

**SOUTHERN JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL  
PUBLIC BRIEFING MEETING NOTES  
Wind Farm, Edrom Road, Eden  
(2011STH024, DA2011.0362)  
Thursday 2 February 2012**

**PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Pam Allan	Chair
Alison McCabe	Panel Member
Allen Grimwood	Panel Member
Pat Campbell	Panel Member
Michael Britten	Panel Member

**COUNCIL OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Quick	Bega Valley Shire Council
Cecily Hancock	Bega Valley Shire Council
Mark Fowler	Bega Valley Shire Council
Keith Tull	Bega Valley Shire Council

**APOLOGY: NONE**

- 1 The meeting commenced at 11am and closed at 1.38pm. The meeting was held at the Eden Gardens Country Club, Eden.

2. **Acknowledgement of Country**

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None

4. **Purpose of the meeting**

The Chair, Ms Pam Allan, advised that the meeting is a public briefing session only and that a determination will not be made. The purpose of the meeting is an opportunity for the Regional Panel to understand the key issues and community concerns with the proposal.

5. **Council Presentation**

Robert Quick, Bega Valley Shire Council, gave a presentation to explain his role as Assessing Officer for the Development Application (DA). Robert gave an overview of the application, the assessment process, and an overview of submissions received to date.

6. **Applicant Presentation**

An introduction to the presentation by the Applicant was given by Martin Poole, Epuron. Mr Poole outlined the purpose of the development, including reference to the Government's 20% renewable energy target and Epuron's history of other wind farm projects in Australia.

Daniel Gilbert, Epuron, gave a presentation outlining:

- benefits of wind energy;

- planning process;
- benefits of the project;
- content of the Statement of Environmental Effects;
- issues raised in submissions; and
- announcing the “Eden Community Fund”.

## 7. Public Presentations

A number of people registered to speak and presented their concerns to the Panel:

Peter Mitchell, South East Fibre Exports Pty Ltd	addressed the panel for the item
Graeme Skinner, South East Fibre Exports Pty Ltd	addressed the panel for the item
Ed Chenery, Eden Visitor Information	addressed the panel against the item
Bruce Leaver, Sapphire Coast Tourism Ltd	addressed the panel against the item
Pastor Ossie Cruse, Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council	addressed the panel against the item
Robin Arthur	addressed the panel against the item
Beverly Elliott	addressed the panel against the item
Annie Strickland on behalf of Kristine Taylor, Edrom Lodge	addressed the panel against the item
Annie Strickland	addressed the panel against the item
Tony Esplin, Save Twofold Bay	addressed the panel against the item
Kari Esplin	addressed the panel against the item
Derek Povel, Clean Energy for Eternity	addressed the panel for the item
Alan Fraser	addressed the panel against the item
Neil Rankin	addressed the panel against the item
Donna Eaton	addressed the panel for the item
Fiona Mills	addressed the panel against the item
Leanne Scott	addressed the panel against the item

## 8. Key Matters Raised by Public Presentations

The key matters raised by the public presentations to the Regional Panel included:

- Against the proposal:
  - Inappropriate site location.
  - Visual impacts on Twofold Bay landscape.
  - Negative impacts to tourism.
  - Need to protect unspoilt walking destination.
  - Negative impact on planned development of the Light to Light Walk and Fisheries Beach.
  - Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage.
  - Potential OH&S issues with turbines over workers.
  - Potential low frequency noise impacts, and associated health issues.
  - Dust from site increased by turbines.
  - Edrom Lodge - visual impact, loss of visitors, impact to heritage significance, and impact to potential future development of the Lodge.
  - Ecological impacts to fauna.
  - Potential impacts to migrating whales.
  - Potential issues with Department of Defence land – potential impact of haul roads with warheads within 50m of turbines, potential impacts to sonar.
  - Economic viability of the turbines on the site.
  - Economic benefits will not go to the community.
  - Property devaluation.
  - Impact on Eden’s unique history – Ben Boyd, Boyd tower, whales, Marine Discovery Centre.
  - Statement of Environmental Effects has not addressed issues sufficiently.

- The turbines will be visible from areas not identified in the Statement of Environmental Effects / photomontages.
- The 'precautionary principle' should be applied.
- Decision should be deferred until the Wind Farm Guidelines (Department of Planning and Infrastructure) are adopted.
- For the proposal:
  - Development is a compatible use of the land.
  - Recommend a survey is undertaken to assess views of tourists.
  - CSIRO report shows no proven impact of wind farms on property values.
  - The wind farm will be the first in an industrial setting in Australia, but there are examples overseas of wind farms in an industrial setting.
  - Project assists with meeting renewable energy target.
  - Symbolises clean energy – desire to live in a community that supports clean energy.
  - Wind energy is efficient and cheap and can stabilise power costs.
  - Good site for wind farm as existing industrial, power set up exists, environmental impacts on site minimised and wharf for deliveries.
  - Could enhance eco-tourism credentials of the area and attract eco-visitors. Opportunity to diversify Eden and enhance the region's 'brand' / give a new direction.

## 9. Concluding Comments and Future Steps

The Chair, Ms Allan, explained that the next step is for Council to assess the issues raised. Ms Allan reiterated that the meeting purpose was to hear issues and ensure they are addressed in Council's assessment. Ms Allan advised that when a determination meeting is scheduled in the future, there will be another opportunity for members of the public to address the Panel.

Robert Quick, Bega Valley Shire Council, advised that he can be contacted with any issues and/or comments during the assessment phase.

Ms Allan noted that the previous community meeting held was not linked to this Regional Panel meeting.

Ms Allan thanked attendees for their time and the opportunity to understand the issues raised by the community.

Endorsed by

Pam Allan  
 Chair  
 Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel  
 Date: 10 February 2012