

upperhunterenergyparkcommunityforum

MEETING No 8 MINUTES

Upper Hunter Energy Park Upper Hunter Energy Park Community Forum

Location: Upper Hunter Shire Council Offices

Date: 26 February 2018

Time: 2:30pm

Attendees and

Distribution:

Chair

Cr. Wayne Bedggood

Residents

Judy Wheeler

Gordon Halliday

(Apology)

Trevor Woolley

Peter Hale

Upper Hunter Shire Council Sean Constable

Chamber of Commerce David Luck

(Apology)

Proponent Mark Sydney

James North

Mark Norville

Observers

Office of Heritage

Fiona Lewis

(Apology)

Upper Hunter Shire Council

Matt Pringle

Resident / Landowner

Allan Henderson

(Apology)

Copies sent to:

Project Website

Department of Planning (Sydney)

Report Items	Comment from UHEP	Action/ Comment
1. Apologies / Structure		
• Apologies	Fiona Lewis Gordon Halliday David Luck Allan Henderson	
2. Declarations of Interests		
Anything to declare?	Nothing to declare	Noted
3. Confirmation of previous Minutes		
3.1. Minutes of Meeting No.7	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. 7)		
4.1. Pamada will put the minutes from all meetings and all general updates on the project website.		Judy Wheeler expressed her disappointment with the fact that the old website was taken down prior to the new website

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		<p>being set up. Judy stated that this is not in line with good practice.</p> <p>Mark Sydney advised that it was due to a commercial conflict – Kyoto Energy Park was at issue with a previous partner.</p>
4.2. CEMP Update	<p>After discussion with the Department, yet a new version of the CEMP will be resubmitted prior to construction of the UHEP.</p> <p>We 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>	<p>CEMP will be prepared prior to construction commencement. It is an early task and could possibly be prepared in 8 weeks' time.</p> <p>Judy Wheeler asked how many CEMPs have been prepared and submitted.</p> <p>Mark Sydney stated that 4 versions had been submitted to the DPE for review. None have been submitted since the last Community Forum. Pamada has advised DPE that we wish to combine wind and solar in the next CEMP.</p>
5. Correspondence		
5.1. General Public – Generally	Nothing to report – nothing received	Noted
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 Energy 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.</p> <p>The new guidelines can be uploaded to the UHEP website, following a Community Forum review of the draft website.</p> <p>We will be happy to discuss any further details as necessary at the meeting.</p> <p>UHEPCF members have contacted Pamada requesting updates on the project status and a date for this Community Forum meeting.</p>	<p>Mark Sydney apologised for the significant delay in correspondence.</p> <p>Mayor Wayne Beddgood stated that silence is not good and that it is easy to respond to an email quickly to notify that there may be a delay.</p> <p>Judy Wheeler advised that this was not a professional approach and not in keeping with past performance. She stated that there are no excuses for not following through with commitments or promises made and that this hurts the development of trust with the Community Forum.</p>

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		Mark Sydney acknowledged that the criticism was justified and apologised.
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. 26/02/18 DPE confirmed acceptance of the Bird and Bat Experts selected to work on the project's Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan.	Noted
5.8. Press – Communications	None noted by the proponent	Noted
5.9. Press – General	None noted by the proponent	Noted
5.10. Website	The Kyoto website has been taken down and the draft UHEP website will be shown at this Community Forum for review and feedback. We will also share a link to Forum members to the site demonstration video.	The demonstration video was shown to Judy Wheeler and Trevor Woolley during the Q&A session. Pamada will send a link to this video to the Community Forum and a link to a dummy site if possible for review.
6. Project Report		
6.1. Progress of the project – assessment or operational issues	Project development work since the last UHEPCF meeting includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise studies Aviation impact studies Flora and fauna investigations and reports Grid connection studies and submission of the grid connection application Further update on this will be presented at the meeting	James North advised that CASA, RAAF and ASA had been consulted and that ASA required an Aviation Impact Statement. The report required for that was submitted to ASA and ASA confirmed that no additional hazards would result from the wind farm. Judy Wheeler asked whether additional lighting will be required. James North advised that he had endeavoured to contact CASA representatives party to the local opposition to hazard lighting. Without such a contact James will contact the CASA office in Sydney. Mark Sydney advised that Pamada is hoping not to have lighting.

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		<p>Judy Wheeler advised that information on lighting is wanted as soon as possible.</p> <p>In response to a question Mark Sydney advised that the Bird and Bat Adaptive Management Plan would be based on the final layout.</p> <p>James North stated that an offer to connect from Ausgrid was expected by mid-March.</p> <p>James North advised that noise studies completed to date, for a couple of turbine layouts.</p> <p>Noise study outcomes were discussed. Fewer turbines is less likely to impact receptors. May require curtailment for Clifton Hills Estate on undeveloped lots. Peak Hill agreement dependent on measurements 6 months after operation.</p> <p>Biodiversity Offset Strategy drafted. Agreement that the white box community is a threatened species requiring offsets. Offset is available on site or via OEH Biodiversity Conservation Fund. Judy Wheeler stated she would prefer a local offset.</p>
<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> <p>The government's actions have affected the outlook of some investors more so than others.</p> <p>Local and global interest in owning wind and solar farms remains high.</p>	<p>Discussion took place regarding the NEG as it stands and the cost of renewable energy.</p> <p>Mark Sydney stated that the Finkel Review has made it clear that wind is the cheapest source of new energy.</p> <p>Judy Wheeler pointed out that renewable energy certificates (LGCs) were adding to the cost of energy for consumers.</p> <p>Mark Sydney advised that the industry is applying little value to LGCs as they are seen to be worthless in the near future.</p>

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	The fundamentals relate to renewable energy now being a cheaper form of energy to produce than electricity from coal and gas. We would be happy to elaborate at the Community Forum meeting.	
<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.	See above.
<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 which are more suitable to low to medium wind sites.</p> <p>We will update the Forum with the preferred (hopefully) final detailed layout.</p>	<p>Pamada presented the original approved 31 turbine layout and then compared two potential layout arrangements of 26 and 21 turbines. The 21 turbine layout included 4 turbines with hub heights increased by 20m. These turbines are not on the extremities of the wind farm and are not on the prominent ridges of the site.</p> <p>Viewshed images were used to illustrate what could be seen from North, South, East and West of the project site.</p> <p>Community Forum members advised that the 21 turbine layout would be "obviously better".</p> <p>Pamada advised that it is currently working with Senvion as the planned turbine supplier. The turbine will be in the 3.XM series by Senvion.</p>
<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>	Noted
6.2. Issues arising from site inspections	Nothing to report	Noted
6.3. Monitoring and performance	None received to the project	Noted

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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	<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.</p>	Noted
	Purpose and charter of the Community Forum – see the attached Community Forum Charter.	<p>The Community Forum Charter was handed out at the Community Forum meeting.</p> <p>Initial comments included: Trevor Woolley requested that safety be included in the Forum Purpose.</p> <p>Sean Constable requested clarification on the representation of the local council and Mark Sydney confirmed that the seat is set aside for the council to select its representative.</p>
8. Next Meeting		
Suggested Thursday 24 th May 2018 at 2.30pm?		Pamada to arrange this.
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. These 2 options will be presented for discussion at the Forum meeting.	
<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	

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<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.	
<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> <p>2 layouts will be presented to the Forum for discussion.</p>	As noted in section 6.1 the two layouts were presented to the forum. The preference was for the layout with fewer turbines but higher hub heights on four turbines.
<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).	Noted
<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 answers to the questions covered and the general plan as to what each stage would comprise of. 	<p>An indicative plan for the project is listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial close June 2018 Sign EPC (turbine supply and install, and balance of plant) contract June 2018 Construction to start: - early works June 2018, full construction start July/Aug 2018 Civil works complete Q1 2019 Turbines delivered to Australia Q2 2019 Grid connection complete Q3 2019 Full operation Q3/Q4 2019 	Noted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further UHEPCF members. 	Nothing new to report	

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<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.	
<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 	Very recently updated, currently in draft format for review at this meeting.	As noted in section 5.10 the website demonstration video was shown to Judy Wheeler and Trevor Woolley. This video will be shared with the Community Forum. Comments are welcomed on the demonstration video.
<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 would like to discuss with the community the potential for additional capacity on Mountain station at the community forum.</p>	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>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</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</p>	

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<p>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 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>preparation of the Aviation Risk Assessment.</p>	
<p>Community involvement</p>	<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>	

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Other Issues for discussion?		