

upperhunterenergyparkcommunityforum

MEETING No 7 MINUTES

Upper Hunter Energy Park Upper Hunter Energy Park Community Forum

Location: Upper Hunter Shire Council Offices

Date: 16 March 2017

Time: 2:30pm

Attendees and Distribution:

Chair Daryl Dutton (Apology)
Local Residents Judy Wheeler
Gordon Halliday
Trevor Woolley
Peter Hale

Upper Hunter Shire Council Cr. Wayne Bedggood
Sean Constable

Chamber of Commerce Ben Wyndham (Apology)

Proponent Mark Sydney
Alan Wong
Mark Dixon (Apology)

Observers

Office of Heritage tba
Upper Hunter Shire Council Matt Pringle (Apology)
Resident / Landowner Allan Henderson (Apology)

Copies sent to: Project Website
Department of Planning (Sydney)
Department of Planning (Singleton)

Report Items	Comment from KEP	Action/ Comment
1. Apologies / Structure		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apologies 	<p>Daryl Dutton Gordon Fraser Mark Dixon Matt Pringle Allan Henderson</p> <p>Daryl Dutton has also indicated that due to his continued absence from attending the KCF, he believes it is best that he resigns from the position of chair of the KCF.</p>	<p>Mayor Bedggood was nominated to replace Daryl Dutton as KCF chairperson. Mayor Bedggood accepted the nomination and all of the present KCF committee members approved the appointment.</p>
2. Declarations of Interests		
Anything to declare?	Nothing to declare	Noted and comment from Mayor Bedggood that this item should remain as an agenda item going forward.
3. Confirmation of previous Minutes		

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3.1. Minutes of Meeting No.6	Minutes taken as read and changes made according to comments received prior to publishing on website	Noted
4. Actions Arising from last meeting (Meeting No. 6)		
4.1. Pamada will put the minutes from all meetings and all general updates on the project website.	Complete	Noted
4.2. Comments on CEMP Stage 1 – Site Compound received from the Dept of Planning and Environment (DPE) in Dec 2015.	<p>After discussion with the Department, yet a new version of the CEMP will resubmitted.</p> <p>The likely timeframe for the updated CEMP to be within the next period before the next KCF. We advised DPE that we will likely combine Wind and 10MW solar at Mountain Station for the first CEMP, incorporating those complete stages.</p>	<p>Issue raised by Judy Wheeler and Gordon Halliday that the CEMP has not been progressed since the last meeting and that given the stage the project is at, it would be expected that the management plans would be prepared. The further concern is that the KCF should be afforded the opportunity to review the management plans in a timely manner so that there is an opportunity to then raise community relevant concerns.</p> <p>MS response was that given the stage which the project finds itself at, it is likely the CEMP would be prepared in anticipation of financial close in late 2017 and completed prior to construction start date which is likely to be early 2018.</p> <p>Peter Hale suggested it would be unreasonable to expect the full CEMP to be completed and provided given finance for the project is yet to be secured and believes that the explanations and updates provided by KEP is reasonable and sufficient in the circumstances.</p>
5. Correspondence		
5.1. General Public – Generally	Nothing to report – nothing recieved	Noted
5.2. General Public – Work	Nothing to report – nothing recieved	Noted
5.3. General Public – KCF	Nothing to report – nothing recieved	Noted
5.4. Government Generally	Nothing to report – nothing recieved	Noted

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5.5. KCF Committee Members	<p>Following on from the last KCF when we discussed the New Energy Guidelines, it was agreed to by KEP to have consideration to the guidelines even though it is accepted that they do not officially apply to the project.</p> <p>Since the last meeting, the new guidelines have been uploaded to the KEP website.</p> <p>We will be happy to discuss any further details as necessary at the meeting.</p>	Noted – no further comments
5.6. Department of Planning and Environment – community committee	Routine communication with no actions arising	Noted
5.7. Department of Planning and Environment – compliance	Nothing to report	Noted
5.8. Press – Communications	None noted by the proponent	Noted
5.9. Press – General	Kyoto website will be updated with new updates as news emerges, however, the overhaul is further delayed.	Noted
5.10. Website	New Energy wind guidelines have been uploaded to the website.	Noted
6. Project Report		
6.1. Progress of the project – assessment or operational issues	<p>In general terms since the last KCF meeting, there has been little project development work, where the project team's focus has been to progress financial partners to bring the project to reality.</p> <p>Further update on this will be presented at the meeting</p>	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally 	<p>During the last KyotoCommunityForum, President Trump had won the US Election.</p> <p>The Trump victory was expected to have some impact on certainty for investment and probably has had some, albeit it does not appear that the fundamentals for investment into renewables in Australia, and particularly into NSW will change.</p> <p>Local and global interest in owning wind and solar farms is even greater than ever before. The number of investors seeking to own renewable energy assets is unprecedented.</p>	Noted

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	<p>The fundamentals relate to renewable energy now being a cheaper form of energy to produce than electricity from coal and gas.</p> <p>As stated at the last meeting, as a backup, gas and coal still have their place, but renewables are going to provide the bulk of new electricity.</p> <p>In NSW the greatest cost of electricity to the home or business remains the network and government charges, not the cost of creating the electricity itself.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Industry Issues / Macro-Economic Environment 	Nothing new to report, albeit better technologies available.	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology Supplies 	<p>Technology, particularly in wind has continued to improve in areas of generation, efficiency, constructability, noise and control systems.</p> <p>New wind turbine types are continually being made available with an emphasis of greater height and greater blade sizes.</p> <p>The project remains committed to the tip height of 150m despite the newly available technologies.</p>	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Availability 	<p>Yet even more access to project finance exists compared to the comments from the last meeting.</p> <p>Numerous major banks in Australia are offering project finance based on spot pricing alone providing projects such as Kyoto Energy Park access to funding solutions even in the absence of a PPA.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, Australian Banks and large Super Funds have not kept up with global investment and finance availability in the sector. Current funding windows are too short to enable longer term finance needs for renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Good progress has been made with our domestic investor for the project. We continue to undergo detailed and technical due diligence process with them. We have introduced them to a number of parties related to the project on a confidential basis, including the</p>	Noted

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	<p>Upper Hunter Shire Council staff in a preliminary meet and greet.</p> <p>The commercial considerations continue well and we have expectation that these should conclude well.</p>	
6.2. Issues arising from site inspections	Nothing to report	Noted
6.3. Monitoring and performance	None received to the project	Noted
6.4. Community complaints and response	Nothing to report	Noted
6.5. Information provided to the community and any feedback	Nothing to report	Noted
6.6. Other relevant Information	<p>Availability of electricity for local businesses and residents.</p> <p>A long desired position of the project team is to make it possible for locals to contract with the project to have their supply of electricity be from the project.</p> <p>In general terms, we will need to interpose a retailer inbetween the project and the customers in order to balance the mismatch of energy demand with that of production.</p> <p>Very early talks with some larger users in the area has been had on a no-commitment basis. Simply fact-finding. The project is not in a position to make any commitments about retailing directly, but is happy to disclose this to the Forum.</p> <p>As a result of feedback from the larger users and in consideration of our optimism regarding commencement, we have had sought to anticipate the future local electricity supply by seeking a name of the retailer and/or the project that ties the project closer to its locality.</p> <p>For the energy generation project (rather than the retailer) we are now progressing to use the "Upper Hunter Energy Park" name rather than the more precocious Kyoto name.</p> <p>No decision has been progressed with regard to a retailer name.</p>	<p>KCF noted the general concept outline of a retail energy business which is developed to support the project once operational.</p> <p>KCF committee members generally supported the name change to Upper Hunter Energy Park (UHEP) though it was suggested by Judy Wheeler that this should have been brought up to the committee prior to any changes officially being made.</p> <p>MS confirmed that though the corporate entities now exist in the UHEP name, this matter was being raised now for discussion.</p> <p>Peter Hale supported the UHEP name given the effort already put into driving this brand in a united front for the region.</p> <p>Trevor Wolley suggested the name should include "Scone" reference to particularise it to the project area.</p> <p>It was also supported that the committee name be changed to Upper Hunter Energy Park Community Forum for consistency.</p>
7. General Business / Other	During the next period, we will seek to work with relevant parties to establish the Business Forum – encouraging engagement and communication for	MS raised that the intended lead EPC provider is supportive of community involvement.

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	local businesses to become involved with the project.	Sean Constable has indicated that timing of the involvement will be important given another project may commence construction in and around the same time. Has also suggested the project engage early enough to provide sufficient lead time for contractors to prepare. He also expressed understanding that until financial close is more certain, it may be premature to communicate with the general community at this time.
	Purpose and charter of the Community Forum	<p>Gordon Halliday raised the matter of better defining the purpose of the Community Forum given much of the information presented was not consistent with his views of community relevant issues to be discussed.</p> <p>Mayor Bedggood noted the comments and though he recognises the updates provided at the Community Forum may not be required within the charter guidelines (and therefore need not be disclosed), he found the information provided was relevant and educational to better understand how the project is moving forward. Given, however, Gordon Halliday's comments, Mayor Bedggood questioned the Community Forum committee members on what they expected from it.</p> <p>MS stated the project's view is that it is better to continue to communicate rather than not. He also suggested the general updates on project finance were details he was not required to disclose at the Community Forum but felt it was useful nonetheless for the committee members to know and understand the project status.</p> <p>Judy Wheeler acknowledged that the Community Forum</p>

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		<p>was founded to provide a forum for committee members to review and make suggestions in relation to the management of impacts the project would have to the region. She also acknowledged that given the status of the project, she understands that the updates may be more general in nature rather than on the specifics (for example, the CEMP details).</p> <p>Peter Hale supported the continuation of the Community Forum and that it should not be a criticism of the project that the current updates are general in nature given the stage the project is at.</p> <p>Gordon Halliday suggested that given there are no substantial updates on community impact related issues, the Community Forum should take the form where the formal community related issues are initially addressed followed by a Q&A session immediately after for members who would like more general updates. Judy Wheeler supported this new format and collectively there was agreement to formalise this more clearly in a new charter for the forum.</p> <p>Mayor Bedggood agreed for a new charter to be drafted by the project and reviewed with him prior to the next meeting and it is understood that it should generally follow the draft 2011 CCC guidelines but to remain chaired and controlled by local community members and include the above suggested meeting format.</p>
8. Next Meeting		
Suggested Thursday 13 th July 2017 at 2.30pm?		Noted
9. Other General Tracking Items	[remains repeated unless in bold]	

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We have simplified the standing questions and thought a tracking each meeting may assist		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The position of the sub station 	Still likely near Moobi Plateau, well away from Bunnan Rd.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 turbines on Middlebrook 	No new update in this regard	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 turbines on Middlebrook (power lines) 	No new update in this regard	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Power route generally 	Unfortunately the route remains confidential and will unlikely be public information for some months.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport route for heavy vehicles and machinery 	No new update in this regard	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road dilapidation Surveys 	Relevant Dilapidation Surveys will occur prior to relevant stages of construction.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird & Bat Monitoring – Condition 3.3. 	The approval of the Plan is ongoing and not final at the time of writing. The Plan, once approved, shall be placed on the website.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flora & Fauna Impacts: Condition 2.18. Has the compensatory habitat package been agreed 	The approval of the Plan is ongoing and not final at the time of writing. The Plan, once approved, shall be placed on the website.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines on Mountain Station: 	<p>It is likely that the total number of turbines reduce, but not certain at this time.</p> <p>Should the number reduce, it is highly likely, distances from neighbours will remain generally similar, but more than likely they will be slightly further away.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar or Turbines first? If you decide to put the solar in first (and I hope you do) then this again could mean different turbine technology when the time comes. 	Discussions with all possible finance partners share the hope to undertake the solar and wind simultaneously.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the various stages of construction and to be fair considering the financial situation, the RET etc. if you don't want to put a definite date on each stage then I guess that would be OK. Perhaps an indicative date. It can always be updated later. I guess the most important thing is to get the above 	Happy to discuss this further at the meeting	

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answers to the questions covered and the general plan as to what each stage would comprise of.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further KCF members. 	Nothing new to report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted that the construction of the hydro component of the KEP and the manager's residence has not been mentioned in the 4 construction stages. Please advise if these are going ahead and at what stage they intend to be constructed. 	Both are likely Stage 4 works.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection of Mountain Station 	Agreed, it would be more beneficial after completion of Stage 1 and Pamada to arrange at that time.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website 	Part of full rebuild	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar update 	<p>We are looking at all options with regard – existing location, modified location, and additional locations</p> <p>We are currently progressing with the same location for the 10MW that has approval.</p> <p>We may seek approval for further capacity once the Wind and first 10MW of solar is locked in.</p>	
<p>Note from Sean Constable regarding lighting for aviation purposes.</p> <p>Aviation Impacts A request from Sean Constable (UHSC) was received in relation to possible lighting treatment of turbines at night and associated impacts. Since approval in 2010 the Scone airport has now been classified as a 'scheduled airport' with general queries raised for any additional lighting requirements. These may be applicable as a result of the change.</p> <p>In accordance with the Kyoto Conditions of Consent and during the design phase, Pamada will engage a CASA approved specialist consultant to prepare</p>	<p>Joanne McLoughlin requested that Council be consulted on during the preparation of the Aviation Risk Assessment prior to commencement of construction. In accordance with the Conditions of consent Pamada are required to consult directly with CASA on the use of Aviation lighting prior to commencement of construction and in consultation with them develop an approved lighting plan for the wind turbines.</p> <p>Mark Sydney agreed that any advice and help that Council could offer on the level and appropriateness of aviation lighting would be in the interests of all parties. Ms McLoughlin also mentioned that Council had previously used the services of an OLS Surveyor/Risk Assesor that could also provide specific advice and comments.</p>	

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<p>and submit an 'Aviation Risk Assessment' to CASA for approval. The Aviation Risk Assessment will need to include a Lighting Treatment for delineation of the windfarm at night. The assessment will look at proximity of the windfarm to the airport, flight paths, terrain, emergency procedures amongst other things. No turbines are allowed within certified airspace.</p> <p>While this is the case due to the relative close proximity of the airport some lighting is likely to be a design requirement. Mitigation measures do exist for limiting visibility of lighting in some cases, however this is not at the expense of aviation safety.</p> <p>Final approval is subject to CASA.</p> <p>The current guidelines adopted by CASA for assessment of aviation risks is attached – National Airports Safeguarding Framework- Managing the Risk to Aviation Safety.....Towers.</p> <p>As the progress on micro-siting continues, pamada and its consultant will develop a strategy for discussion with CASA. At this point in time it is too early.</p>	<p>Action: Consult with Council Aviation officers and assessors during preparation of the Aviation Risk Assessment.</p>	
<p>Community involvement</p>	<p>Council have suggested that KEP consider ways to involve the local community and businesses and how these groups can contribute to the construction and operation of KEP going forward.</p> <p>KEP website already contains a business register for expressions of interest in the project.</p> <p>On top of this, KEP has agreed to consider running workshops with local businesses and members as well as devise other methods to promote local involvement and contribution.</p> <p>This matter can be discussed further and formulated once the project proceeds to a point where such things can be planned and agreed to by the project funder. We anticipate the structure of</p>	

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	these forums/workshops will be clearer by the next meeting	
Other Issues for discussion?		