



Silverton Wind Farm Community Consultative Committee Inaugural Meeting

Thursday 23 August 2012 – 6pm – 8pm
Silverton Youth Hall, Silverton

Minutes

Community Consultative Committee:

Kath Elliott – GHD, Chair
Neil Cooke – AGL, Manager Power Development
Cynthia Langford, Purnamoota Station
Helen Murray, Local resident
Peter Price, Silverton Committee/ Silverton Hotel
Kevin White, Historic Daydream Mine
John Taplin, Secretary Silverton Village Committee
Philip Blore, Belmont Station
Albert Woodroffe, Silverton Committee, Horizon Galleries
Cameron Koch, Silver City Minerals
Rod Grenfell, Local Resident
Naomi Schmidt, Eldee Station
Marion Browne, Councillor Broken Hill City Council
(Rosa Han – AGL, Minute Taker)

Apologies:

Anne Bransdon, Broken Hill Chamber of Commerce
Dave Gallagher, Councillor Broken Hill City Council

Observing:

Approximately 9 people were observing the meeting including one media representative from the Barrier Daily Truth.



1. Welcome

Kath Elliott opened the meeting at 6.05 pm and welcomed members of the Silverton Community Consultative Committee (SCCC) and community members in attendance.

Kath Elliott confirmed last meeting's minutes with the committee. The committee had no comments or amendments to the minutes.

2. Terms of Reference

Kath Elliott sought members' views on the draft terms of reference. The SCCC confirmed it was satisfied with the final version of the Terms of Reference which had amendments from the last meeting in regards to:

- advising the members of any issues before speaking to the media,
- alternates attending the meeting on a member's behalf would not be appropriate (except Broken Hill Council), and
- the committee's effectiveness will be reviewed every 12 months.

Agreed:

Updated Terms of Reference to be adopted.

Neil Cooke gave an update on the Indigenous Representative. He has contacted the local Indigenous Representative and will arrange to meet with them in the following weeks.

3. Project update

Neil Cooke gave the SCCC an update on the Silverton Wind Farm.

Key points included:

- Expression of Interest went out beginning of August with responses due at the end of August.
- The following works are included in the tender:

- Supplying wind turbines
- Construction of roads
- Erection of the wind turbines
- Installing electrical cabling
- Establishment of switchyard
- Installing main transmission line
- AGL will hire one contracting entity for these works.
- The connection of the wind Farm into the Broken Hill substation will be contracted with Transgrid.
- AGL will be working with TransGrid to obtain the “Offer to Connect in Quarter 3, 2014.
- It is preferred that the construction of the wind farm does not proceed until offer to connect has been received from TransGrid.

4. Overview of the project timeframe and identifying the role of the SCCC

Neil Cooke gave an overview of the project timeframe and a discussion followed on the role of the SCCC.

Key points included:

- The preference is for maximum local input for works
- Still waiting for the flood study report to determine whether the sourcing of sand locally is feasible. (See point 6 for details of the further discussions)
- A discussion around licensing requirement for extracting sand and gravel will be held after the report is released to the Silverton community.
- The Northern Earth Quarry may have capacity to assist in sourcing materials
- There are 2 options being explored for site access:
 1. Cutting in from Barrier Highway instead of coming in from Silverton Rd
 2. Possible upgrade of Silverton Rd
- There will be further departmental discussions about road access with Crown Land Divisions and the Silverton community.
- Options for turbine location will be provided to the community for their input and reviewed in the Request for Tender (RFT) process.

Agreed:

Neil Cooke will provide an update to the SCCC on road access and the two options once he has more information. This will be a topic in the next agenda.



Before RFT goes out there will be a discussion with the SCCC where the proposed turbines will go. This topic will be flagged early on in an agenda.

The SCCC meeting agenda is currently being distributed to everyone who has expressed an interest in the project which also includes the media, Federal and State representatives and the Silverton community. Kath Elliott asked the question to the committee on their thoughts of whether the distribution of the agenda was wide enough. A question was asked by a member for the agenda to go out earlier. Also, a member commented that the media information was narrow as more people watched BKN than Southern Cross Broadcasting.

Agreed:

Agenda will be issued one week prior to the SCCC meeting, as stated in the Terms of Reference.

Other media outlets will be explored when making community announcements.

5. Hallett Visit

The proposed two day visit to Hallett Wind Farms in South Australia was discussed in detail. A detailed draft itinerary was presented to the SCCC members. The committee confirmed that they were satisfied with the itinerary.

There was a discussion around the number of people who are able to attend the visit. 11 people have confirmed their attendance and three people are tentative.

Agreed:

- *The visit will be held on Tuesday, 11 September to Wednesday, 12 September.*
- *AGL will provide accommodation, travel, two x lunches and breakfast.*
- *AGL will not be providing dinner.*
- *The group will be travelling by coach arranged by AGL.*

6. Discuss the SKM 'Floodplain Study' report

The committee has advised that they are still awaiting the report from SKM.

A committee member raised the question of whether AGL should obtain a copy of the SKM report as the floodplain study was conducted on behalf of the Silverton community with no initial relationship to AGL.

Neil Cooke explained that his main objective is to find out from the report whether sand can be sourced from the local area to avoid transporting it in.

Agreed:

- *The SKM flood plain study will be retained by the Silverton community and AGL will not receive a copy of the report.*
- *Tiff Brown from the Department of Primary Industries will provide information about the flood plain study to Neil Cooke once received.*
- *Options on where the sand and road based materials are sourced from will be discussed between the Department and AGL.*
- *These options will be presented to the community for discussion and to gain their input based on the flood plain study and their own experiences.*
- *This discussion will occur after the Hallett Visit.*

7. Community update

Kath Elliott opened up discussions amongst the CCC members.

Questions around the following topics were raised:

1. The background of the Mt Bryan project (Hallett 3)

Neil Cooke provided that AGL was granted approval for this project, however action was taken in the Environment Court. AGL was successful but further action ensued. AGL decided that the better way forward was to get approval for new technology as the initial approval was for older technology.

A member from the committee added that there were reports that the Mt. Bryan project had issues with noise and the gearbox.



2. The Waterloo Wind farm and noise issues

Neil Cooke provided that as this is not AGL's project he is not familiar with these issues at this particular wind farm.

3. Kath Elliott asked Neil Cooke what has been done in terms of noise for the Silverton Wind Farm.

Neil Cooke provided that a noise study was conducted as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and the submissions report. Epuron (the previous owners of the wind farm) had hired the consultants NGH to perform the noise study.

The committee raised concerns on the quality of the noise study that was undertaken by NGH and asked for further discussions and information in relation to noise, tonality and television reception interference.

Kath Elliott provided that for the Coopers Gap CCC, AECOM conducted the noise study and the person who wrote the noise chapter attended the CCC and gave a presentation which allowed the community to better understand the issues of noise and tonality.

Agreed:

The CCC agreed that noise and setback are topics that will need to be discussed in more detail.

It was agreed that Neil Cooke will find a noise expert who will be able to attend to give a presentation to the Silverton community on noise and tonality. It was agreed that this would be organised for the November meeting



4. A member of the community asked if AGL was aware of an independent study conducted by Dr. McDermott from RMIT University on noise impacts on wind farms.

Neil Cooke advised he was unaware of this study and would look into it.

Members of the community observing the meeting were given the opportunity to ask questions.

The following questions were raised:

1. Are the Owner's Engineer independent?

AGL employs Owner's Engineer to assist with the technical aspects of the tender.

2. Is it likely that on completion of the wind farm it will be sold and if so will the new owner be committed to the community views that AGL has committed to?

Neil Cooke provided information about the Hallett Wind Farms in South Australia. AGL entered into a 5+5+5 year contract for the maintenance and operations contract when they constructed the wind farms. Then once sold, AGL are still responsible for the operations and maintenance of the wind farm for its life.

3. What is the expected life span of the construction of the wind farm?

The lifespan of the wind farm is 25 years and after this time it is either extended or de-commissioned.

Regarding the decommissioning, Neil also noted that the project approval states that if the turbines are not used for a continuous period of 12 months the turbines are required to be dismantled and removed.

4. What will AGL do for the Silverton committee?

Further discussion around this question ensued.



Agreed:

This will be further discussed by the Silverton Committee and the Village Committee.

Neil Cooke to extract the community aspects from the project approval and provide them to the SCCC.

Silverton Committee to come back to the SCCC with a proposal for what they would like to happen.

If there is a substantial fund everyone should know about it so there are no surprises.

8. Next meeting and close

The table below confirms the next and subsequent meetings and what topics will be discussed:

12 September 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No CCC meeting, however a Town Meeting will be held in this week.
25 October 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full report and presentation to the community on the Hallett Visit from the group who attended.• Discussion around sourcing of sand and road-based materials.
22 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion around the issue of noise.

Members were thanked for attending the meeting. The next meeting will be at 6 pm on Thursday 25 October 2012 at the Silverton Youth Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm