

SHIRE OF KOJONUP

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PRESS RELEASE:

WIND FARM APPROVED

The Kojonup stage of the Flat Rocks Wind Farm was approved by the Council at a Special Meeting on 23 November 2011. Stage 1 of the project comprises 30 turbines, an electrical substation, and associated infrastructure in the Kojonup Shire.

At the meeting the developer, Moonies Hill Energy Pty Ltd, estimated that stage 1 would:

- be worth between \$100M - \$150M
- generate between 40 and 60 MW of power
- add \$10M to the economy during construction and \$35M during operation
- create 100 jobs during the construction jobs and 5 ongoing operational positions
- displace approximately 150,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

The developer also expressed their commitment to a community fund to contribute back to the district, with the details to be determined closer to project commencement.

The meeting was moved to a nearby hall to accommodate the size of the public gallery and extensive public question time was supported, given the interest in the proposal.

Much of the discussion echoed the concerns expressed to the Senate Committee inquiry into the social and economic impacts of wind farms on rural communities, and included calls for the Council to reject the proposal on health concerns.

Shire Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Gash, explained the statutory environment and guidelines under which the Shire assessed the application, including referral to relevant planning and health research agencies with key questions arising from submissions, and the incorporation of relevant Senate Committee recommendations.

The agenda was in excess of 1,000 pages due to the volume of submissions and assessment reports required for the application. The proposal was advertised in November 2010 and the final reports received from Moonies Hill Energy Pty Ltd in August 2011, with the Council receiving public submissions until November 2011.

In her opening statement Shire President Jane Trethowan stated that Council offered no apologies for the time taken to consider the matter, acknowledging it was an issue that had created significant community debate.

Contact for enquiries: Cr Jane Trethowan –Shire President, Ph: 0407 990 693.

24 November 2011