



31 March 2016

Recycling & Recovery

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

Dear Sir

**Re: Submission Response
Community Consultative Committee Guidelines – State Significant Projects**

SUEZ Australia & New Zealand is a national resource management organisation that makes the best use of water and waste. Within NSW, SUEZ is the largest waste management provider and the leader in resource recovery, operating a network of infrastructure assets.

Across our business units, SUEZ submits State Significant Project proposals related to the development of new and existing waste and water infrastructure.

The majority of SUEZ facilities are supported by active Community Reference Groups or Community Advisory Committees. These groups have representation from interested members of the community, as well as local Council and other stakeholders such as adjacent business operations. SUEZ's NSW CRGs meet and operate under a standardised Terms of Reference. Minutes of meetings are available publicly on our website. Environmental reporting is also publicly available on our website.


These groups and committees encompass a greater scope than looking at infrastructure development projects that may exist on a given site.

Given our experience in operating such groups, SUEZ wishes to make a number of comments on the Guidelines proposed by the Department of Planning & Environment in relation to Community Consultative Committees.

The structure and operation of the proposed Community Consultative Committees set out in the Guidelines, are particularly onerous on the Departmental Secretary or nominated representatives.

As such, SUEZ notes the following:

- Infrastructure that is considered as a State Significant Project may not involve extensive



infrastructure works. The establishment of a Community Consultative Committee should have a direct link with the project value and only those projects which have an investment value that exceeds \$100 million should trigger the need for such a Committee.

- There is an expectation that there would be interest and engagement from community representatives to be involved in such a Committee, however SUEZ's experience has been that it is somewhat difficult to engage community members to commit to such a process. This does not appear to be considered in the Guidelines proposed by the Department. SUEZ suggests that an EOI process is undertaken to identify need and demand prior to the process of appointing an Independent Chairperson and establishing such a Committee structure.
- SUEZ anticipates that replication of existing community forums has not been considered in the Guidelines. The existence of such groups/committees must form part of the Department's decision making process regarding the requirement for a project proponent to meet the proposed new guidelines.

In the event that an organisation has already shown a commitment to open and transparent communication with the community, through an established community forum, SUEZ suggests that such a process, provided it follows the principles of the Community Consultative Committee Guidelines, would be considered sufficient. The establishment of Community Committee for a discreet project could create confusion within the community if a process for community engagement already exists.

Should you require additional information on the above matters, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0457 560 146

Yours sincerely



Phil Carbins
Projects Director