



RATCH-Australia Corporation

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

Date	04/05/2017	Time	4:00 – 5:30
Venue	Walkamin Community and Sports Club Hall 1 Kurrajong Road, Walkamin		

Attendees	Dr Steve Turton (Indep Chair)	Kim Forde
Sam Musumeci	John Hardy	Steve Lavis
John Parmenter	Ross Iraci	Don Lennox
David Reynolds	Bronwyn Dwyer	Jim Carey
Invited Guests:	Bob McPhail – failed to attend	
Apologies	Rene Kuypers	

No.	Item / Discussion/ Action	Responsibility	Due date
1	Welcome, Introductions and apologies Welcome and Introduction to Don Lennox who will be representing the Atherton Chamber of Commerce, replacing Albi Holmann.		
2	Pecuniary interests, minutes from last meeting Discussion re pecuniary interest register – <i>DL to provide a template register for use by the CCC. SM reiterated his pecuniary interest, in that his company had quoted to supply materials to sub-contractors to MEWF. No issues discussed relevant to this issue today.</i>	<i>DL to KF – Pecuniary Interest Register template</i>	By next meeting in July.
3	Purpose of Group – Communication and Representation Independent Chair Steve Turton reminded the CCC of the Charter. The key element is to respect everyone else’s view to enable the group to function better and for information to flow. Role is to enhance two way communication, not to focus on only one issue or to determine RAC operational regimes.	Chair	
4	Roles, Rules, Responsibilities	Chair	
5	Information requests: newsletters, media updates Summary of Info requests as provided to Commonwealth Wind Farm Commissioner: Sept – Apr 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 CCC Meetings – 5th this meeting, May 2017 • Stakeholder visits – 7 • Community/Stakeholder presentations – 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planned in next 3 months: 3 • Sponsorship requests to date – 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sponsorships approved – 3 ○ Value of sponsorships to date - \$15000 • Complaints - 9 (8 from one source) – noise, dust, visuals • Media Coverage – 5 stories • Community Newsletters – approx fortnightly – on website 	KF	

	<p>preparation for establishment of Powerlink sub-station; tower sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sod-turning ceremony – deferred <p>More workers expected on site over next couple of months – KF asked to get EOI for self-contained accommodation provision from stakeholder communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>RI suggested contacting FGF/ Springmount for options. KF to pass onto MEWF Site Mgt</i> 		
8	<p>Items from previous meeting: Presentation: Property Values implications – Real Estate Valuer - Bob McPhail did not arrive.</p> <p>Invitation issued to MBarBarrum people to attend each CCC meeting and send a permanent rep</p>		
9	<p>Group Discussion – identify issues/ Requests for information/briefings</p> <p>New President of Atherton Chamber of Commerce* - Christine Doan – represented at meeting by Treasurer Don Lennox</p> <p>Issues Raised by Mr Steve Lavis – for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Meetings and Advising CCC Members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>When meetings are identified KF to email all of CCC members so they can inform their relevant groups.</i> ○ SL reported feedback from Malanda CoC meeting of misunderstanding of key information re Tower Height – not 40m and ‘inability of transporting blades through Malanda’. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>KF reiterated correct information re tower height / and combined tower and blade height; and of the adherence to DMR protocols and agreed Traffic Management Plan; of working with TRC and other Councils to negotiate route and changes to traffic assets and conditions as per DMR protocols.</i> ▪ <i>Discussion re consistent presentation – exists; and JC comment that all questions were answered and opportunity to clarify at Mutchilba meeting</i> • Cultural Heritage Procedure. (When Aboriginal artefacts are found, are they removed or remained on site?) 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>KF explained process of GPS locations, identification, bagging/tagging and removal of all artefacts for now, with replacement on site at the discretion of MBarbarrum people on completion of works.</i> ● <i>Changes To Ratch Permit Conditions and Advising CCC Members. (Permit condition 5 relating to low frequency noise deleted back in January, and increasing clearing of site from 58ha. To 73ha.recently amended)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>KF presented information provided by RAC Hugh Sangster:</i> ○ <i>Ratch Permit changed to bring Consent in line with Qld Wind Farm Code of Practice. Delete C5: WF Code has o low frequency noise reference, so Permit brought into line with expectations for all other Qld Wind Farms, so no longer an applicable requirement.</i> ○ <i>Deletion of C15: Visual Impact of Sub-station and Rehab Plan – RAC pointed out that the sub-station would not be visible from anywhere outside site. Qld Govt agreed no impact and a waste of time, \$ and govt resources to monitor – removed.</i> ○ <i>Inconsistency in the Flicker requirements – brought into line with Qld WF Code.</i> ○ <i>Amendment to conditions – requires a formal process, defined in S369 of Qld Sustainable Planning Act (SPA), 2009. Formal process includes informing relevant Councils and key govt stakeholders and getting their approval for changes.</i> ○ <i>Clearing variation – Formal process undertaken with Commonwealth Dept of Environment and Energy. Recognised that implementing best practice and mitigation strategies would require additional initial clearing to achieve, but would be effectively mitigated by:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Offset Plan and block size</i> ▪ <i>Quoll Impact plan</i> ▪ <i>Turbine Location Development Footprint Plan and</i> ▪ <i>Their supporting: EMP’s being followed.</i> ○ <i>All this information is available on website, which is updated as soon as</i> 		
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	<p><i>available. This CCC meeting is first since all have been finalised to inform the CCC.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>SM Observation – this application of best practice and such high standards could have implications for all other contractors in the region, being required to lift their standards to meet these.</i> ○ <i>JP – concern of ‘changing goal posts’ and that commitments to date may change over time resulting in community having to accept lower /different standards. Example of community concern re recent changes to Windy Hill WF conditions. JP feedback of community concerns re ‘sneaky behaviour’ – perception that TRC decision to change approved noise levels without sufficient / any consultation with affected landowner. Potential that RAC could apply for changes at MEWF should conditions change in future.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Discussion – coverage / community concern as voiced in local newspapers comments sections.</i> ● Independent Noise Monitoring Equipment Installation and Monitoring Prior To Construction and Operation Commencing – discussion proposal for CCC To Give Support and Request For Funding Out Of Community Benefit Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>SL – why wasn’t noise monitoring conducted for 12 months?</i> ○ <i>His group (TWAG) has requested that monitoring independent of RAC be undertaken to determine baseline levels over time.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Discussion – all – meeting supports that if a community group wishes to undertake independent monitoring it should be allowed to do so.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>KF mentioned need to address privacy and safety issues; also that 2 lots of baseline monitoring had already been conducted around MEWF – according to AS/NZ standard – and deemed acceptable to all approving authorities and a background/ and operational noise limits</i> 	<p>CCC to be informed of any future changed in conditions ASAP / when going up on website</p>	
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	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>had already been set for the site.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>SL – requested CCC support application for RAC to pay for this monitoring out of Community Benefit Fund</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>KF informed all that purpose of CBF was not for this, and would not be appropriate.</i> ▪ <i>SL asked meeting to support application for RAC to pay for independent monitoring.</i> ▪ <i>KF suggested that RAC would not consider a ‘bottomless bucket’ request for funding – that any formalised written request would have to include a budget and probity controls proposed.</i> ▪ <i>Discussion as to staging of request and what was ‘baseline testing’ and ‘best practice’ in this area; what was the legal requirement and what was the AS and did it align with the new Qld WF Code of Practice.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Request to RAC for approve an Extraordinary meeting of the CCC to be held as soon as RAC can obtain the services of an appropriately qualified Noise Expert who can attend and answer the CCC’s questions about noise monitoring.</i> <p><i>JP – requests explanation of difference between 35dB/ 40dB limits and background plus 5dB limits.</i></p> <p><i>SL requested that members of WTAG be allowed to attend Extraordinary CCC meeting to hear noise expert speak.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Discussion – ST – Terms of Ref for the CCC would not</i> 	<p>SL – if WTAG wishes to undertake independent noise monitoring and wishes to ask RAC for funds, it needs to formally write to RAC and clearly define the scope, budget and community benefits of the request.</p> <p>KF to ask RAC to consider: RAC obtaining services of approp. Noise Monitoring Expert to speak to CCC asap. - Extraordinary CCC meeting (ASAP) - Independent Noise Monitoring for 12 months around site - RAC assistance to pay for independent noise monitoring</p>	
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	<p><i>allow this. Role of CCC reps to take information from CCC meeting and report back to their community groups.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>KF suggestion – copies of presentation and maps etc could be made available to CCC members to share with their groups and be available on website.</i> 		
	<p>Information Sharing Any further requests for copies of laminated info sheet or other information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>RI – copies of his own noise monitoring results requested</i> <i>JC confirmed request for another meeting in Mutchilba in August</i> <p>KF confirmed going on leave until 1 July. Will have limited access to provide assistance. She will forward emails to appropriate RAC personnel for response.</p>	<p>KF to request copies of RI noise monitoring results asap.</p>	
11	<p>Correspondence - Annual Report -National Wind Commissioner – copies available on request.</p>		
12	<p>Next meeting – timing and location –</p>	<p>Next formal CCC meeting proposed for first Thurs in July at Walkamin Sports and Social Club.</p> <p>Extraordinary CCC meeting to be asap, arranged after consultation with RAC.</p>	