

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
30 March 2016

The Executive Director
Resource Assessments & Business Systems
Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in relation to the draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects.

Please find below my comments for the Department's consideration:

Page: 3

Item's 3 & 4: Given the timing of CCC meetings, this could possibly cause delays where the proponent's statutory obligations are concerned (lodgement of documents, etc).

Page: 3

Final paragraph (Establishment of Committee): The dissolving of any committee should need to have some criteria attached to it, ie; unanimous decision of all members, the proponent and in consultation with the Department of Planning & Environment.

Page: 3 – 2nd column, last paragraph

....at least two options for the role of Independent Chairperson..." where a commercial agreement has been entered into between the proponent and the Independent Chairperson to chair a number of their committees, ie companies with more than one project, for the continuity of the CCC's, company representatives and stability of order, the appointment of one option may be appropriate.

Page: 3 – 2nd column, last paragraph

Consider DRE being responsible for paying the Independent Chairperson (as is with Ministerial Appointments) to take away any perception of the IC being biased towards the proponent.

Page: 4

Last paragraph on left column – “Report Annually” – provide additional information to assist reporting – is it in writing, verbally, what information is required; will this be a public document?

Page: 4 – 2nd column – Selection Criteria

I would like to see additional selection criterion to assist Independent Chairpersons and/or the Department in being able to cull applications, based on clandestine intentions or subjective purposes.

Page: 5

First dot point – “recognised environmental organisation” – may need a definition provided, ie incorporated body, group to have a certain number of members, etc.

Page: 5 – 2nd column, 2nd paragraph

“mailing” – emailing or posting? Unfortunately, the ‘snail’ mail is taking so much longer now and may not meet the deadlines, consider putting provision for letters to be date marked prior to or on the closing date.

Page: 5 – 2nd column, last paragraph

Revision by The Secretary of an appointment of community representation – I presume this means if a member is not complying with the guidelines?

Page: 6 – Alternate Representatives

The alternate should be nominated as one person, not a revolving door for a different member to attend each time.

Page: 6 – Agenda – items 3 and 4 need to be reversed. Confirmation of minutes, before Business Arising.

Page: 11 (Toolkit) Nomination Form

Delete last dot point – “I understand that this position is a voluntary position with no entitlement to remuneration or other benefit.” (Comment: Most Independent Chairs are a paid position, as that they provide a certain skill base and the professional services required to meet the objectives of the meeting procedures.)

Page: 14 (Toolkit) Code of Conduct Agreement

Include another dot point (or more) in relation to: “Keep the discussion and exchange of information relevant to the current project and its current approval”. (Background and experience for this suggestion is for members: not to get bogged down by irrelevant issues such as debating whether the projects are viable, possibly health issues; whether the EIS submitted with application was flawed; previous history of the site, etc.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted contact information]