

1148-3#142 : DH:DH

Executive Director  
Resources Assessment and Business Systems  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

31 March 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

**DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMITTEES**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects (draft Guidelines).

Council is represented on three Community Consultation Committee (CCC's) currently operating within the Wollondilly Local Government Area (LGA). These are comprised of two underground coal mining projects (Tahmoor Colliery and Bulli Seam Projects) and one coal seam gas project (the Camden Gas Project). There are also a number of large planning proposals within the Wollondilly LGA which have the potential to also be classified as State Significant Projects.

The CCC Guidelines are viewed as being beneficial in enhancing the operation and effectiveness of EEC's. The Guidelines are also viewed as being positive in addressing experiences of Council representatives at meetings of local Committee meetings. However, the following recommended amendments are provided for consideration by the Department of Planning and Environment during the finalisation of the Guidelines:

- The independent chairman be required to demonstrate an absence of any direct or indirect involvement with any mining or coal seam gas company that includes any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest for transparency purposes.
- CCC's be required to include an on-going agenda item for reports from members of the Committee (as currently occurs with the Tahmoor Colliery CCC). It is considered the inclusion of this item would assist in addressing situations where particular concerns of individual members dominate meetings at the expense of other members.
- The draft Guidelines is noted to state that membership of the Committee shall include one Council representative. It is recommended in this regard that the Guidelines be amended to allow for one Council Technical Officer and one Councillor from each relevant Council to a particular State Significant Development.



In addition, the design and composition of CCC's are considered more effective in the transmission of information to government and community representatives rather than engagement with the broader community. The draft Guidelines is acknowledged in this regard as stating proponents will be encouraged to conduct consultation with the broader community. However, it is recommended that the Committee amend the exhibited Guidelines to specifically require mining and coal seam gas companies to design and implement consultation programs with the broader community and report the outcomes of this consultation to meetings of CCC's.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact Council's Environment Assessment Planner, David Henry, on (02) 4677 9687 or via e-mail to [david.henry@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:david.henry@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au).

Yours faithfully



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