

Hunter Transmission Project Regional Reference Group

Monday 6 May 2024

Minutes of the HTP Regional Reference Group meeting held 2.30pm – 4.30pm on Monday 6 May 2024 at Singleton Council Chamber.

Attendance

Committee Members:

Present	Apology	Video call	Name	Position
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Pynsent (BP)	Independent Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Samantha Martin-Williams (SMW)	Regional Business Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nathan Towney (NT)	Regional Aboriginal Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Craig Anderson (CA)	Regional Environment Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor Sue Moore (SM)	Singleton Council Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor Jay Suvaal (JS1)	Cessnock City Council Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mayor Kay Fraser (KF)	Lake Macquarie City Council Representative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Sullivan (JS2)	Singleton LGA Community Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phillip O'Neill (PO)	Cessnock LGA Community Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Diane Crosdale (DC)	Lake Macquarie LGA Community Representative

Invited Members:

Present	Apology	Video call	Name	Position
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kelly Lofberg (KL)	HTP Director Strategic Communication and Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Tanner (PT)	HTP Adviser

Other attendees:

Present	Apology	Video call	Name	Position
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	AS	Landowner – HTP North
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MR, PR	Landowners – HTP North
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	JR	Landowner – HTP North
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RL	Landowner – HTP North

Secretariat:

Present	Apology	Video call	Name	Position
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alana Kosklin (AK)	RRG Secretariat

Apologies

- Phillip O'Neill (Cessnock LGA Community Representative)
- Diane Crosdale (Lake Macquarie LGA Community Representative)

Meeting Minutes

Item	Topic	Lead	Comment/ Action
1.0	Acknowledgement of Country	BP	The Chair opened the RRG meeting at 2:40pm and delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.
1.1	Welcome	BP/SM	The Chair and Mayor Sue Moore welcomed members to the meeting. The apologies of Phillip O'Neill and Diane Crosdale were noted. Minutes of the 5 February 2024 meeting and the extraordinary meeting of 8 April 2024 were accepted.
2	A 101 on transmission infrastructure	PT	PT delivered a presentation about system planning in NSW, the history of transmission infrastructure and electricity generation in the state, overhead versus underground line options and the construction of transmission lines. Members asked questions about projected energy demand, delivery of construction materials, the sequencing of construction across the alignment, and system planning in relation to overhead and underground transmission lines. PT advised a Google Earth map of the alignment has been produced, which shows the planned transmission line in its surroundings. BP invited PT to return to the next meeting of the group to present this map.
3	Presentation by private landowners in HTP North	AS	AS spoke about the property he owns and the concerns he has about the HTP's impact on his property. These include visual, health, property value and land use. AS also raised concerns about the Strategic Benefit Payments Scheme as well as the potential damage that could result from allowing access to his property for technical studies. KL advised the Strategic Benefit Payments Scheme is not the only form of compensation available to landowners who host transmission infrastructure. KL outlined the acquisition process, including the landowner's right to legal advice paid for by EnergyCo. KL also advised that land access agreements are by negotiation and can include conditions around which parts of a property cannot be driven on, to mitigate crop damage. KL advised the Community Team will meet with AS to discuss next steps. JS2 provided his contact details to AS as the Singleton LGA Community Representative.

		MR PR	<p>MR read from a prepared written statement that outlined the history of their property. MR noted they have been disappointed with the consultation for the HTP and are concerned there is little opportunity to influence the project. MR also raised concerns about visual impacts, safety and noise.</p> <p>PR noted his uncertainty over where the transmission line will go, as the corridor is currently 1km wide.</p> <p>KL outlined the intention of early consultation to inform the corridor. KL advised the Community Team will meet with MR and PR to discuss next steps.</p> <p>JS2 provided his contact details to MR and PR as the Singleton LGA Community Representative.</p>
		RL	<p>RL expressed concern about OH&S risks posed by hosting transmission infrastructure on industrial land and the impacts of this infrastructure on his land use. RL noted he has plans to develop his property.</p> <p>KL advised the Community Team will meet with RL to discuss next steps.</p> <p>JS2 provided his contact details to RL as the Singleton LGA Community Representative.</p>
		JR	<p>JR spoke about his property. JR expressed frustration with the consultation process. JR asked that the submission he made to the public exhibition process in December 2023 be provided to members of the group. BP and KL confirmed this would occur.</p> <p>KL advised the Community Team will meet with JR to discuss next steps.</p> <p>JS2 provided his contact details to JR as the Singleton LGA Community Representative.</p>
4	General business	BP	<p>SM advised landowner IH had indicated he would like his submission to the 2023 public exhibition to be provided to the group.</p> <p>SMW noted there may be opportunities for the group to better understand community issues via the 2023 public exhibition submissions</p>
1.6	Admin items - Agenda for next meeting	BP	<p>The Chair asked whether the next meeting should cover strategic biodiversity offsets or the Hunter First Benefit Sharing package. The group discussed this and decided on the Hunter First Benefit Sharing package.</p> <p>BP noted that PT would also be invited back to present the Google Earth map.</p>

			Landowners from HTP Central and Pokolbin Mountains Road will also be invited to present to the next meeting. The chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at 4:38pm.
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Meeting actions

The secretariat will:

- Circulate JR's submission to the 2023 public exhibition of the preliminary corridor
- Confirm that IH would also like his submission circulated
- August meeting to include a presentation from:
 - o Peter Tanner on the Google Earth map
 - o A small representative group of HTP Central landowners
 - o Representatives from Pokolbin Mountains Road landowners