

upperhunterenergyparkcommunityforum

MEETING No 9 MINUTES

Upper Hunter Energy Park Upper Hunter Energy Park Community Forum

Location: Upper Hunter Shire Council Offices

Date: 24 May 2018

Time: 2:30pm

Attendees and

Distribution:

Chair

Cr. Wayne Bedggood

Residents

Judy Wheeler

Gordon Halliday

(Apology)

Trevor Woolley

Peter Hale

(Not in attendance)

Upper Hunter Shire Council Mat Pringle

Chamber of Commerce David Luck

(Not in attendance)

Proponent

Mark Sydney

James North

Mark Norville

Keiran Jacka

Observers

Office of Heritage

Fiona Lewis

Resident / Landowner

Allan Henderson

Copies sent to:

Project Website

Department of Planning (Sydney)

Report Items	Comment from UHEP	Action/ Comment
1. Apologies / Structure		
• Apologies	Gordon Halliday	
		Chair to contact Chamber of Commerce to determine who can attend on its behalf.
2. Declarations of Interests		
Anything to declare?	Nothing to declare	Noted
3. Confirmation of previous Minutes		
3.1. Minutes of Meeting No.8	Minutes taken as read. No changes were advised prior to publishing on website.	General consensus.
4. Actions Arising from last meeting (Meeting No. 8)		
4.1. Pamada will put the minutes from all meetings and all general updates on the project website.	Completed	These minutes to be put on project website following Community Forum review.
4.2. CEMP Update	No change to earlier advice:	

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	<p>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.</p>	We see the CEMP being submitted to the community this calendar year (2018).
5. Correspondence		
5.1. General Public – Generally	Nothing to report – nothing received	UHEP to draft a circular notice for the general public and send it to the Community Forum for review within the next two weeks.
5.2. General Public – Work	Nothing to report – nothing received	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	<p>Following on from the last UHEPCF when we discussed the new Community Consultative Committee Guidelines, it was agreed to by UHEP to have consideration to the guidelines even though it is accepted that they do not officially apply to the project. Comments on the Community Forum Charter have been received from Community Forum members. The updated Charter will be uploaded onto the project website when review is completed.</p> <p>Information was requested by Gordon Halliday, Trevor Woolley and Judy Wheeler on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum Charter • Moobi Charter • Noise (infrasound) 	<p>Forum Charter: See item 7.2</p> <p>Moobi Charter: See item 7.4</p> <p>Noise (infrasound): See item 7.3</p>
5.6. Department of Planning and Environment – community committee	Routine communication with no actions arising.	Noted
5.7. Department of Planning and Environment – compliance	Meeting held 31/01/18 to update the DPE on compliance actions being undertaken.	Noted

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	<p>26/02/18 DPE confirmed acceptance of some procedural issues with regards to the project's Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan.</p> <p>April discussions with DPE held to understand EA requirements for additional solar, reduced number of turbines and a small number of turbines with increased tip height.</p>	
5.8. Press – Communications	None noted by the proponent	Noted
5.9. Press – General	None noted by the proponent	Noted
5.10. Website	Comments from Community Forum members on the draft website were received and incorporated. The website is now up and running. Further comments have been received to date and can be formalised at this meeting.	Further comments to be submitted by Judy Wheeler via email. One example was some information being available by the website search engine but not available on a web page. UHEP will endeavour to delete old website and explained that the website had been deleted previously and that the internet service provider may need to be instructed to delete it in full.
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"> Request for CASA to review hazard lighting requirements sent Grid connection follow up studies and submission of the grid connection application proceeding Investigation into potential modification for additional solar, reduced number of turbines and small number of turbines with increased tip height. 	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally 	<p>Since the last UHEPCF the Australian government has received the Finkel Review. The government has not chosen to put all the recommendations of the report into policy, particularly a Clean Energy Target.</p> <p>Since then the government has proposed a National Energy Guarantee (NEG), however this remains very light in detail and will take considerable time and discussion with state governments to deliver any long-term policy.</p>	Noted

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	It appears the greatest impact of the NEG is the need, particularly for solar, to address voltage and frequency regulation and accordingly further studies are needed as part of the grid connection application.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Industry Issues / Macro-Economic Environment 	Nothing new to report, apart from waiting for the NEG to be detailed. We would also note that the cost of energy from renewables is now the cheapest form of electricity and has enabled new options to optimise the project. To be discussed further at the Forum meeting.	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 on greater height and greater blade sizes which are more suitable to low to medium wind sites.</p>	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance Availability 	<p>Discussions are continuing with our investors with due diligence across all project documentation in the form of a detailed online data room. The changes in policy last year meant a change in the possible investor from that time.</p> <p>Our preferred EPC contractor is currently producing a revised construction price to come into line with the recent downward trends in construction costs. This is expected to meet the return criteria of all our potential investors.</p>	UHEP is working closely with financial partner which is an Australian company. Hope to have a clear investment update at the next meeting.
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	The project is progressing at this stage without a retail offtake secured. At a time hopefully in the next 12-18 months a region-specific retail offer may be available for the community.	Noted
7. General Business / Other		
7.1.	During the next period, we will seek to work with relevant parties to establish the Business Forum – encouraging engagement and communication for	Noted

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	<p>local businesses to become involved with the project.</p> <p>The website has a communication channel specifically for potential business opportunities.</p> <p>Specifically Kieran Jacka is attending who will ultimately have a greater role with regards to local business participation.</p>	
7.2.	Purpose and charter of the Community Forum – comments received from the Community Forum are under review and the updated charter will be issued to the Community Forum shortly. Further discussion can be held at the meeting.	Judy Wheeler's comments have been incorporated. Judy requested that the charter include change control information such as date and version number. Updated charter to be submitted to Community Forum with the email covering two remaining queries from Judy.
7.3.	Gordon Halliday has requested that infrasound be discussed at this Community Forum.	<p>UHEP agrees that turbines produce infrasound, as do cars, trees, waves etc. Infrasound is part of the noise spectrum.</p> <p>To date Victorian and South Australian Health authorities have reported that noise that you cannot hear will not harm you. Health Canada has released a report stating no link between infrasound levels and stress, illness, sleep deprivation or quality of life. This report does acknowledge that audible wind turbine noise annoyance was found to be related to self-reported health effects.</p> <p>Judy Wheeler stated that the current guidelines do not require proper measurement of infrasound. Kieran advised that audible noise and infrasound increase in parallel (i.e. highly correlated) and that you cannot have low audible noise and high infrasound for example.</p> <p>Kieran advised that Servion takes community concerns very seriously and offered to share information openly and encourage the community to look up reputable websites</p>

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		and documents to stay well informed.
7.4.	Moobi Foundation comments received and under review. Further discussion can be held at the meeting.	<p>Comments under review. Further request to include change control information such as date and version number and to advise when council signed it off and who at council did so. UHEP to discuss with Matt Pringle the 355 committee structure and its suitability for the Moobi Foundation.</p> <p>Mayor requested the legal requirements for a new entity owning the project to keep the Moobi Charter. POST MEETING: Condition of Approval 2.40 leaves room for the charter to be altered in the future, as long as it is agreed between the Proponent (owner) and UHSC.</p>
8. Next Meeting		
Suggested Thursday 23 rd August 2018 at 2.30pm?		Agreed. UHEP to arrange.
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 is yet to be frozen, albeit two final options are close. 31 turbine or 22/23 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	
<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.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flora & Fauna Impacts: Condition 2.18. Has the compensatory habitat package been agreed? 	<p>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.</p>	
<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. 	<p>Discussions with all possible finance partners share the hope to undertake the solar and wind simultaneously (and increase the solar in stage 1).</p>	
<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 September 2018 Sign EPC (turbine supply and install, and balance of plant) contract September 2018 Construction to start: - early works Aug 2018, full construction start December 2018 Civil works complete Q2 2019 Turbines delivered to Australia Q3 2019 Grid connection complete Q4 2019 Full operation Q1 2020 	<p>Initial construction works such as site office, access gates etc. would be soon after EPC contract signature.</p> <p>Early works would include CEMP to ensure time for review and acceptance.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further UHEPCF members. 	<p>Nothing new to report</p>	
<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. 	<p>Both are likely Stage 4 works.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection of Mountain Station 	<p>Agreed, it would be more beneficial after completion of Stage 1 and Pamada to arrange at that time.</p>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website 	<p>Website is now up and running. Comments on this to be discussed as per item 5.10 above.</p>	
<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>At the previous meeting Pamada presented the layout of a potential 25MW of solar array on Mountain Station. Viewshed images were shown to display no visual impact due to the location of this solar in the “saddle” of the site, surrounded by ridges on all sides.</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 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 proximity of the airport some lighting is likely to be a design requirement. Mitigation</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 Assessor that could also provide specific advice and comments.</p> <p>Action: Consult with Council Aviation officers and assessors during preparation of the Aviation Risk Assessment.</p>	

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<p>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>		
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?		