

**FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM**  
**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**  
**Final Minutes Meeting 5. Rescheduled to 1 April 2014**

<b>Date and Venue</b>	April 1 2014 Cadia Room at the Blayney Community Centre 41 Church Street (next to the Shire Office) from 6-8pm
<b>Attendees:</b>	Mr. Grant Baker (Blayney Shire Council) Mr. Kim Masters (Host landowner) Mr. Jonathan Upson (Proponent–Infigen Energy) Mr. Simon Wright (Orange resident) Mr. Grahame Collier (Chair)

### **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order just after 6:00pm by the Chair. The Chair noted this meeting was replacing the meeting postponed in February due to lack of a quorum.

### **Apologies**

None

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes from the previous meeting in November were approved, and Jonathan stated they would be loaded onto Infigen's Flyers Creek webpage.

### **Business Arising**

- **Membership of the Committee – Ian White and Colleen Watts resignation**

The Chair stated Colleen Watts had resigned from the CCC and tabled a letter from Colleen and the Chair's response. It was noted that Ian White had previously resigned. The Flyers Creek CCC originally had 7 members and three have chosen to discontinue their membership.

- **Additional CCC members – process and actions**

The Chair stated that it was important that the CCC bring in new Committee members and this was agreed by all. It was noted that in the past advertisements in the Blayney Chronicle had been tried. Jonathan stated he had emailed, and spoken with, the Blayney Rotary suggesting they let their members know of tonight's meeting. There has also been opportunistic encouragement of people who might be interested. None of these steps had worked very well.

The Chair suggested that he could write a letter to the editor of the Blayney Chronicle encouraging people to attend, and perhaps join, the CCC. There was agreement this would be a worthwhile initiative. Jonathan noted that a condition of the planning approval states that a representative of the Errowanbang School should be on the CCC. Jonathan will contact the school in this regard. An observer at the meeting indicated an interest in joining the CCC. The Chair will follow this up.

It was suggested that perhaps a Blayney Shire Councilor might be interested in joining the CCC, in addition to the Environment and Planning Manager. Jonathan agreed to email the CEO in this regard.

- **CCC Annual Report**

Grahame reminded the Committee that he had an obligation under the draft NSW wind farm guidelines to submit an annual report. The annual report was submitted to the NSW Government and had been previously circulated. The Chair tabled the report and stated that the Department of Planning had acknowledged receipt of the annual report, but had made no further comment.

## **Overview of Current Status of the Flyers Creek Proposal**

- **Local PAC Hearing 11<sup>th</sup> Feb**

Jonathan gave a brief overview of the local Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) hearing indicating that it was well ordered with respect and attention provided to all speakers. It was noted that some people spoke several times on behalf of other groups or individuals. Jonathan noted that over 30% of the presentations were in support of the Flyers Creek wind farm proposal. He commented that, in his experience, this was a fairly high percentage as such hearings tend to attract people who have concerns or objections to a given proposal---rather than supporters. It was noted that the local State MP, Paul Toole, spoke at the meeting expressing some of the concerns his constituents had expressed to him.

- **Planning Approval for the project**

Jonathan stated that on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the PAC approved the Flyers Creek wind farm proposal and provided an overview of the determination report. He stated the approval was for 42 wind turbines. One turbine, turbine #12, was not approved by the PAC primarily due to its visual amenity impact on a residence. There was some discussion of the rationale for this decision. Wind turbine #9 on the Logan's property, who attended the previous CCC meetings as observers, was granted planning approval after initially being recommended for deletion by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

The planning approval contained an extensive list of planning conditions, many of which are standard for infrastructure projects and/or wind farms. Jonathan stated that while Infigen Energy did not agree with 100% of the planning conditions, they did not find any of the planning conditions to be unworkable.

Following discussion, the CCC agreed that communication of the next steps with regards to the wind energy project was very important for the community. Jonathan agreed that a newsletter informing the community of the planning approval would be appropriate and this would be undertaken. It was suggested that Infigen could contact Blayney Shire Council's CEO to communicate project milestones via the Shire's Economic Development Officer.

Kim suggested that Blayney Shire might consider contacting other Shire Councils where wind farms have been built or are under construction to ascertain any 'lessons learned' with regards to issues that have arisen with the post approval and construction process. It was agreed by the CCC that this appeared to be a sensible suggestion. Jonathan and Grant to follow up

## **Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)**

Grant stated that the VPA was currently on public exhibition and was scheduled to be voted on by the Shire Council on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Chair asked how the Council intended to publicise the VPA and Grant responded they would consider communicating a summary of the agreement to the Blayney Chronicle to report. The VPA states the owner of the Flyers Creek wind farm will pay the Shire \$107,000 annually (indexed for inflation) towards a Community Benefit Fund, Road Maintenance, and Administration costs once the wind farm is operational.

The question was asked who would decide how these funds are distributed. There was some concern expressed that the funds from the VPA need to be spent in the local district, near the wind farm, rather than across the whole Shire. Jonathan agreed that this was a valid concern. Grant explained that the Council has an existing community financial assistance program which distributes the Community Benefit funds. He indicated that Infigen may be asked to participate in the decision making process. It was agreed that this would be further discussed at the next meeting

## **General Consultation Processes and Future Opportunities and Needs**

Grant was asked if the Flyers Creek planning approval decision was on the Blayney Shire website. He stated he would check, and if it was, he would ask if how many 'hits' there were. There was some discussion of whether it would be useful to focus more community consultation on social media (facebook, twitter, etc). Jonathan stated that Infigen has a presence on both of these platforms, but there is not a unique Flyers Creek facebook page or twitter account.

## Other Business

Jonathan tabled the recent Position Statement from the Australian Medical Association entitled, “No Evidence Wind Farms Harm Health”.

## Future meetings

Meetings were tentatively scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>, September 9<sup>th</sup> and November 25<sup>th</sup>.

- [ the proposed June 24<sup>th</sup> meeting has since been rescheduled for July 21<sup>st</sup> ]

The CCC Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:40pm

## Agreed Decisions / Resolutions from Previous Meetings

Agenda Item	Proposed Resolution(s)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each Committee member to nominate an alternate should they not be able to attend a CCC meeting</li> <li>• <b>In progress</b></li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCC discuss the community enhancement fund at the next meeting</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule CCC meetings for the rest of CY 2014 at next CCC meeting</li> <li>• <b>In progress</b></li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actions by Chair and Jonathan to seek new members of CCC</li> </ul>

## 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	2 <sup>nd</sup> Newsletter to be written and distributed
2	CCC discuss and formulate a community consultation plan should the FCWF project be approved	CCC	Next Meeting	
3	Jonathan to contact Blayney Shire CEO with respect to participation of a Shire Councilor on the CCC and to work with the Economic Development Officer	Jonathan	Before next meeting of CCC	
4	Jonathan to contact Errowanbang School in relation to participating on the CCC	Jonathan	Before next meeting of CCC	
5	Blayney Shire to contact other Councils with regards to ‘lessons learned’ from their wind farm construction and operation	Blayney Shire Rep		
6	Decision making process for VPA funds needs further discussion with regards to local expenditure of funds	All	After VPA executed and project proceeds toward construction	