



VALLEY OF THE WINDS WIND FARM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Valley of the Winds Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee (CCC) held via video conferencing on Thursday, 2 September 2021 commencing at 2.34 pm.

Attendees	Initials	Position
Michael Silver OAM	MJS	Independent Chairperson
Kathryn Rindfleish	KR	Community Member
Cr Peter Shinton	PS	Warrumbungle Shire Council representative
Leanne Ryan	LR	Warrumbungle Shire Council representative
Jeremy Ellis	JE	Project Director – UPC/AC Renewables Australia

Observers
Nil

Apologies
Graeme Booker GB Community Member

Item	Details and Actions
1.0 Welcome and Introductions	<p>Meeting opened at 2.34 pm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJS welcomed all present to the inaugural meeting of the CCC. JE introduced himself and noted that there had been a delay in holding the initial meeting due to a variety of reasons since community nominations for the CCC were invited earlier in the year.
2.0 Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As listed above.
3.0 Acknowledgement of Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land from which those joining the video conference meeting come and their continuing connection to land, water, and culture, paying respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.
4.0 Declarations of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJS declared that as the Independent Chairperson his expenses borne by the proponent.
5.0 Chair’s Minute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJS advised that the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) had withdrawn its invitation to Mr Richard Tanner to be a member of the CCC.
6.0 Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPIE – advising withdrawal of invitation to Mr Richard Tanner to be a member of the CCC.
7.0 Proponent’s Report	<p>JE presented the Proponent’s presentation a copy of which is attached to the minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JE provided an overview of the project, highlighting the three clusters at Mt Hope, Girragulung and Leadville. He advised that the number of turbines has reduced to 154. This has been driven by biodiversity considerations and

	<p>improvements in technology. Whilst the rotor diameter will be larger and the spacing of turbines greater, the capacity of the wind farm will be the same as originally proposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JE indicated that two met masts for wind monitoring are located at Mt Hope and at Girragulang, whilst three portable LiDAR boxes are being used to obtain wind speed data. • JE confirmed that discussions with landholders have been occurring since 2019, with 18 landholders to host infrastructure. He also advised that the project would connect into the Orana REZ, noting the proposed TransGrid study area relative to the project site as set out on the map to Slide 3. • JE advised that the Valley of the Winds project is proposing to connect into the National Electricity Market (NEM) via the new transmission infrastructure. Discussion proceeded on the status of the REZ. MJS indicated that the passage of the Electricity Infrastructure Investment Act 2020 last December provided the legal framework for formalising the REZs in NSW. The Orana REZ will be the first to be formally established. • JE outlined the project benefits, noting employment opportunities, community enhancement programs, capital investment and the input into the electricity grid with consequential environmental benefits. He added that supporting employment in the area was a key priority with an interest in engaging local contractors. A resource register is being established to understand what local contractors can provide. He suggested that the project provided an opportunity for locals to obtain a secondary income. • In respect of community benefits, JE noted that the project will provide an economic boost for host landholders. He also advised that it is proposed that a Voluntary Planning Agreement will be established with Warrumbungle Shire Council as well as a Neighbouring Property Benefit Scheme for properties with five kilometres of the project site. This will provide financial benefit to 71 properties that may be subject to visual impacts. • JE outlined the planning approval process. He advised that it is proposed to submit the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public exhibition by the end of 2021. He indicated that efforts are being made to make the EIS readable and readily understood. He advised that, if necessary, specialist consultants will be made available to explain specific areas with the community.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JE explained the content of Slide 9, Traffic and Logistics focusing on the various options for accessing the development sites during construction. He provided the following comments on accessing the three clusters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Mt Hope cluster</i> – Option 2, accessing into private property from the Black Stump Way, is the more favoured as it avoids having to pass through the township of Coolah. ○ <i>Girragulang cluster</i> - access from the Golden Highway via Short Street / Turee Street and Moorefield Road, noting that Moorefield Road will require upgrading. ○ <i>Leadville cluster</i> – both Option 1 and Option 2 are being evaluated. • JE noted the challenges over the last 18 months in respect of community engagement due to the COVID 19 restrictions. He highlighted up-coming one-on-one community engagement sessions via telephone or video conferencing. JE also indicated that social engagement survey will be undertaken to inform the social impact assessment. • Finally, JE detailed the steps to be undertaken prior to submission of the EIS at the end of 2021. • PS sought clarification on the works required to upgrade Moorefield Road from Turee Street to provide access the Girragulang cluster site. JE acknowledged the road requires significant upgrade and this will be challenging. He indicated design consultants are presently assessing the scope of works required to provide suitable site access. Alternative access off Black Stump way via Moorefield Road will also be examined. • In response to a question from the Chair, regarding the community expectations of the project, KR indicated that generally the community has a positive attitude towards the project. PS advised that there has been little discussion at a Council level. He indicated there was some frustration that wind farm projects have not proceeded despite being 'proposed' for many years. He noted the general volatility in wind farm ownership recently and enquired whether the Proponent intended to own and operate the development. JE advised that UPC/AC Renewables Australia maintains an owner/operator model. In this regard it will manage construction contractor as well as own and run the facility. • The Chair noted that a Voluntary Planning Agreement will be established with Warrumbungle Shire Council as part of the project. MJS suggested that there needed to be clarity as to how the VPA is to be applied. LR advised that Council had been approached, at a high level
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	regarding the VPA, but had not responded to the Proponent.
8.0 General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JE indicated that he was open to feedback from CCC members as to the next CCC. • JE noted there had been limited discussion with Warrumbungle Shire Council on the project. He indicated that he would be pleased to make a presentation to Council on the project.
9.0 Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally agreed that the next meeting be in early October 2021 at a date to be confirmed by the Chair.

Meeting closed at 3.47 pm.

Minutes approved,

Michael J. Silver
Independent Chair

Date 24 September 2021