



Project:	Broken Hill Solar Plant
Meeting No:	BH-CIS-04
Date:	Wednesday 5 November 2014
Venue and Time:	Broken Hill Centre for Community
Document:	Meeting minutes and actions
Facilitator:	Helena Orel (HO), AGL
Minutes:	Helena Orel (HO), AGL
AGL representatives:	Adam Mackett (AGM) Project Manager, Project Management Office Helena Orel (HO) Community Engagement Manager
First Solar representatives:	Jeff McAuliffe (JM), Project Manager David Bearman (DB), Site Buyer Robert Bartrop (RB), Director – Business Development
Visitors:	
Apologies:	
Committee Members:	Jim Nolan Jeff Luke Leonie Luke Greg Spangler
Observers	Approximately 21

Meeting Minutes



Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Helena Orel (HO) welcomed CIS members and observers in attendance and explained the purpose of the meeting to newcomers.</p> <p>Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the community is well informed about the project with reliable information • Receive feedback from the community, and see what areas can be improved • Minimise negative impacts to the community. <p>HO ran through the meeting agenda for the CIS and introduced new First Solar attendees.</p> <p>Review of actions items from previous meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HO to coordinate community fund panel expressions of interest from community. 2. HO to advertise the construction community fund being open for applications. 	<p></p> <p>Closed</p> <p>Closed</p>
<p>2. Overview of Project Status, Adam Mackett (AGM) AGL</p> <p><i>Please see presentation slides 4 - 9</i></p> <p>AGM recounted earlier information for the benefit of meeting newcomers and provided AGL's overview of the project status to date. AGM noted that having the construction environmental management plan approved is an important milestone for the project, allowing construction to get underway in earnest following on from the enabling work.</p> <p>Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design is underway for Barrier Highway intersection work • Construction ongoing at TransGrid's substation for the 2 x 22kV connection between the solar plant and substation • AGL electrical contractors CPP will start back at the site later in November. <p>AGM gave a brief overview of the snake risk at the site and explained that First Solar are managing this very well and they have a comprehensive snake reporting procedure in place.</p>	<p></p>

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<p>AGM described the Nyngan Solar Plant water hydration stations which are part of First Solar’s heat stress management plan.</p> <p>AGM noted that the project teams are also engaged in a knowledge sharing effort, with the results being provided to the project’s government stakeholders and is publicly available.</p> <p>Q1. How was the 53MW arrived at, with the 650,000 panels which have a nominal rating?</p> <p>A2. AGM answered that degradation has been factored in for the life of the plant, calculations ensure any degradation still allows for a continuous 53MW. First Solar clarified that the solar PV module rating is in dc and the solar plant output is in ac.</p> <p>3. Overview of project status, Jeff McAuliffe (JM) First Solar</p> <p><i>Please see presentation slides 10 - 16</i></p> <p>JM provided an overview of First Solar’s current status of the project. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design for the site has been finalised • There are three packages of work – civil, structural and electrical being awarded • Civil Team Engineering awarded structural subcontract • Procurement of major equipment for Nyngan includes quantities for Broken Hill in order to gain efficiencies of scale • Delivery of structural items is increasing • Site access roads and temporary construction facilities complete • Drainage works, including sedimentation ponds nearing completion • Site vegetation reduction (mowing) is on-going, leaving a reasonable amount of vegetation to assist with erosion control. <p>JM explained that they are liaising with the neighbours about extending work hours and are carrying out noise monitoring to ensure compliance with environmental requirements. They are not anticipating any issues with the noise limits.</p>	
<p>4. Project employment, Jeff McAuliffe (JM) First Solar</p>	

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<p><i>Please see presentation slide 15</i></p> <p>JM advised that due to the high number of workers required on the project, recruitment will now be managed through Hayes Recruitment.</p> <p>Civil Team Engineering – current employment is approximately 80 people, 36 of these are local to Broken Hill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Team Engineering are requiring plant operators, telehandler operators and labourers. • There continues to be opportunities for local employment and suppliers as the project progresses. <p>People interested in working on the project can contact Paul Harris via paul.harris@hays.com.au or ph: 02 9249 2299.</p> <p>People can also contact David Bearman, First Solar via david.bearman@firstsolar.com or ph: 0409 469 678.</p> <p>Q2. How can small local businesses carry the 'cash flow burden' required to supply large projects with large numbers of staff?</p> <p>A2. Civil Team Engineering representatives noted how their terms of payment were set up.</p> <p>A group member commented that everything being done on the site now appears to be done by non local businesses.</p> <p>JM and Civil Team Engineering representatives responded that their organisations were continuing to use local labour and suppliers and that Hays Recruitment is recruiting locally.</p> <p>It was agreed that AGL would meet with West State Training representatives to discuss the recent changes.</p>	<p>AGM/HO to meet with West State Training.</p>
<p>5. Construction Community Fund, Helena Orel (HO) AGL</p> <p><i>Please see presentation slide 19 - 21</i></p> <p>HO thanked those who had expressed their interest in being on the community fund panel to assess applications and explained she will make contact with those community members to will provide them with information about the next steps in the assessment process.</p>	<p>HO to provide further information about the assessment process to</p>

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<p>Q3. What area around Broken Hill does the fund cover?</p> <p>A3. HO responded that the fund is available to all areas governed by the Broken Hill City Council, including Silverton.</p> <p>Note: Two rounds of funding will be available for the construction period. Round one was advertised open for applications in November / December 2014. Applications close on December 12.</p> <p>The second round will be advertised in second quarter of 2015.</p>	<p>panel members.</p>
<p>General discussion</p> <p>Q4. Recent media about the project says the plant is for designed for a 20 year life, but information provided to the CIS group today says 30 years, why is there a difference?</p> <p>A4. AGM advised the plant is guaranteed for 25 years but that it is expected to last longer than 25 years.</p> <p>Q5. Did the development approval allow for the mowing on site or was it done on AGL's initiative (mowing on site is underway)?</p> <p>A5. AGM responded that the mowing is allowed under the development approval.</p> <p>Q6. What is being done to manage vegetation growth long term?</p> <p>A6. AGM responded that First Solar are trialling various methods, for example using sheep, (as is being done at the Greenough WA solar plant). However, hopefully the salt bush does not grow so high that affects it the panels.</p> <p>Q7. Could the equipment be damaged by the sheep chewing?</p> <p>A7. RB responded that trials at Greenough had been encouraging and potential animal damage would be considered in animal selection.</p> <p>AGM noted that First Solar is required to manage risks at the plant, such as fire, animal damage, snakes etc</p> <p>Comments from the group included:</p> <p>A business owner commented that local businesses have been trying to provide quotes, but one business has been getting 24 hours' notice to quote, which made it difficult to meet the short turn around time, then the business had not received a response back from First Solar / Civil Team Engineering as to why and no feedback. The business operator feels that they are just asking local suppliers so they can say they asked local business with</p>	

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<p>no real intention to use local suppliers. The speaker noted that DB of First Solar had been working well with the local suppliers/businesses.</p> <p>JM advised that this was not the case and the speaker was mistaken in this view. JM noted that the project sometimes needs supplies quickly and agreed to meet with the business owner to provide a status on some quotes, other opportunities and general feedback.</p> <p>AGM commented that local businesses and suppliers should aim to be as competitive as possible when quoting for the project and to keep in contact with First Solar / Civil Team Engineering to avoid disappointment.</p> <p>Q8. What happens when a line goes down?</p> <p>A8. AGM responded that he would provide more information about this at the next meeting.</p> <p>Q9. Will there be opportunities for community visits to the site?</p> <p>A9. AGM responded that there would be when the site activity is more interesting and there will be a community open day as well.</p>	<p>JM to meet with Chamber of Commerce representatives to discuss quotes and feedback.</p> <p>AGM to provide details about lines going down.</p>
<p>6. Next meeting and close</p> <p>Due to the January holiday period it was agreed that the next meeting will be Wednesday 11 February 2015 at the Broken Hill Centre for Community from 6pm to 8pm.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 7.50pm</p>	

Action Item	CIS meeting	Status	Who
Coordinate panel expressions of interest from the group and to advertise round one community fund open for applications.	September 2014	Closed	HO
Advertise in November / December that the construction community fund is open for applications.	September 2014	Closed	HO
AGL to meet with West State Training.	November 2014	Closed	AGM/HO



Provide further information about the assessment process to panel members.	November 2014	Closed	HO
Meet with Chamber of Commerce representatives to discuss quotes and feedback.	November 2014	Open	JM