

Final Draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines State Significant Projects

Frequently Asked Questions

February 2016

What are Community Consultative Committees?

- For more than a decade, Community Consultative Committees have played an important role in the assessment and regulation of mining projects in NSW.
- Community Consultative Committees provide a forum for open discussions between companies, communities and local councils about major projects that are taking place in NSW, particularly in the resources sector.

Why are the Community Consultative Committee Guidelines being reviewed?

- The current Community Consultative Committee Guidelines were introduced by the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) in 2007.
- The Department has received feedback from a range of stakeholders on how to improve the operation and effectiveness of the committees.
- The proposed changes incorporate the feedback received during this process and aim to deliver more effective, current and useful guidelines.

What are the proposed changes?

- The proposed changes will make the guidelines more flexible, allowing them to be:
 - used for engaging communities in any State-significant project (eg infrastructure projects) as required. The guidelines also recognise that not all State-significant projects require Community Consultative Committees;
 - set up earlier in the assessment process (as is currently occurring for wind farms), rather than only in the post-approval stage; and
 - set up for a defined period within a projects life span. For some projects, a committee might only be needed during the construction phase, and not necessary once operating.
- Revised procedures for the establishment of Community Consultative Committees, with the Independent Chairs playing a stronger role in the appointment of members.
- Revised criteria for community representatives.
- New criteria for environmental representatives.
- Better guidance for proponents on how to establish committees.
- Stronger guidance on the conduct of meetings, including:
 - the introduction of a new code of conduct
 - steps for managing committee members who are not complying with the code of conduct
 - providing for the attendance of non-committee members or observers
 - requiring committee members to declare pecuniary or other interests.
- A new toolkit to assist with the establishment and operation of committees. The toolkit includes:
 - advice on advertising for community representatives
 - Committee Nomination Forms
 - Code of Conduct Agreement Form
 - Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests Form.

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How do I comment on the proposal?

- Submissions on the final draft of the revised Community Consultative Committee Guidelines – State Significant Projects can be made up until 18 April 2016.
- You can make a submission:
 - o online at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals
 - o by mail to Executive Director, Resources Assessment & Business Systems, Department of Planning and Environment, GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001.
- All submissions will be made public in line with the Department's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission. Before making a submission, please read our privacy policy at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy

Where can I find out more?

- Call our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- If English isn't your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- Email information@planning.nsw.gov.au