



Minutes of Barneys Reef Wind Farm

Community Consultative Committee

Monday 15 July 2024, MS Teams (Online)

Present:

Garry West (GW)	Independent Chairperson
Darren Chesterfield (DC)	Community Engagement Manager, RES
Grant Gjessing (GG)	Community Representative
Eleanor Cairns (EC)	Development Project Manager, RES
Brad Bliss (BB)	Wellington Valley Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation
Leanne Ryan (LR)	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Jack Pennell (JP)	Warabinga Native Title Claimants
Nikolai Liu (NL)	Observer

Apologies:

David Menchin (DM)	Community Representative
Peter Willis (PW)	Gulgong Chamber of Commerce
Cr Dale Hogden (DH)	Warrumbungle Shire Council
Cr Paul Cavalier (PC)	Mid Western Regional Council

Meeting Commenced: 5:30pm

1. Welcome & Introductions

GW - Thanked everyone for their attendance. Acknowledgement of Country, welcomed attendees online. Welcomed, Nikolai Lui, a neighbour to the project as an observer.

2. Apologies: as above

3. Declarations of Pecuniary / Conflict of Interest: No new declarations

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Minutes of the meeting on Monday 30 January 2023 were circulated and agreed and uploaded to the project website.

5. Project Status:

EC: Acknowledgement that most will be aware that RES has decided to stop developing the project. Reasons for this are varied and will be discussed. Primarily business decision coming down to budget and priorities.

- Community – done a lot of work over the last few years sponsoring events / programs to establish presence in community and provide benefit
- Neighbour impact – progressed discussions with most highly impacted neighbours
- Connection – explained need for grid access. Advised that the project did not apply for access in the most recent tender round
- Land – all signed up under option agreement
- Environment – all field work completed for the EIS, plus draft EIS studies produced. Results of several studies were presented in the last CCC meeting.

6. Decision Rationale

When development started, it wasn't in a renewable energy zone, and the planning landscape was a bit different. Costs and time to complete work has increase substantially throughout the course of development, e.g. EIS studies have taken longer than anticipated. Due to these time and cost pressures on the project, it's no longer an investment that RES wants to take forward. That said, no EIS studies show the project couldn't progress.

GJ: Was the cost blowout EIS related?

EC: Partly yes, but not entirely. EIS costs were more than expected going in

GJ: Would a special activation precinct help?

EC: An interesting thought. A few pathways that you can take for approval, one being SSD, another option would be to look at something like Critical SSI. I don't know if this project would be a suitable candidate for these.

GJ: Might be worth mentioning to the minister. I think they're agreeable to a lot of different angles to meet targets.

GW: Will you sell all the EIS studies completed to date?

EC: We're working through a process to determine what we'll sell. It will come down to what we negotiate with any potential purchaser.

LR: what about a joint venture with another developer?

EC: Unlikely

7. Next Steps

RES has notified the DPHI of the decision and will commence exploring to see if anyone else may find value in the project and whether a sale is possible.

GW will contact DPHI to establish future actions in regard to the CCC.

8. General Business: NIL

Meeting Close: 6pm