

OUT16/13987

Executive Director
Resource Assessments & Business Systems
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Comments on revised Community Consultative Committee Guidelines

Thank you for giving the Office of the NSW Small Business Commissioner (OSBC) the opportunity to comment on the *Final Draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects*.

The role of the OSBC is to support small businesses in NSW by:

- providing mediation and dispute resolution services;
- delivering quality small business support through a range of programs and resources; and
- speaking up for small business within government.

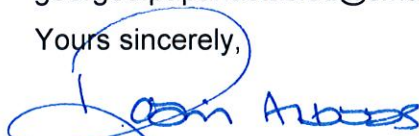
The OSBC supports the revised guidelines, recognising that increasing the operation and effectiveness of community consultative committees may assist with ensuring that the views and interests of small businesses impacted by state significant projects are adequately represented.

To this end, the OSBC recommends that the draft guidelines expressly acknowledge that owners and operators of local businesses are eligible to be appointed as community representatives to these committees. As the draft guidelines currently read, it is not certain that a small business owner who operates a business in the relevant area, but who does not reside in the area, is eligible. We therefore suggest that:

- the first bullet point in column two on page 4 of the draft guidelines be amended to read: 'current residents of, and/or business owners/operators within, the area', and
- the fourth bullet point on page 13 of the draft guidelines be amended to read: 'current residency of, and/or ownership/operation of a business within, the local area...'.

Should you wish to further discuss any of these comments please contact Georgos Papanastasiou, Senior Advisor, Advocacy on (02) 8222 4833 or georgos.papanastasiou@smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Robyn Hobbs OAM
NSW Small Business Commissioner

20 March 2016