



Project:	Silverton Wind Farm
Meeting No:	16
Date:	Thursday 25 December 2016
Venue and Time:	Silverton Youth Hall 6pm – 8pm
Document:	Meeting minutes and actions
Chair/Facilitator:	Kath Elliott (KE)
Minutes:	Helena (HO), AGL
AGL representatives:	Neil Cooke (NC) Manager, Project Management Office Helena Orel (HO) Community Stakeholder Engagement Manager Adam Mackett (AGM) Manager, Project Management Office
Committee Members	Helen Murray, local resident
	Cynthia Langford, Purnamoota Station
	John Taplin, Secretary Silverton Village Committee
	Phillip Blore, Belmont Station
	Albert Woodroffe, Silverton Committee, Horizon Galleries
	Peter Price Silverton Village Committee / Silverton Hotel
	Shaun Barker, Crown Lands
Guests	
Apologies	Steve Radford, Consolidated Mining and Civil
	Ray O'Donnell, Broken Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council
	Naomi Schmidt, Eldee Station
	Kevin White, Historic Daydream Mine
	Dave Gallagher, Councillor Broken Hill City Council
	Tatjana Zelenkova, Chamber of Commerce
	Cameron Koch, Silver City Minerals
	Rod Grenfell, local resident
Community observers in attendance:	Approximately 18



Meeting Minutes

Item	Action
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>KE opened the meeting at 6.00pm and welcomed the group, members of the Silverton Community Consultative Committee, observers and media representatives. KE noted apologies, made introductions to Kathryn Lamond, AGL’s Media Manager and Adam Mackett, AGL’s Project Manager.</p> <p>There were apologies from CCC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Naomi Shmidt - Kevin White - Ray O’Donnell - Steve Radford - Tatjana Zelenkova - Dave Gallagher - Cameron Koch <p>KE noted that representatives from the media were present and reiterated that community members when speaking with the media were to only speak on their own behalf as previously agreed with the CCC group.</p> <p>KE provided an overview of the agenda.</p> <p>The minutes from the July 2015 meeting were discussed. The minutes were accepted as correct.</p> <p>Action 9 regarding the Silverton Village Committee to write to the Minister for Planning and Environment has been ongoing for some time, however, it was agreed to keep the action on the list.</p>	
<p>1.New project manager</p> <p><i>Please see slide 4</i></p> <p>Adam Mackett introduced himself to the group as the new project manager for Silverton Wind Farm and noted his background in wind farms and the Broken Hill and Nyngan solar plant construction. AGM noted that his role would focus more on getting the project ready for construction. AGM explained that as most of the development tasks had been completed, Neil Cooke would be moving onto the AGL Coopers Gap Wind Farm Development Proposal in Queensland.</p>	

2. Project status

Please see slides 5 – 10

NC gave an overview of the project status and that the recent political, economic and environmental changes. Noting that now that the Renewable Energy Target is now in place after a long wait, the outcomes of the Paris climate summit, which has increased momentum in the renewables sector.

NC went through AGL's recently announced Powering Australian Renewables Fund (PARF) and how AGL was expecting that to be funding with AGL putting in \$200m and that AGL is seeking other investors to fund the \$2-3b fund so that renewable energy projects can be funded. Of which, one of these could be the Silverton Wind Farm project, however there was still a lot to be considered before a decision to go to construction could be made.

Based on the PARF now being established and that renewable energy projects were looking more likely to be built NC explained that AGL was about to carry out hydrogeological testing on the wind farm site next week, and that this is likely to be considered construction work under the current planning permit. However, as a back up AGL had today also put in a modification request (Modification #2) to the Department of Planning and Environment to extend the project permit.

Q1. Are you looking for water with the hydrogeological work?

A1. NC answered that yes the hydrogeological drilling which will start on 15 March includes putting 10cm bores down to about 25 metres to assess the water conditions around the site.

Q2. Where is the water for the project going to come from?

A2. NC answered that not only will the modification request (Modification request 3) include increased rotor diameter, it will also require confirmation of ground water conditions and locations. The idea being to not disturb the ground water or have the concrete foundations affected by ground water.

AGM noted that one way to access water for construction which was done for the Hallett Wind Farm construction is to put down bores. This worked at Hallett.

General comments from the group were about the fact that Silverton and Broken Hill are on level 3 water restrictions and that the water situation for the area is only going to get worse. Members of the group reiterated that this very important for AGL to understand the water situation.

Q2. Is the project going to include Stages 1, 2 and 3 as per the original wind farm design?

A2. NC explained that the line capacity between Mildura and Broken Hill had changed and consequently, should the Silverton Wind Farm go to construction, it would be in the order of up to 200MW, therefore the Stage 2 and 3 would be unlikely.

<p>Q3. Where are the turbines closest to Silverton located?</p> <p>A3. NC explained that as per the earlier turbine location discussions, the three closest turbines to Silverton are 4.6km, 5.6km, 5.8km, and that AGL is looking at technology changes in turbines and blade diameters. NC noted that AGL understands the community's position on turbine setbacks and is trying hard to make this possible. Past construction tenderers have been asked to find ways to accommodate the communities' requests on turbine setbacks.</p> <p>Q4. Wouldn't technology improvements mean that blades should be smaller?</p> <p>A4. AGM explained that bigger blades mean that the turbines would capture more wind, which could mean that there could possibly be less turbines required than expected. AGM said that bigger blades doesn't necessarily mean more wind farm noise is created.</p> <p>Q5. How is siltation from the construction work be managed?</p> <p>A5. AGM explained that there are methods in construction that manage and prevent siltation and soil movement. A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) would detail this activity.</p> <p>Q6. How will AGL prevent siltation of Umberumberka Reservoir? Will AGL put a bond in escrow for this should AGL create further issues for the already heavily silted up reservoir?</p> <p>A6. AGM replied that he understood the siltation and had been to the reservoir and observed the problem. He experienced the issues of erosion at the Broken Hill solar plant when there was a deluge of rain and has experience in putting in place siltation mitigation measures.</p> <p>AGM outlined that on the wind farm there would be a number of erosion and sedimentation control measures including good engineering design, construction techniques, silt fences, rip rap(crushed basalt) as well as conversations with the landholders to get a comprehensive understanding of the way in which water behaves.</p> <p>Some group comments were made around the problem with government departments developing the approval documents don't actually talk to the local people to get their insights into local environmental conditions, so for example, they might not be fully aware of water conditions in extremely dry areas.</p> <p>Q7. Will AGL guarantee that people won't get sick from wind farms?</p> <p>A7. HO explained that to date there is no credible evidence (scientific or otherwise) that wind turbines create physical ailments. However, it has been shown that if people are particularly anxious about something, that this can manifest itself in physical ailments. HO noted there were some people who are neighbours of the AGL Macarthur Wind Farm who believe they are ill because of wind farms. However, these people have not been able to provide demonstrable evidence to support these claims. HO noted that Mr Gare from SA had said under parliamentary privilege that he was affected by the sound of wind turbines, however Mr Gare, as a</p>	<p>AGM to provide more information on the project's Environmental Impact Statement and a summary of silt and erosion control.</p> <p>HO to send the Macarthur Wind Farm infrasound monitoring report link.</p>
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turbine host has a good number of turbines on his property and had signed an agreement to the effect that he understood that noise was generated by wind turbines and had in fact requested more turbines from AGL above that constructed. HO noted that the National Health and Medical Research Committee (NHMRC) is committed to carry out more medical research into wind turbines and that AGL supports this research.

Post meeting note:

The NHMRC has recently awarded over \$3m towards further research into wind farms and infrasound.

AGM talked about the way turbine blades respond to wind and that the background wind noise would often exceed the turbine noise. AGM mentioned the infrasound study that AGL's independent acoustic consultants carried out for Macarthur Wind Farm, which could be shared with the Silverton community.

https://www.agl.com.au/~media/AGL/About%20AGL/Documents/How%20We%20Source%20Energy/Wind_Farms/Macarthur_2014_Update/130724_Resonate%20Acoustics%20MWF%20infrasound%20report.pdf

A CCC member commented that he wanted compensation for the Silverton community for the wind farm and would investigating ways to do this.

Note: Helen Murray tabled four questions and a request. See questions tabled and AGL responses in the attached documents.

AGM presented graphs on the market and talked about changes in the economic environment which led to AGL's decision to set up the PARF.

Q8. How would this affect the construction of Silverton Wind Farm?

A8. AGM explained that the PARF aims to provide funds for renewable energy projects and that other equity investors, perhaps two or three others would invest into the fund, as well as AGL using the Broken Hill and Nyngan Solar Plants as 'seed' money for the fund and the solar plants are not being sold, but are being used as equity in the fund. The PARF is an unlisted fund for major investors. AGM commented that the wind farm would be good for Silverton overall and something to be proud of with the region potentially becoming a renewable energy hub with the solar plants and wind farm in place.

Q9. Will the government funding component of the solar plants also go into the PARF?

A9. AGM responded that this funding would be separated out that AGL's money would be used as the seed money.

There was disagreement from one or two members of the group on the wind farm being good for Silverton overall. One said as a farmer he would not benefit compared to business operators in Silverton.

KE advised that there was a social impact statement for the wind farm and this would provide more information on the benefits and impacts of the project. NC noted this had been updated in 2014. KE suggested there could be further discussion about the economic and social benefits at the next meeting.

HO and AGM discussed the community fund which becomes available during construction and operations. HO noted organisations and groups around Australia, including Broken Hill benefiting from AGL's community funds such as schools, Lifeline, day care centres, sporting groups, organisations for people with disabilities and many others.

Q10. Will the Silverton Wind Farm community fund be available only to Silverton Village projects?

A10. KE said that at previous meetings this had been discussed and that the Silverton community would be able to determine how the fund would operate.

HO noted that is probably time to review the draft community fund guidelines for Silverton, now that there is more progress on the project.

It was suggested that this could be done at the next CCC meeting.

HO to send the group a link to the Social Impact Statement.

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	Open	HO
Provide information on indigenous heritage survey work on the wind farm	October 2014	Open	NC
Follow up on the EPC tender submissions indigenous employment plans	October 2014	Open	HO
Draft letter from the CCC about the project and turbine setbacks to the Director General and the Minister for Planning	July 2015	Open	KE
Provide more information on the project's Environmental Impact Statement and a summary of silt and erosion control	February 2016	Open	AGM
HO to send the Macarthur Wind Farm infrasound monitoring report link.	February 2016	Closed	HO
HO to add CCC membership renewals to next CCC meeting agenda.	February 2016	Open	HO
HO to send the group a link to the Social Impact Statement.	February 2016	Closed	HO
HO to check on public consultation availability of the project extension request.	February 2016	Closed	HO