



**RATCH-Australia Corporation**

**MT EMERALD WIND FARM – COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
AGENDA/ MEETING MINUTES**

Date	22/09/2016	Time	10:00 – 12.30
Venue	Mareeba RSL, 88 Byrnes St, Mareeba		

<b>Attendees</b>	Dr Steve Turton (Indep Chair)	Late
Sam Musumeci	John Hardy	Steve Lavis
Jim Carey	Bronwyn Dwyer	Terry Johannesen
John Parmenter	David Reynolds	Miles Hunt

<b>Apologies</b>		Non-Attendee
Ross Iraci		Albi Holmann

No.	Item / Discussion/ Action	Responsibility	Due date
1	<p><b>Welcome, Introductions and apologies</b> All attendees introduced themselves and identified the key interests of the groups that they represent.</p> <p>SM – Mareeba CoC - support progress that meets enviro and Council guidelines. JC – Springmount / Oaky Ck Area – noise and enviro controls met JP – Channel Road residents concerns – visual amenity; enviro aspects; impacts on us (locals) and benefits elsewhere DR – Rangeview community – medical effects, land values – inability to sell; construction – delays on roads; proceed with as little adverse impacts as possible ST – Independent Chairperson - opportunity to meet community groups and to enable them to share information JH – Tolga/ Rocky Ck Community – formerly read BOM site daily; Daughter at Waubra – experience of opposition and community support/impact at Waubra; concern – visual amenity, construction compliance with conditions and commitments SL – Representing Tablelands Wind Turbine Action – concerns: impacts on lives – enviro/ flora/ fauna/ health/ visual amenity. Concerns based on Ellensberg, Washington State experience. BD – Canegrowers: pro-development – concerns re aerial spraying; community concern</p>		
2	<p><b>Pecuniary interests, minutes from last meeting</b> No previous meeting</p>	First meeting	
3	<p><b>Purpose of Group</b> – Communication and Representation</p> <p>Independent Chair Steve Turton discussed the CCC Charter and asked all members to review their provided copy. The key element is to respect everyone else’s view</p>	Chair	

	<p>to enable the group to function better and for information to flow.</p> <p>KF – 20 applications for CCC. Representatives chosen based on representing communities surrounding the site within 5km, plus Business/Agriculture community.</p>		
4	<p><b>Review of Charter</b> – copy provided to all members for review and future reference.</p>		
5	<p><b>Roles, Rules, Responsibilities –</b> As defined in the CCC Charter</p>		
6	<p><b>Access to information</b></p> <p>website, newsletters, media updates</p> <p>In order to facilitate transparent communication, a range of information is already available, in the form of the Mt Emerald Wind Farm website: <a href="http://www.mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au">www.mtemeraldwindfarm.com.au</a> And its linked: Fact Sheets/ FAQ posters.</p> <p>Request made by JH for copies of all Fact Sheets to be provided to Committee members in a booklet. Compliment on comprehensiveness of FAQ’s published to date. Discussion re the ability to generate additional fact sheets to meet community questions – agreed.</p> <p>JH – request for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A3 map of site;</li> <li>• sticker/business card with the web address so community can be guided to it</li> <li>• list of committee on website</li> </ul>	<p>KF to collate all fact sheets for all CCC members by next meeting. To also include all previous MEWF newsletter and an A3 map of the site</p>	<p>14/10/2016</p>
7	<p><b>Group Photo -</b> Taken. Discussion SL re use of photo and Disclaimer to reflect that being a member of the CCC does not imply support of project.</p>	<p>KF – add to website and submit to local newspapers</p>	<p>28/09/2016</p>
8	<p><b>Project Update (deferred to last item of day due to technical delays)</b> PPT presentation – attached to minutes Status of approvals, appointment of principal contractors – Vesta and Downer; construction timeline</p> <p>Lots of questions and discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sodar equipment and how it works</li> <li>• Noise of turbines – including low frequency noise monitoring</li> <li>• Data points to be monitored for noise – before and after construction and approx 2yrs after construction, and throughout the life of the project – to assure compliance to committed/warranted levels of performance from manufacturers.</li> </ul>	<p>TJ/KF presented</p>	

<p>9</p>	<p><b>Proposed site visit – date/ safety/ logistics</b>  Offer to CCC to visit MEWF site. Proposed date is Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2016: 0930 - 1130. Additional dates to be set for those CCC members who cannot attend on set date. Meet at entrance of Kippen Drive.  Also made CCC aware of Windy Hill Open Day – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October: 0900 – 1300. BBQ and tower site visit by site staff. KF to attend</p>	<p>KF - Invitations to be sent and logistics – vehicles/ water/maps etc. Additional date to be organised.</p>	<p>30/09/2016</p>
<p>10</p>	<p><b>Group Discussion</b> – identify issues/ Requests for information/briefings</p> <p>JP – Road controls for Channel Road – request sub-contractors not to use Channel Road.</p> <p>Indigenous Representation – discussion on representatives and open-ness of communication. TJ explained that request sent but no representative available at present. Ongoing communication and offer to be made</p> <p>TJ – explained his role as WF Manager for past 6yrs – through approval process. Transferring responsibility for construction through Operation of project. Is resource for information on most issues associated with the project. Based in Brisbane. Visiting regularly  MH – GM Assets – Operations and Maintenance.  Manages contracts for power supply.  KF – Secretariat and Community Information role.</p> <p>Appointment of a proxy. Discussion regarding the identification of a proxy for those who cannot attend meetings. Raised by DR for Members to review prior to next meeting</p> <p>Meeting Frequency – discussed. Confirm meetings be held more frequent than proposed in the Charter (3 monthly), especially in the establishment stage – with the agreement of Ratch and the Chair. Based on ‘milestones’ in the project or to discuss key issues raised by the committee.</p> <p>Meeting time – not discussed. Raised by Steve Lavis in email. “As a small business owner, meeting times outside business hours would be more suitable.” – for discussion at next meeting.</p>	<p>TJ – confirmed directive to Contractors</p> <p>. TJ to confirm against Committee Charter and provide feedback – Add to agenda for next meeting.</p> <p>Add to Agenda for next meeting - KF</p>	

<p>11</p>	<p>Correspondence – Steve Lavis email (attached) Discussion of the following points. TJ elaborated:</p> <p>Construction commencing: Tentatively early Dec. Wet season works will comprise basic site establishment. Heavy construction timeline – commencing after Wet – April/May 2017</p> <p>Contracts – Letters of Intent issued. Not finalised until ‘financial close’ – Financial Close anticipated first week of November.</p> <p>Construction – notification of immediate neighbours (Kippen Dve) – as soon as date is known</p> <p>When will revised turbine location be presented? – Downer Civil Design - working on it now. 63 locations identified on site. Allowance to move towers 100m if enviro/site conditions require it.</p> <p>In negotiation with Turbine Manufacturers/Suppliers. Tentatively 53 towers to be installed. Original: 113m rotors diameter. Now a mix of: 112m rotor/ 117m rotor 84m Towers and 58m Blades – approval for towers to be a max. of 150m from ground to tip. CASA ceiling of 1179.5m ASL</p> <p>Change in Output size – no difference to the amount of noise or generation</p> <p>Original proposal: 75*2MW turbines. New options have same noise output as 2MW turbines of 5yrs ago. Eg: Windy Hill in 2000 – Turbines at 600kW / and 44m towers was the market leader.</p> <p>Reduced noise via serrated tape on edge of blades. Turbulent air makes less noise.</p> <p>Blades – 55m long – is limit to transport on the road.</p> <p>Rotation speeds – multi range – with enough wind. Blades can turn 90° to the wind. At 14m/s (40 – 50km/hr) – max output 3MW. 16-17 revs/minute maximum. Blades now ‘feather’ for constant generation – Locked off at too high speed.</p>	<p>TJ – notify neighbours as soon as dates are confirmed</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
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	<p>Discussion re cyclones – Larry / Yasi. Turbines faced wind but are locked to prevent movement/ damage. Windy Hill lost two hatches – which meant turbines got wet. Air was blown into them to dry them out. Site was ready to supply energy to the region almost immediately, but transmission lines were down and Ergon was not ready for re-supply.</p> <p>SM – what is ‘normal’ direction of wind: E/ SE.</p> <p>TJ – Noise level of turbines is ‘known’ and agreed. Changes with wind speed. Max noise <b>within</b> the turbine at max speed is 105dB at source. Noise rapidly drops with distance from the turbine. All turbines must be setback a minimum of 1500m from any existing and approved dwelling at the date of the approval.</p> <p>Modelling includes topography and direction. Allows for prediction of dB at x distance and location from turbine. <b>Limits on noise: Outdoor night-time equivalent noise level at existing and approved sensitive land uses at the date of this approved, does not exceed the higher of: 35dB (A); or background +5dB.</b>  <i>-Measurements of operational noise shall be in accordance with AS495902010 Acoustics- Measurement, prediction and assessment of noise from wind turbine generators.</i></p> <p>Final tower locations will be known within 8 weeks.</p> <p>JP – how are towers ‘ballasted’?  TJ – Towers will have concrete footings – approx 50m<sup>2</sup>*2m deep. Not rock anchors.</p> <p>JH – will towers be made in Australia?  TJ – typically ‘tops’ are made overseas – Nacelle, Turbine and Blades. Towers can come from Korea or Vietnam or from either of 2 Australian manufacturers – Sth Aust or Victoria. All built to same spec. Decision of tower supplier based on market conditions.</p> <p>SL – Will DA conditions be explained to the Committee?  TJ – yes. For most issues, Env Management Plans have already been developed and approved by Qld Government.</p>	<p>TJ/KF update Fact Sheets to reflect DA conditions. Develop Newsletter to describe DA conditions/ EMPs and update on status of project – Nov issue</p>	
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	<p>Northern Quolls – are populations on local farms subject to same approval/ development conditions as MEWF. KF - Depending on scale of development and proposal. For small scale, unlikely to require EIS scale enviro studies.</p> <p>SL –(raised in email but not discussed): What is Option to include government (local, state and federal ) officials in our meetings if felt a necessary. – Add to agenda for next meeting</p>		
12	<p>Next meeting – timing and location – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 0930 – 1130 at Mt Emerald Wind Farm site – Kippen Drive adjacent to the gate.</p>	Add to agenda for next meeting - KF	

Meeting items endorsed by: Dr. Steve Turton

Signature:



Name/ Role: Chair CCC

Date: 7/10/2016