

Comments on the NSW Department of Planning & Environment *Community Consultative Committee Guidelines – State Significant Projects* (February 2016)

Section	Text/Requirement	Comment
Purpose of the Committee	Page 2 – development assessment – including scoping of issues for assessment and commenting on assessment documentation (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary information in assessment scoping may be confidential and there is potential for information to be released prematurely to the public creating unnecessary concern As this is optional, suggest that it be removed.
Members of the Committee	Community Representatives. The public advertising of positions on the CCC are to be advertised in local media publications and applications sent to the Independent Chairperson, who in turn makes a recommendation to the Department.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest that there be an inclusion for the Chairperson to consult with the company on community appointments to ensure that the Independent Chairperson and/or Department are fully briefed if there are local issues pertaining to an applicant and the company. This is consistent with the company having opportunity to recommend to the Department suitable nominations for the Independent Chairperson and the Council representative in liaison with the Council.
Committee Meetings	Meeting arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally consistent with current arrangements implemented for Narrabri Gas Project CCC, additional requirements for pecuniary interest declarations are reasonable
	Committee Training - The Committee may seek funding or other assistance from the Company to gain the training or skills development necessary to achieve the purposes of the Committee...The Company should support any reasonable requests from the Committee for such training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New requirement that may potentially increase costs associated with CCC meetings
	Committee funding and remuneration - The Committee may seek annual or one-off funding from the Company for activities related to its purposes. It is up to the Company	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New requirement that may potentially increase costs associated with CCC meetings

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	<p>whether or not it agrees to such requests.</p> <p>The Independent Chairperson may seek payment of sitting fees and/or personal expenses from the Company. It is at the discretion of the Company whether or not it agrees to such requests.</p>	
Responsibilities of the Company	<p>The Company shall accommodate any reasonable request by the Independent Chairperson for the Committee to undertake additional inspections, provided at least 48 hours' notice has been given to the Company by the Independent Chairperson.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum requirement of 48 hours' notice is insufficient, particularly if the site inspection relates to a designated construction site or an area where active operations are being undertaken and WH&S inductions/supervision are required. • Further, 48 hours' notice is insufficient if a representative from the Company with specific technical expertise is required to be present to answer questions. • Suggest that this be changed to minimum 5 working days' notice. • Timeframes referred to earlier in the guidelines indicate that providing appropriate lead-time is an important courtesy to members (recommends minimum 4 weeks' notice for a general meeting, minimum of two weeks' notice for an extraordinary meeting). Equally, appropriate lead time should be extended to companies to adequately plan for and host site visits.