

# Wakefield Park Raceway CCC Minutes

Title	Wakefield Park Raceway Community Consultative Committee (CCC) Meeting #03	
Meeting Date	Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December @ 4pm	
Venue	Goulburn Mulwaree Council Chambers Bourke Street, Goulburn	
Chair	<b>David Johnson</b>	Independent Chairperson
Meeting Attendees	<b>Jane Reardon</b> Community Representative/Resident <b>Phil Sykes</b> Community Representative/Resident <b>Angus Gibson</b> Community Representative /Resident  <b>Dean Chapman</b> WPR Representative Alternate <b>Chris Lewis-Williams</b> WPR Representative, by Video  <b>Scott Martin</b> Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Director Planning & Environment <b>Bob Kirk</b> Goulburn Mulwaree Council, Mayor	
	<b>Candice Webster</b>	Minute Taker
Apologies	Randolph Griffiths, Richard Cardew, John Boston	
Next Meeting	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 @ 4.00pm Goulburn Mulwaree Council 184 Bourke Street, Goulburn NSW	

## **MEETING WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - David Johnson**

Meeting opened at 4:04pm

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & CODE OF CONDUCT**

Copies of the *Code of Conduct Agreement* and *Declaration of Interests* forms from the DPIE Guidelines have previously been circulated to members, for signing and return to the Chair. No other declarations of interest were made.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- No matters arising from previous meeting.
- Dean advised how to find the minutes on the WPR website.

## **RACEWAY UPDATE**

- Raceway update by Dean - training more noise staff to manage the noise, currently 3 experts but will train more. Dean will put staff through more noise training in Melbourne. 2021 calendar is 50 to 60 % booked.
- Dean spoke about doing community type events on quiet weekends and the options WPR can adopt for driver training and clients who generate minimal noise.
- Communication and education to Wakefield customers is strong and rules are being enforced. Lots of support from customers to adapt to noise restrictions.
- Working on promotional video to educate customers on noise, with a view to overall limiting of noise impacts.
- Scott asked if the driver trainer programs are growing. Dean responded about it being very successful and growing rapidly. Dean explained how it benefited the raceway and community and how people within and outside the Goulburn community were supporting it.
- Dean explained about how they have invented new products like the blind society coming out to do a day.

## **COUNCIL UPDATE**

- Scott provided an update on progress of the DA application from WPR.
- Scott explained how expansive the DA is and that there is a lot of community interest; 39 submissions were received. Also, a lot of detail in the submissions and how it will relate back to planning grounds.
- There are two patterns in the submissions, one concerning noise and ensuring noise is assessed appropriately and the other is about the commercial side and how local businesses rely on Wakefield Park to generate business and help the local economy.
- Earlier in the week Council contacted WPR's consultant planners, Ethos Urban, about additional information that needs to be provided by Wakefield Park.

- Scott spoke about presenting information in documents throughout the DA to get a better understanding and consistency, and about the level of detail in the DA.
- Scott also explained about what type of legal agencies need to be involved to process a DA.
- Bob stated that Council have not yet discussed details of the DA but there will be discussion in the future. Bob explained how the council sitting process works and how he feels this is a large matter not only for councillors but for the community and a lot of people will want a say.
- Bob explained they will hold an extraordinary Council meeting just for Wakefield Park's DA to ensure they cover off on it all, and how the meeting will work including the people who will be involved.
- Bob explained the councillors will work in with the planning department to arrange a date, Scott explained how they need ample time to ensure they cover off on everything in the planning stage.
- Dean raised a question about the 10-minute speaking time for people at the Council meeting. Scott explained people who wish to speak will need to register before the meeting.
- Council will notify the community and those who made submissions about the need to register before the council meeting to speak.
- Bob spoke about how they may need to limit the speakers or the time frame at the meeting as this could be a lengthy process, and speakers will be asked to avoid repetition.
- Phil asked about the time frame and when a decision will be made. Scott responded that he feels that it could be as late as April 2021, but they cannot guarantee.
- Scott assured the committee that they have given this DA lots of attention.
- Angus asked if Wakefield Park can respond to the submissions and alter the DA. Does council encourage Wakefield Park to change the DA as the submissions roll in, how does this work?
- Scott explained that they put recommendations forward to the applicant and give all the submissions to the applicant to give the applicant a chance to amend their plans.
- Bob explained that if the process resulted in any material change to any key element of the DA, there would be an opportunity for the community to respond.
- Jane asked if there are material changes will the community be notified.
- Scott explained that if it is deemed to be a major change the community will be notified.
- Chris asked about the number of submissions as Wakefield Park were under the impression there were only 28 submissions.
- Scott explained that council will formally advise in writing when all submissions are received.
- Jane asked if their legal representatives could attend the Council meeting.
- Scott explained anyone can attend and anyone can speak for another person.
- Jane asked will council make their decision on the night
- Bob explained that they may defer the decision at the meeting, but they may also decide at the meeting, and that deferrals do not happen often in council meetings.

## GENERAL BUSINESS.

Jane submitted four questions prior to this meeting:

### Question 1

#### **The number of 'noisy' events per year.**

- In the original notice that was issued to the Raceway there were some 62 event/days allowed. This was 62 more than allowed for in the 1993 DA.
  - In the new Development Application there is a request for some 291 'noisy' events/days.
  - Could the Raceway please advise how this figure was arrived at, bearing in mind Renzo Tonin said he'd had no input to that decision.
- Chris explained that the DA does not give a count on the noise days and that it always refers to the prevention notice that was agreed on in court.
- Scott explained that the old DA was a very difficult document to enforce. The noise regulations have changed over time. Scott explained that the Council had difficulty enforcing the consent due to government regulations, and Council saw the prevention notice as a bridge from the old consent to the new consent.
- Jane queried how the figure of 291 was arrived at and Chris advised it was based on the number of events in the 2019 calendar.
- Dean explained that the prevention notice has been followed and how it has been put into the DA.
- Jane noted that the Raceway has not based the scheduling on the needs of the community, but had simply replicated the previous race calendar.
- Chris explained that they have complied with the DA, the difference between their events at WPR and how they comply.
- Scott explained about the court process leading to the prevention notice, how both Council and WPR compromised to meet in the middle, and how this led to a better compliance framework and enforcement.
- Jane still feels that the prevention notice is not clear.

### Question 2

#### **The background noise levels which were measured at nearby residences**

- Could the Raceway advise what these were? The new DA (on pg 7 of the *Noise Impact Assessment*) sets out the *Noise Policy for Industry* standards and then says 'minimum applicable RBL at *the Site* is 35 dBA'.
- But it does not actually say what was the measurement. And it makes no reference to noise levels at *residences*.

Jane said this issue had become particularly important given that the Raceway had advised that its noise consultant had established that when it was 75 dBA at the Raceway, that the noise experienced at her home was only 35 dBA, and that this seemed inexplicable if in fact the usual background noise level was accepted as being 35 dBA or lower.

- Chris said that they measure background noise at WPR, not at Jane's house as that is set by government policy.
- Scott explained how the planning process works and how all concerns and information will be taken into account.

### Question 3

#### **CCC Terms of Reference**

Could these be clarified for the members? The background to this is: I was concerned with the response of the Raceway and in particular the commentary from Chris Lewis-Williams at the last meeting which would indicate that what is discussed at the meeting is decided by the Raceway, and not by the Chair, let alone the Committee as a whole.

- David responded that we need to refer to the prevention notice as that dictates how the CCC is to operate, it's terms of reference and scope.
- David explained that Schedule 1 of the prevention notice specifies that the CCC is to be a forum for discussion relating to WPR's compliance with the noise management issues under the notice. It is therefore a more limited scope than that which normally applies to CCCs overseen by the DPIE. We have allowed a broader discussion on noise issues due to the current DA submission and increased level of public interest, but we should not lose sight of the original scope which was agreed to.
- Scott explained how the communication process works within a CCC and how other CCCs work to give some examples. He also explained that the CCC should not impact or influence the DA.
- David explained that any member of the committee can make a comment about the scope and operation of the CCC, but we need to be aware of the role of this CCC as determined by the prevention notice.
- Council explained their processes about how they have policies they have to abide by when complaints are made and the urgency of how they are done.

### Question 4

#### **Compliance regime**

- At the last meeting I requested that this issue be discussed. It was not done so in any detail. I ask for Council and the Raceway now to specifically respond to the item as previously put:
  - *Could I also ask that the item include a walk-through of how complaints have been and are being dealt with? We're particularly interested in how Council deals with the Calendar in general and the distinction between the different regimes applying to decibel readings (95, 85, 83 and 75 dBA) at the Raceway.*
- This is of course a critical issue regardless of what noise levels, or how many noisy events may be agreed to. So this should not be seen as pre-empting any outcome from the DA.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November and 23<sup>rd</sup> November there were two complaints made to Council about WPR noise.

- Council explained that the noise data they get from WPR has been compliant with the prevention notice and on the rare occasion they have a spike Dean explains what happened at the track and what they did to manage it.
- Jane asked how council know what event days have 75, 83, 85 and 95 dbA limits ?

- Scott explained that WPR provide the data to show what type of day it is and how they complied when council requests the data.
- Jane still wants to know what the noise calendar looks like.
- Scott explained how the council process works and how much data they request from WPR and when they need to dig further into data.

Jane asked how Council know if Jane is complaining about a 75 dbA or 95 dbA day, if they don't have a calendar of noise events ?

- Scott explained that they can find information on the calendar relating to each event.
- Dean explained that not all their track days are 95 dbA events.
- Angus asked can Dean see on the calendar what he thinks will be 95 or 75 dbA days.
- Dean explained he could point that out, and predict what noise level the raceway would be at for any event day.
- Angus asked WPR for some predictability around noisy days and compliance with a reasonable level of noise. Angus feels that we need to be able to pinpoint the days and he feels neither Council, nor anyone, can determine if WPR are complying.
- Phil also asked about noise management at WPR, and Dean explained the Renzo Tonin model discussed at the last meeting and the prevention notice that WPR complies with.
- Angus noted how impacted his son and his partner are due to WPR noise, especially working from home during the pandemic.
- Angus has expressed disappointment in reaching a compromise, and thinks that 4 days a week operating 52 weeks a year is unreasonable. Angus expressed disappointment that a compromise had not been reached and thinks that the proposed 289 potentially noisy days (47 – 59 dBA) at his property per year is unreasonable.

Bob Kirk left the meeting at 5.21pm.

- Dean explained that he uses noise tools to ensure WPR meet the noise level for each day and knows before the day what levels the noise will be.
- Jane wants to know when Wakefield Park will share the information on predictability to council or the residents and how it will be managed.
- Dean explained their events will never exceed 95dBa (15min LAeq) as they ensure this with the tools they have.
- Jane asked Scott how they manage this moving forward.
- Scott has explained that it would help if Wakefield Park did give the residents a noise level for each day.
- David explained that nothing had to be decided right now and all parties could go back and think about it.
- Jane wants to know the noise levels to ensure WPR comply with the prevention notice.

- Jane asked where WPR were up to in the quiet days that were meant to happen.
- Dean explained he would look at getting that information.
- Angus has confidence that WPR are complying but believes there should be more trust by being transparent in showing the residents the noise model, and advising when they will have noisy days and quiet days. . Angus believes there would be more confidence that WPR were complying with any given noise restrictions if the noise model and data were transparent and made available to residents and notice of noisy and quiet days were made publically available.
- Chris explained he will look at the Phillip Island data that Scott mentioned and look at maybe advising the noise level for the day.
- David explained that it might help for WPR to provide information on noise days in advance to help residents organise their personal lives around the noise.
- Dean has assured the group that a lot of education and training is going into his team at Wakefield Park to ensure compliance with the noise.
- Chris explained he believes they only receive complaints on the 85db plus days.
- Jane considers that the lower noise level days still affect her property.
- Jane feels the new compliance system should be set out in the DA application to council.
- Scott has taken that on board.
- David explained the scope of the prevention notice and how often we can have a meeting.

It was agreed that WPR will come up with a plan to allow greater transparency to noise management by developing a way to provide information on predicted noise levels in advance of track events, so residents will know what noise limits will apply to events on the calendar.

**COMMUNITY COMPLAINTS** – has been covered above.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 @ 4pm. Venue to be confirmed, probably at Council offices again.

Meeting closed at 5.42pm