

FLYERS CREEK WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes 27 June 2016

Date and Venue	Monday 27 th June 2016 Blayney Shire Council Conference Centre, 6pm
Attendees:	Mr. Kim Masters (Host landowner) Ms. Rachael Young (Wind farm neighbour) Mr. Ian Rogan (Chair) Mr. Jonathan Upson (Proponent–Infigen Energy) Ms. Megan Richardson (Proponent–Infigen Energy)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:09pm by the Chair.

Jonathan Upson introduced Megan Richardson from Infigen Energy. He explained that he is taking on a new role at Infigen Energy and therefore will be taking a step back from the Flyers Creek project. Megan will now be development manager for the project and Jonathan will provide support during the transition of project managers.

The Chair noted the CCC members' appreciation to Jonathan for his involvement to date and thanked him for his hard work, willingness to share information and openness on the project to date and welcomed Jonathan's commitment to ongoing contact.

Agenda item regarding the merging of Council areas and potential impact on the Flyers Creek Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) added (see Item 10).

2. Apologies

Joe Dalzell (neighbour) and Mark Dicker (Blayney Shire Council).

It was noted that in the future, if members cannot attend could they please send a replacement. **[ACTION]**

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting held in 22 February 2016 were approved. Motion moved by Kim Masters and seconded by Rachael Young.

4. Business Arising

The Chair noted that there is an outstanding action on him to contact Basil Baldwin and invite him to join the CCC. **[ACTION]**

Jonathan advised that Grant Christopherson was following up on his action from February's CCC meeting. Grant sent his apologies and advised that he will find out if the results of a survey undertaken by the NSW OEH asking how voluntary community enhancement funds are being administered is publically available.

[ACTION]

5. Committee Issues and Update

None.

6. Overview of Federal and State Government Initiatives

Jonathan updated that progress was being made towards the LRET target. Goldwind has commenced with the construction of the White Rocks Wind Farm in NSW and Wind Prospect was successful in the second round of the ACT auction for a 20 year offtake agreement.

Jonathan advised that Origin had provided two offtake agreements in Queensland which is positive; however, the larger retailers will need to start taking more action to meet their obligations under the LRET scheme.

The NSW government have decided to offer offtake agreements for solar projects as part of the recent ARENA bids. This is not directly relevant to the Flyers Creek project, but is a good indicator of support for renewables.

The Chair advised that he had submitted a letter response to the draft Community Consultation Committee guidelines. This was circulated to members for comment before he submitted it. Generally it was felt that the draft guidelines were good.

Jonathan advised that the draft NSW Wind Farm Guidelines have not yet been finalised and are making rather slow progress

7. Overview of Current Status of the Project and Proposed Immediate actions

Grid connection studies – Jonathan explained that the grid studies were finalised at the end of last year. Essential Energy (EE), the owner of the distribution electricity network, would like some additional cases runs to be added to the assessment and this is being worked on at present. The grid studies indicate that the Wind Farm improves the stability of the grid. Once the studies are finalised, and EE have approved the studies, then a grid connection agreement can be negotiated.

Project modifications status – Jonathan recapped that 2 modifications have been made to date and a third modification is planned to be lodged with the Department of Planning in approximately 2 months. The third modification is primarily aimed at allowing the landowners who no longer want to be involved in the project to leave the project. Jonathan agreed that a community newsletter, primarily aimed at explaining Modification 3, would be distributed prior to the Modification being lodged with the Department of Planning.

Kim asked whether there would be an opportunity for the community to comment on the modification. Jonathan advised that there would be a consultation period including a public display of information.

Next steps – Jonathan explained that the next steps for the project are to get a grid connection agreement in place, discharge any pre construction planning conditions, gain approval for modification 3 and to enter into an offtake agreement with a customer.

8. Community Consultation Plan and Processes

It was agreed that when the next community newsletter is distributed, that information on the committee members, including contact details, be included. In addition, the newsletter should ask for interested members of the community to nominate for the CCC.

Chair to check with all members of the CCC that they are willing to put their phone number on the next newsletter. **[ACTION]**

Jonathan noted that he is keen to meet with the media whilst he is in the area. The Chair provided the new Blayney Chronicle's reporter's (Mark Logan) details to Jonathan.

9. Progress on Blayney Shire Amalgamation

Rachael provided a summary of progress on the potential amalgamation of the Council areas for Orange, Blayney Shire and Cabonne. There had been a hearing for the 3 Council's concerned at the end of May, but a court challenge by Cabonne council had slowed the process.

10. Community Enhancement Plans/Voluntary Planning Agreement

This item was added to the agenda at the CCC meeting. Kim advised that there was nothing set in place to ensure that the voluntary planning agreement fund was used in the area local to the Flyers Creek Wind Farm and not in the wider amalgamated Council area. Rachael agreed that the guidelines need to state that the fund will be kept and used locally as originally intended.

Motion moved by Kim and seconded by Rachael. All in favour.

Motion that the CCC write to Blayney Shire Council and request that they adopt the proposal that community funds associated with the Flyers Creek project be spent within 10km of the Flyers Creek turbines and to include the villages of Mandurama, Millthorpe and Carcoar.

The Chair agreed to write a draft letter and circulate for comment before sending to the Council. **[ACTION]**

Jonathan agreed to raise at meeting with Blayney Shire Council the following day.

11. Future meetings

The next CCC meeting was scheduled for 6pm in the **week commencing 24th October 2016** (not Wednesday).

Megan Richardson agreed to check with Mark Dicker on his availability that week and to let the Chair know of the most suitable date for the next meeting. **[ACTION]**

The CCC Meeting was closed by the Chair at about 7:00pm.

Agreed Decisions / Resolutions from Previous Meetings

Agenda Item	Proposed Resolution(s)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each Committee member to nominate an alternate should they not be able to attend a CCC meeting
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair to ask Basil Baldwin if he was interested in joining the Flyers Creek CCC Committee members consider if they knew any female members of the community who would be interested in joining the CCC
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair to check with all members of the CCC that they are willing to put their phone number on the next newsletter.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair agreed to write a draft letter and circulate for comment before sending to the Council.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Megan to check with Mark Dicker on his availability that week and to let the Chair know of the most suitable date for the next meeting.

Key Issues

#	Proposed Resolution(s)	Who	When	Status
1	Infigen to continue writing and distributing newsletters to the community	Jonathan		Newsletter to be circulated before Modification 3 is submitted
2	CCC discuss and formulate a community consultation plan should the FCWF project be approved	All		Plan approved.
3	Blayney Shire to contact other Councils with regards to 'lessons learned' from their wind farm construction and operation	Mark		

4	Decision making process for VPA funds needs further discussion with regards to local expenditure of funds	All	After VPA executed and project proceeds toward construction	On hold
5				
6				