



Project:	Silverton Wind Farm
Meeting No:	14
Date:	Thursday 23 October 2014
Venue and Time:	Silverton Youth Hall 6pm – 8pm
Document:	Meeting minutes and actions
Chair/Facilitator:	Kath Elliott (KE)
Minutes:	Helena Orel (HO), AGL
AGL representatives:	Neil Cooke (NC) Manager, Project Development Helena Orel (HO) Community Engagement Manager
Committee Members	Helen Murray, local resident
	Cynthia Langford, Purnamoota Station
	Naomi Schmidt, Eldee Station
	Kevin White, Historic Daydream Mine
	John Taplin, Secretary Silverton Village Committee
	Phillip Blore, Belmont Station
	Marion Browne, Councillor Broken Hill City Council
	Maureen O'Donnell, traditional Owner
	Joanne O'Donnell, Broken Hill Aboriginal Land Council
Guests	Kevin Humphries MP Member for Barwon, Mrs Humphries, and adviser, Georgia Campbell.
Apologies	Steve Radford, Consolidated Mining and Civil
	Peter Price, Silverton Committee/ Silverton Hotel
	Rod Grenfell, local resident
	Anne Andrews (nee Brandson), Chamber of Commerce
	Tiff Brown, Department of Primary Industries, Catchments & Lands
	Albert Woodroffe, Silverton Committee, Horizon Galleries
	Dave Gallagher, Councillor Broken Hill City Council
	Cameron Koch, Silver City Minerals
Community observers in attendance:	Approximately nine and media representatives





Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>Kath Elliott (KE) opened the meeting at 6:00pm and welcomed members of the Silverton Community Consultative Committee (SCCC), guests observers in attendance.</p> <p>KE noted the following apologies from CCC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Steve Radford- Peter Prices- Ann Andrews- Tiff Brown- Albert Woodroffe- Dave Gallagher- Cameron Koch <p>KE welcomed the Hon. Kevin Humphries MP, Minister for , Minister for Natural Resources, Lands & Water, and Minister for Western NSW to the CCC.</p> <p>KE provided an overview of the agenda.</p> <p>The minutes from the March 2014 meeting were discussed. The minutes were accepted as correct.</p> <p>JT advised that he would like to discuss water issues in general business and this was agreed.</p>	

Section 1 continued- Actions from previous meetings

Action 1: *Provide answer about the 6km setback*

NC responded that AGL will not commit to a 6km setback of the turbines from Silverton.

He noted that there are six turbines which fall within the 6km radius and the closest potential turbine location to Silverton is 4.8km and the 3.8km to the closest Silverton resident.

NC provided an example of how the community's view will be taken into consideration during the tender process. He explained that if there is a turbine that is further away from Silverton which has the same or better electricity output and construction cost than a turbine that is closer to Silverton, the turbine further away will be selected.

There were comments made from CCC members and observers about their objection to the turbines being within 6km to Silverton and how some felt that AGL was not taking into consideration the community's views.

NC responded that he was very aware of the community's views on setback. He explained that when the tender process commenced, AGL had asked the five tenderers for options on prices and outputs if the six turbines within the 6km radius were not used. The EPC process was then put on hold. NC noted that when the EPC process recommences, the tenderers will be able to come back with their options.

Action 2: *AGL to provide an answer on the following question:*

If there are road closures during construction and people need to use the road, will motorists be fined?

NC advised that no motorists would not be fined

Action 3: *AGL to send out hardcopies of the TMP when it becomes available*

HO distributed the TMP copies and put on the AGL website

Action 4: *AGL to investigate a new species of lizards noted in the area and whether or not this affects the project*

NC gave an overview of the surveys that were carried out for the Silverton Wind Farm, various locations were identified as providing habitat opportunities for the Tawny Rock Dragon. (Note that this Dragon's name was then changed to the Tawny Crevice Dragon).

When researching the Tawny Dragon, Claire McLean from the University of Melbourne found that the lizard found around Silverton was actually a separate species; the Barrier Range Dragon.

Upon AGL's discussion with the Office of Environment and Heritage, it was confirmed that the provisions made in the original Environment Assessment and the submission report are still valid in relation to the Barrier Range Dragon. The provisions are also described in the Statement of Commitments (SOC 25 to 29).

<p>2. Minister Kevin Humphries</p> <p>KH MP noted that he was wanting to see how the wind farm project was going, to get an overview of it and to meet with the community and the leaseholders to get their views on the project.</p> <p>KH MP noted that there was a currently a move in place with Crown land that would see the ownership of Crown land be transferred to freehold. This would affect current leaseholders involved in the project, they will be able to take full ownership of the land.</p> <p>KH MP noted that this would mean that AGL and freehold land owners would be able to deal directly with each other, rather than going through Crown land processes and procedures.</p>	
<p>3. AGL's power development team changes</p> <p>Neil Cooke (NC) provided an overview of the project status.</p> <p><i>Please refer to presentation slide 3.</i></p> <p>NC noted that due to reduction in energy demand in the wider energy industry, AGL had recently had a restructure in the Power Development team and that Rosa is no longer working with AGL and that:</p> <p>AGL has dissolved its power development team and established a new AGL Project Management Office, which will mainly focus on projects on existing assets .</p> <p>Scott Thomas is now General Manager for the transitioning of AGL Macquarie (NSW) power plant</p> <p>Mark Stephens is the Head of the Project Management Office reporting to Doug Jackson, Chief Operating Officer.</p>	
<p>4. AGL's meeting with Silverton Village Committee</p> <p><i>Please refer to presentation slide 4</i></p> <p>HO gave an overview of AGL's meeting with the Silverton Village Committee (SWC) held on Thursday 14 August. HO noted that the meeting was in response to the SVC's letter sent to AGL GM Scott Thomas which detailed their concerns about the project and that the consultation process was not taking into consideration the communities views. The discussion also focussed on the requested confirmation from AGL that AGL would commit to setting the turbines 6km back from Silverton Village.</p> <p>The meeting also included discussion about the current status of the Renewable Energy Target (RET) and its affect on the project's progress, the project's community fund, areas of Silverton that could benefit from the wind farm, such as visitor numbers, tourism, Umberumberka Reservoir and the Silverton solar residential packages.</p>	

5. Project status update, Neil Cooke

Please refer to presentation slide 8

NC gave an overview on the Condition 2.2A of the Modification of the Minister's Approval for the project's extension

Condition 2.2A states:

'Prior to the construction of turbines, the Proponent shall submit a plan of the final turbine number and layout for the approval of the Director-General. The plan must be developed in consultation with Trade & Investment – Crown Lands, leaseholders and the CCC. The plan must include photomontages and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director-General how the visual impacts have been reduced, including by maximising the distance from dwellings, tourist development and other sensitive receivers.'

https://majorprojects.affinitylive.com/public/e3a805a1eef4724dbdf483edebe445a8/14.04.11_Signed_Mod%201%20Project%20Approval.pdf

NC noted that AGL must provide new photo montages and evidence of community consultation to satisfy the Director-General and Minister for Planning's expectations as stated in Clause 2.2A.

Please refer to presentation slide 9

NC discussed the current status of the RET review, which is still being debated between government parties and NC commented that it may be many months before a decision is reached on the RET by the government. Accordingly, AGL will continue to hold off on its decisions on the Silverton Wind Farm project's progress.

NC commented that it could take until mid 2015 for an outcome from the Renewable Energy Target (RET) review. Depending on the outcome, AGL will assess if it needs to produce more Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), the project will be put to the board for financial approval, which will be dependant on market conditions. The Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract process would need to be restarted as well.

NC noted the Traffic Management Plan (TMP) was now up on the AGL project website and hard copies were also available at the meeting today. The aim of moving the TMP process forward is to get the project as ready as much as possible to go, should the decision be made to take the project to construction.

NC advised he is continuing to work with through the approvals process with the relevant authorities and to work with the landholder to progress the bypass road.

The rock and sand quarry are being progressed as necessary.

Comments

Q1. KH MP what stage are we in the planning process now?

A2. NC noted there is a project planning approval extension until May 2016.



Q2. HM asked how does Clause 2.2A make anything different for the community?

A2. NC answered that the clause provides more power and certainty to the community and that AGL must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Director-General that it has met this clause.

Section 5 continued

KE commented that this clause puts more pressure on AGL to consider the community views and this has to be done to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

Group discussion focussed on this clause and AGL's approach to the community to date.

JT noted it's been like banging a head against a brick wall

Q3. MO'D noted that there should be more consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC), there are a lot of things to protect and why has this not happened?

A3. HO noted that contact had been made with the LALC, but that there would be more contact and she could meet with them the next day.

KE noted that AGL is required to consult with the traditional owners.

KH MP noted that the LALC should be consulted as part of the Director-General's requirements, if there is an active LALC.

MO'D noted the LALC is active for the area.

JT noted that a letter should be sent to the Director-General about the setbacks.

KH MP commented this was a good idea and that the CCC would be better off writing as a group.

KE commented that since AGL is on the CCC, that it is unlikely that AGL would agree that the CCC would write to the DG requesting a large set back.

Q4. JT asked why doesn't AGL just agree now to the turbine setback, no ifs, no buts?

A4. NC answered that AGL won't agree on the 6km setback at this stage, as AGL can make the best decision about setback when all the information about the wind farm is available to AGL. All the best information is available much closer to the construction stage.

Q5. KH MP asked how did the 6km setback request come about?

A5. HM noted she was not quite sure

HOM commented that it appeared to have come about as request for extended setbacks from the nearest residence, then the request had evolved into a request for 6km setback from Silverton Village to reduce the visual impact and maintain the Village's visual amenity.

KH MP commented that the new Clause 2.2A certainly gives the community a lot more leverage with this request.

Q6. KH MP asked if there is a consensus on the project itself, either for or against?

A6. KE commented it might be about half and half and asked the Committee to indicate if their position.

Roughly half in favour and half against was indicated.

HO to meet with LALC representatives to discuss further.



KE noted that the Committee can now put it to the Director General about where they want the turbines. The Director-General will consider these views in the final determination.

<p>KH MP noted that the Director-General does not have the final decision on the project overall, but that the Minister for Planning does.</p> <p>Q7.CL asked why do a few turbines have to be so close to the town when there are so many sites to choose from?</p> <p>A7. NC answered that the turbines closest to the Silverton are modelled as providing the best generation.</p> <p>Q8. NS asked will the community be sued if they force the turbines to be moved back?</p> <p>A8. NC answered no there is no legal come back on the community about changing turbine locations.</p> <p>Q9. HM asked who should write to the Director-General? Would be better as a group or as individuals?</p> <p>A9. KE answered that they could do either, but it might be better as a group, but not as a CCC.</p> <p>KH MP commented that CCC groups usually never agree, so suggested different letters could be better.</p> <p>KE noted that that the Clause 2.2A is a very positive outcome for the community.</p> <p>KE requested NC to note what AGL has done to consider the communities views.</p> <p>NC noted that requests had been made to the EPC contractors to site the turbines in locations that provide least impact to the community and at the same time provide best generation for AGL. The EPC contractors had responded by setting turbine setbacks further than required.</p> <p>BW commented that the cost of moving the two turbines back would be insignificant to the cost of \$1billion dollar project.</p> <p>Q10. MO'D asked if all the wind farm area had been surveyed by the LALC? Who had done the surveys?</p> <p>A10. NC advised he would take this on notice.</p> <p>MO'D commented that AGL needs to start discussions with the LALC, and she noted that this was the first CCC meeting she had attended and that she had a lot of catching up to do. Requested that face to face consultation as this is better.</p> <p>HO noted that she would be in contact with the LALC on Friday.</p> <p>Q11. JO'D asked does the RET outcome affect the life of the project?</p> <p>A11. HO noted that the life of the wind farm is expected to 20 – 30 years and the RET outcome does not affect it's life expectancy.</p>	<p>NC to provide information on indigenous heritage survey work on the wind farm</p> <p>HO to continue contact and consultation with LALC</p>
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<p>Q12. HM asked does the RET delay/outcome mean another project extension is required?</p> <p>A12. NC answered this is not sure yet.</p> <p>KW commented on this being such a long frustrating process, affect on visual amenity and he has asked tourists about their opinions on the turbines too.</p> <p>Q13. KH MP asked the group what are the other issues apart from the 6km setback?</p> <p>A13. Responses from the group</p> <p>JT noted traffic, getting in and out of Silverton.</p> <p>KE noted there had been a difference in agricultural and tourism / township uses of the road.</p> <p>NS noted the stress of not knowing, not being able to plan, tourism impacts, legal bills.</p> <p>Q14. KH MP asked had legal costs being factored into the project?</p> <p>A14. NC answered, yes they have been Neil I didn't catch this bit</p> <p>CL noted she is concerned about time going by and they don't want to leave their children with this mess around the project. Want it to be sorted out before their children take over the property.</p> <p>HM noted they have been over so many things about the project so many times, it's just dragging on, just don't know when it's going to happen. There is conjecture about health impacts and property values, just want to live here, don't want the visual impacts. AGL totally disregard what is going to happen to the community.</p> <p>JO'D noted concerns about housing demand and affordability in Broken Hill area during construction, no new housing is becoming available for indigenous people.</p> <p>Q15. KH MP asked if AGL has discussed indigenous employment on the project.</p> <p>A15. NC answered that indigenous participation plans were requested of the EPC tender submissions.</p> <p>Q16 MO'D asked to comment on the indigenous plans.</p> <p>A16. HO noted she would follow upon this request.</p> <p>Q17. MO'D asked about what benefits for the community come from the wind farm?</p> <p>A17. KE commented that the CCC had put together a tentative guideline for the project's construction community fund, but the group had decided to not progress with finalising the guidelines when the project was put on hold.</p> <p>JO'D commented she wanted to see how the community fund goes with AGL's Broken Hill Solar Plant, so funds and priorities were not doubling up.</p> <p>HO noted she talk about this with Joanne when they met on Friday.</p>	<p>HO to follow up on the EPC tender submissions indigenous employment plans</p>
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<p>6. Department of Planning NSW community consultation changes</p> <p><i>Please refer to presentation slide 6</i></p> <p>HO gave an overview of the recent announcement by the Minister for Planning and Minister for Women – Prue Goward about changes to wind farm development applications. Wind farm applications will now be referred to an independent panel for determination, known as the Planning Assessment Commission (PAC).</p> <p>The aim being to provide a more open and transparent determination process, to avoid the possibility of proponents appointing CCC members with undue bias.</p> <p>The changes provide more participation, ownership and control to the community.</p> <p>HO noted that the Silveton CCC seems to have a good cross section of the community and key stakeholders represented.</p>	
<p>7. Other business</p> <p>No other business was raised</p>	
<p>8. Next meeting and close</p> <p>Due to the delay in the RET’s outcome, the group agreed to meet April 2015.</p> <p>The next meeting is suggested to be held on Thursday, 24 April 2014 from 6pm to 8pm at the Silvertown Youth Hall.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 7.50pm</p>	

Action Item	CCC meeting	Status	Who
Speak to the media on behalf of the members before CCC meetings on the protocols of interviewing and quoting members in articles.	October 2013	Ongoing	KE
Send out hard copies of TMP once it has been uploaded on the website.	March 2014	Closed	HO
Investigate the new species of lizards and if this affects the project.	March 2014	Closed	NC
Pass on contact details to PP.	March 2014	Closed	HO
Provide information on indigenous heritage survey work on the wind farm	October 2014	Open	NC



Continue contact and consultation with LALC	October 2014	Open	HO
Follow up on the EPC tender submissions indigenous employment plans	October 2014	Open	HO