

MINUTES

WVTN COMMUNITY CONSULTATION GROUP – MEETING #11 – 6 APRIL 2022

Meeting date: 6 April 2022
Meeting time: 6pm – 8.00pm, in person, Laurels Education & Training, Bacchus Marsh
Meeting called by: Catherine Botta
CCG Meeting Purpose: The CCG is a consultative forum and not a decision-making forum.

Attendees

Catherine Botta	Independent Chair
Allan Harnwell	Community member - Melton/CCG East
Darren Edwards	Community member, Energy Grid Alliance - Moorabool/CCG East
Randall Cape	Community member - Moorabool/CCG East
Ian Terrill	Ballarat Group of Fire Brigades – Ballarat/CCG Central
Martin Webb	Community member - Moorabool/CCG East
Stephanie McGregor	Project Director – AusNet Services
Dharmika Adihetty	Project Sponsor - AusNet Services
Justin Justin	Stakeholder Engagement Specialist - AusNet Services
Janine Buesnel	Director of Operations – Premier Strategy
Dina Jones	Secretariat - AusNet Services

Apologies

Stephen Curry	Community member - Moorabool/CCG East
Darren Rudd	Manager City Design & Strategy - Melton City Council
Fiona Gray	Executive Manager Catalyst Projects - City of Ballarat
Vanessa Osborn	Coordinator Major Developments - Moorabool Shire Council
Bronwyn Southee	Manager Development and Community Safety - Hepburn Shire Council

Not attended

Katie Gleisner	Manager Planning and Development - Pyrenees Shire Council
Grant Harrison	Community member - Melton/CCG East
Rebecca St Ledger	Community member - Ballarat/CCG Central
David George	Head of Planning and Development - Northern Grampians Shire

Agenda item 1	Minutes, apologies, and actions of previous meeting
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- Independent Chair opened the meeting noting the apologies.

- Chair refers to community members' email regarding AusNet's responses and detail of action items listed.
- Chair notes minutes should be brief and action items recorded as reference.
- Minutes of previous meeting were accepted without further amendments.
- Action list read out and open actions closed out.

Actions from previous meeting	Who	Comment
AusNet to follow up with expert to brief CCG.	AS	Visual impact to be discussed at future meeting. Further discussion under item 4.
Share information about Stop AusNet Towers meetings.	Secretariat	Information sent to group on 8 March 2021.
AusNet to seek new members.	AS	Three potential new members were approach.

Agenda item 2	Update on Project – Stephanie Executive Project Director, and Dhammika Project Sponsor
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- Field surveys still underway, i.e. flora & fauna, cultural heritage, night studies.
- EES submission delayed until late 2022 due to delay in completion of seasonal surveys, Covid impacts and additional requirements requested by TRG members.
- The route selection process around pinch points like the Hepburn Lagoon and Melton are ongoing.
- Three potential new CCG members were approached, only one has declared an interest to join the group from May.
- Discussion around a new Steering Group for Visual Impacts, more under item 4.
- Reference to the Essential Services Commission's Statement of Expectations consultation, which is currently underway.
- Discussion around level of information regarding some questions around AEMO's route selection and RIT-T process.

Question/comment referring to the presentations	Response
What other options are being considered and discussed with AEMO?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEMO's RIT-T process only considers viable options at the least cost to consumers. • The RIT-T process is driven by economic impacts vs the EES process, which is driven by investigating environmental impacts, this has the potential for conflict. • AusNet is required to investigate all alternatives, including undergrounding, which means all technical

	<p>studies need to also consider the undergrounding option in the investigations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the EES process outcomes on route and format (undergrounding, overhead, or a combination of both) are known, AEMO will then have to make a decision on continued viability of the project.
What does AusNet consider a trigger point to underground the lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AusNet is considering undergrounding and partial undergrounding in light of their respective environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures. There are 3-4 pinch points along the route where design alternatives, including undergrounding, screening, change in tower design etc are considered.
Are ongoing maintenance costs considered?	The EES process does not consider ongoing maintenance costs, but does consider maintenance related impacts.
Who owns the network?	AEMO plans the network, and the ownership of greenfield augmentations is then contestable.
What is the cost of this project to the end-consumer?	Based on the RIT-T by AEMO the project is expected to deliver \$300M in nett benefits to consumers. It would translate to a saving of approximately \$50 per year for consumers, but any additional costs will erode that saving.
What is the redundancy?	Redundancy is what's built into the transmission system to achieve the desired level of reliability and availability. The redundancy is already considered in the design and planning of the project.

Agenda item 4	Stakeholder Engagement
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- A surrounding landholder guide is being developed and will be shared for review with the group.
- AusNet is planning further community sessions and is working with the councils to consider where to hold them with a focus on the pinch points.
- AusNet is considering a steering group with CCG members and community members for visual impacts in the Darley area to look at different design options.
- Visual impact surveys currently underway.
- Discussion to speed up the ratification of the minutes, suggestion to approve out of session, instead of at the next meeting.

- CCG members to feed any comments or changes back to secretariat by deadline, silence is considered agreement to the minutes.

Question/comment	Response
Is the intention to undertake visual simulation along the entire route?	That is the intention, but a lot of data needs to be captured and inputted into the model first.

Actions	Who
CCG members to ratify minutes by deadline set by secretariat.	All

Agenda item 5	Community perception/questions/emerging issues
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- Some in the community are now focusing on the construction impacts of the project, request to have session on construction impacts.
- Request for AusNet landowner liaison officers to liaise with landowners who have or plan to subdivide, as project can impact on these plans.
- Discussion about approaching other groups/individuals to join CCG.

Actions	Who
AusNet to organise appropriate speaker to discuss likely construction impacts.	AusNet
CCG members to consider if they know anyone, or other groups who might be interested to join. Please notify the Secretariat with names and contact details for follow up.	All community members

Agenda item 6	Next meeting date, topic
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- Next meeting: 11 May 2022
- Next topic: TBC
- Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Actions	Who
CCG members to ratify minutes by deadline set by secretariat.	All
AusNet to organise appropriate speaker to discuss likely construction impacts.	AusNet

CCG members to consider if they know anyone, or other groups who might be interested to join. Please notify the Secretariat with names and contact details for follow up.

All community members