



Minutes – Delburn Wind Farm Community and Stakeholder Consultative Committee Meeting 5

26/07/2021

Zoom meeting

5:00-6:00pm

Attendees:

- Anthony Boxshall (Chair)
- Tony Wolfe (Coal Industry Worker)
- Chris Milne (Boolarra)
- Cathryn Thompson (SSF)
- Wendy Farmer (Voices of the Valley)
- Ian Hill (Landcare Network)
- Lorraine Bull (GCCN)
- Peter Mooney (GTLC)
- Hugh Thompson (HVP)
- Elizabeth Radcliffe (OSMI)
- Ruth Harper (Secretariat)
- Stacey Clark (Observer, EPA)
- Matt Ryan (Observer)

Apologies: Charlie Solomon (GLaWAC), Rhain Bateman (WGCMA), Mike Timpano (LVA), Graeme Wilson (Delburn) Heather Butler (Mirboo North).

Minutes

Agenda Item 1: Welcomes, aims for tonight

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners of the lands that we were meeting on, being various and including stretching from Gunaikurnai to Wurundjeri country, and paid his respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

The Chair revisited his expectations in relation to interactions within the committee requesting:

- Constructive frankness,
- Respect,
- Confidence and humility, and
- Representative perspective

The Chair reviewed the purpose of the meeting – to update Committee members on the timeline and process, and to answer any questions about the process and in particular submissions.

Agenda item 2: Introduction, Observers and Conflicts of Interest

The Chair welcomed all participants and introduced Ian Hill from the local Landcare network.

Agenda item 3: Review of Actions arising from last meeting

Given that the project is now in the active exhibition phase, it was decided that other actions, particularly those relating to grants, be paused for the time being.

Agenda item 4: Question and Answer session on the public exhibition process



OSMI provided an update on the planning process. It was noted that the referral has been sent to a range of government stakeholders and that OSMI has sent formal notification out to every dwelling within 5 kms of the project boundary and published notices in the local press, all as directed by DELWP.

It was noted that OSMI has sought clarification from DELWP on the implications of the latest lockdown on the public exhibition period had have been advised that the timeline for the public exhibition period has not altered, being from Wednesday 21st July to Wednesday 18th August. All submissions to DELWP regarding the project should be made by the August 18th.

All submissions made to DELWP will be provided to OSMI and can be made available to the public on request.

The initial feedback from the Committee was that some people were still finding it difficult to find the detailed information on how to make a submission on the project. OSMI clarified that an email to the address provided on the DELWP planning website development.approvals@delwp.vic.gov.au is all that is required. It is not necessary to attach a formal letter or submission. The email address can be found under the 'Have your say' tab of the Delburn Wind Farm planning page <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/browse-panels-and-committees/projects/delburn-wind-farm#overview>

Questions

Technical questions:

Q: What measures has the project committed to for curtailing bird and bat impacts?

A: The requirement to undertake specific measures for managing any potential impacts on birds and bats will be included in the conditions of a planning permit if one is issued. This is likely to include a requirement to prepare a bird and bat management plan (BAM Plan) taking into site specific conditions and risks to the local bird and bat population that have been identified through the detailed ecological studies. A BAM plan is typically not developed until after a permit has been issued.

Q: Can the Cores and Links area be used for the offsets

A: Offsets must fulfil a range of specific requirements relating to *Specific Habitat Units* and *General Habitat Units*, ownership, and location. Offsets required will not be finalised unless a permit is approved.

Both of these topics will be covered in more detail in the forthcoming meeting that discusses Biodiversity.

Q: What happens if noise levels are exceeded? What options are open to the community?

A: This will be covered in the noise/health session, which is scheduled to be at the next meeting.

Process Questions:

Q: How much of what goes on in the CSCC meetings can be shared with the public?

A: The general intent is that all topics discussed are shared with the community, as the purpose of the meetings is to help inform the community, although specific comments should not be attributed to individual committee members. In exceptional circumstances something may presented to the



committee that is confidential. If this occurs this will be made clear beforehand. All meeting minutes and presentations are published in the OSMI website to make them accessible to public.

Q: Now that the new Environment Protection Act has commenced, is there a role for EPA in this approval that is open for comment?

A: EPA is a referral Authority and has a role in regulating the noise emissions from the wind farm once it becomes operational if it is approved. The DWF will likely be the first wind farm being considered for approval since the new EP Act has come into effect.

Q: Is there an Australian Standard regarding wind farm noise?

A: Victoria has adopted New Zealand standards for the management of wind farm noise: specifically: New Zealand Standard Acoustics - Wind farm noise, NZS6808:2010 and New Zealand Standard Acoustics – The Assessment and Measurement of Sound from Wind Turbine Generators, NZS6808:1998

Q: Can you have a stance (ie. for or against) the project but include a qualifying statement in your submission? Eg, I support the Delburn Wind Farm as long as there are adequate offsets for the native vegetation that is removed?

A: Yes

Q: Is more weight given to verbal submissions than to written ones?

A: No.

It was noted that Latrobe City Council will be holding a listening post on the project, which will be held online and in the Yinnar Memorial Hall (Covid restrictions pending) on Wednesday August 3rd 5-7:30pm, to gauge public opinion on the project. There was a discussion of what is involved in a listening post for those who have not attended similar projects in the past, and whether it would be appropriate for OSMI to attend. To register, to go <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/delburn-wind-farm-listening-post-registration-164098923297?fbclid=IwAR249avAfNc0NEM8lafrJm0m5elZhDLPesRBU7JtXbb230HdTUDU3MkaPHw0>

Note: since the meeting OSMI have clarified with Latrobe City Council that they do not need OSMI to provide a presentation at the Listening Post.

Wrap Up

OSMI provided an explanation of what happens once the public exhibition period is completed. Submissions on the project will be made available to OSMI and can be made available to the public on request by DELWP. A directions hearing will be held, most likely on September 13 or 14, and then a public panel hearing will be held over two weeks commencing 18 October 2021. Anyone who has made a submission on the project will be offered the opportunity to speak at the panel hearing. At the end of the panel hearing, the panel members will prepare a report for the Minister for Planning that includes their recommendations as to whether a permit should be or issued or not. The Minister will then hand down a decision on the project.



Next meeting

Topic: Health and noise.

Suggested Date: Monday August 30th

Location: To be determined.

Rolling Actions

- All committee members to communicate widely about the CSCC seeking further members particularly from communities local to the planned wind farm, highlighting the desire for a diversity of opinions.
- Committee members to send ideas about topics you would like covered at future Committee meetings to csc@delburnwindfarm.com.au. There is no limit on the number of items a committee member can nominate.
- All committee members to review the Managing Conflict of Interest information online site <https://osmi.com.au/consultative-committee> and advise the Chair of any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest that before the next meeting.