

upperhunterenergyparkcommunityforum

MEETING No 10 MINUTES

Upper Hunter Energy Park Upper Hunter Energy Park Community Forum

Location: Upper Hunter Shire Council Offices

Date: 20 September 2018

Time: 2:30pm

Attendees and

Distribution:

Chair

Cr. Wayne Bedggood

Residents

Judy Wheeler

Gordon Halliday

(Apologies)

Trevor Woolley

Peter Hale

Upper Hunter Shire Council Mat Pringle

Chamber of Commerce David Luck

(Apologies)

Proponent

Mark Sydney

James North

Mark Norville

(Apologies)

Keiran Jacka

(Apologies)

Observers

Resident / Landowner

Allan Henderson

Copies sent to:

Project Website

Department of Planning (Sydney)

Report Items	Comment from UHEP	Action/ Comment
1. Apologies / Structure		
Apologies		Accepted
Chamber of Commerce rep to be confirmed		David Luck sent apologies for today. UHEP will engage with David to arrange an alternate to stand in for him if he can't make the meeting.
		Cr Beddgood is stepping aside as Chairperson. UHEP to propose a new Chairperson for the committee to consider. The Council will suggest another Council representative to join the committee. [Post Meeting Note: Cr Kiwa Fisher to join the committee].
2. Declarations of Interests		
Anything to declare?	Nothing to declare	Noted
3. Confirmation of previous Minutes		
3.1. Minutes of Meeting No.9	Minutes taken as read. No changes were advised prior to publishing on website.	UHEP confirmed minutes No. 9 on website remained the

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		same as those circulated and accepted in June.
4. Actions Arising from last meeting (Meeting No. 9)		
4.1. Pamada will put the minutes from all meetings and all general updates on the project website.	Completed	Noted
4.2. CEMP Update	<p>No change to earlier advice: After discussion with the Department, a new version of the CEMP will be resubmitted prior to construction of the UHEP.</p> <p>UHEP advised DPE that we will likely combine Wind and 10MW solar at Mountain Station in this CEMP, incorporating those complete stages.</p> <p>Timeframe – the CEMP will be an early task of the EPC contractor with drafting beginning in anticipation of financial close and completed prior to construction start date. Intending to submit to UHEPCF late 2018.</p>	<p>The CEMP has not been formally issued to council since works on the driveway into site.</p> <p>UHEP to prepare the CEMP in consultation with Council. Following this the CEMP will be shared with the UHEPCF prior to submission to the DPE.</p>
5. Correspondence		
5.1. General Public – Generally	UHEP draft newsletter issued to UHEPCF and comments received. Comments incorporated. Discuss timing of newsletter at the UHEPCF.	Feedback on draft was to hold it until further updates are available. Issuing it to notify the community of the modification EA being made public would be suitable.
5.2. General Public – Work	Minor issue to discuss at the meeting.	Noted
5.3. General Public – UHEPCF	Nothing to report – nothing received	Noted
5.4. Government Generally	Nothing to report – nothing received	Noted
5.5. UHEPCF Committee Members	Since the last UHEPCF the comments received on the website have been reviewed and incorporated.	Noted
5.6. Department of Planning and Environment – community committee	Routine communication with no actions arising.	Noted
5.7. Department of Planning and Environment – compliance	<p>Comments received from the DPE regarding the Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan, these are under review.</p> <p>DPE advised of its requirements for the EA covering additional solar, reduced</p>	Noted

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	number of turbines and a small number of turbines with increased tip height. EA sent to DPE for its review to determine whether it can be advertised. We are awaiting DPE's response as key team members have been on leave.	
5.8. Press – Communications	None noted by the proponent	Noted
5.9. Press – General	None noted by the proponent	Noted
5.10. Website	Website up and running. No communication outside Forum members to report.	Noted
6. Project Report		
6.1. Progress of the project – assessment or operational issues	<p>Project development work since the last UHEPCF meeting includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid connection follow up studies completed and responses to AEMO queries submitted. EA prepared and submitted for modification for additional solar, reduced number of turbines and small number of turbines with increased tip height. With DPE for review as noted in item 5.7. 	<p>It was discussed that AEMO has greater involvement in the grid connection application process than previously.</p> <p>Regarding the modification EA, UHEP shared diagrams that illustrated the difference in the original 31 turbine layout and the preferred 22 turbine layout, with 4 taller turbines. It was noted that there are significantly fewer turbines to the north of the site, nearest residents such as those of Clifton Hills Estate.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally 	Energy policy has again been at the core of leadership upheaval in Canberra. See the following item.	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Industry Issues / Macro-Economic Environment 	The emissions target component of the NEG was removed just prior to the leadership spill last month and the new cabinet has decided to no longer pursue implementation of the NEG. This may cause a delay in reaching a financial investment decision across numerous projects in a similar phase to UHEP. For the time being the industry is moving forward with a business as usual outlook. In NSW that means it is down to market forces to decide what new generation to invest in.	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology Supplies 	<p>New wind turbine types are continually being made available with an emphasis on greater height and greater blade sizes which are more suitable to low to medium wind sites.</p> <p>The cost of solar module production is continuing to decrease.</p>	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Availability 	Our financial partner has almost completed its due diligence across all project documentation in the form of a detailed online data room.	Noted

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	We were hoping for an investment decision to be made prior to this meeting however, now we are expecting this in the coming weeks.	
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	Nothing to report	Noted
7. General Business / Other		
7.1.	<p>During the next period, we will seek to work with relevant parties to establish the Business Forum – encouraging engagement and communication for local businesses to become involved with the project.</p> <p>The website has a communication channel specifically for potential business opportunities. There is a specific section in the community newsletter draft to highlight this.</p>	Noted
7.2.	Purpose and charter of the Community Forum – comments received from the Community Forum members have been incorporated and the Charter is now available for download from the UHEP website.	Noted
7.3.	Moobi Foundation comments received and responded to. This can be discussed further at the Community Forum.	<p>Further discussions regarding the Section 355 Local Government Act were held. This clarified that the Moobi Foundation Charter can detail the structure of the Moobi Committee and that Section 355 could be referenced with regards to the Council's administration of the funds.</p> <p>Action is for UHEP and Council to review and agree the Moobi Charter and then circulate.</p>
7.4. Aboriginal cultural heritage binding agreement (CoA 2.41)		Condition of Approval 2.41 states that prior to construction a binding agreement with Aboriginal stakeholders was to be made. Mark Sydney confirmed that

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		there had been good dialogue between the local aboriginal land council and the project. A dedicated project fund for Aboriginal cultural heritage offsets has been agreed as part of these discussions.
7.5. Viewing platform funding (CoA 2.42)		Condition of Approval 2.42 states that funding for the viewing platform may come from the community enhancement fund (Moobi Foundation). The Moobi committee will be able to decide upon whether it would fund the platform once the energy park is in operation.
7.6. Compliance management programme (CoA 4.1)	A compliance tracking program is already in use on the project.	Judy Wheeler highlighted similar compliance tracking programs available on the websites of other projects such as Gullan Range and the matrix used on the White Rock Wind Farm. UHEP to review these and include appropriate tracking and links to the relevant compliance documents on a dedicated webpage prior to construction.
8. Next Meeting		
To be discussed at Community Forum.	In the next month UHEP will confirm whether meeting prior to Christmas or one early in the new year is more appropriate based upon project progress.	UHEP to confirm the next forum meeting time and date.
9. Other General Tracking Items	[remains repeated unless in bold]	
We have simplified the standing questions and thought a tracking each meeting may assist		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbine layout at mountain station 	The turbine layout at Mountain Station included in the EA to the DPE is 22 turbines (including four with higher tip height).	Noted
<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 a short period further.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport route for heavy vehicles and machinery 	No new update in this regard	

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<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"> 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 (and increase the solar in stage 1).	
<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. please provide an indicative date. It can always be updated later. The important thing is to get the above answers to the questions covered and the general plan as to what each stage would comprise. 	<p>An indicative plan for the project is listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial close November 2018 Sign EPC (turbine supply and install, and balance of plant) contract November 2018 Early works, including CEMP to begin November 2018 Initial construction (site office, access gates etc.) December 2018 Full construction start February 2019 Civil works complete Q3 2019 Turbines delivered to Australia Q3 2019 Grid connection complete Q1 2020 Full operation Q2 2020 	Full construction date corrected to 2019.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further UHEPCF members. 	Nothing new to report	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is noted that the construction of the hydro component of the UHEP 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.	

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<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"> 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>EA submitted for an additional 25MW of solar in the “saddle” of Mountain Station.</p>	Noted
<p>Note from Sean Constable regarding lighting for aviation purposes.</p> <p>[old notes deleted September 2018]</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>September update: micro-siting complete.</p>	<p>CASA has requested a specific aviation hazard lighting risk assessment be conducted. We will consult with Council Aviation officers and assessors during preparation of the Aviation Risk Assessment.</p>	Noted
Community involvement	<p>Council have suggested that UHEP consider ways to involve the local community and businesses and how these groups can contribute to the construction and operation of UHEP going forward.</p> <p>UHEP website already contains a business register for expressions of interest in the project.</p> <p>On top of this, UHEP 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 these forums/workshops will be clearer by the next meeting</p>	
Other Issues for discussion?		