership of the CCC. Jonathan to follow up with advertisement. Grahame to contact Ian White re attendance.	Jonathan/ Grahame	Before next meeting of CCC	