



Our reference:
Contact: Wendy Connell
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18 April 2016

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Penrith City Council Submission – Draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines.

Penrith City Council supports the State Government's commitment to strengthen engagement between proponents, the community, local councils and key stakeholders on State significant projects.

Community consultation is an integral part of the planning system and these Committees play a vital role in the process. Genuine, well-structured community participation is critical to the delivery of liveable and sustainable places.

The draft guidelines provide a transparent and comprehensive framework for the operation of Community Consultative Committees for State significant developments. The guidelines offer opportunities for communities and stakeholders to be involved early in the assessment process and therefore influence outcomes.

Consideration should be given to broadening the methods used for the recruitment of community representatives. The prescribed method outlined in the guidelines, print media advertising, will only reach a particular portion of the community.

To meet the principles of social justice, an understanding of local area demographics is needed. This understanding would enable recruitment methods to be targeted, giving a better cross section of the community the opportunity to participate.

Whilst spatial planning is concerned with the physical aspects of location and land use, it is also required to address the various factors that make places attractive to live in. These include social issues such as health, employment, community cohesion, crime and social exclusion.

For this reason, consideration should be given to the participation of not only environmental groups but also business groups and community groups.

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By encouraging participation from as many people interested in, or affected by, a major development project, and being inclusive of a variety of age groups, cultural groups, business and community organisations, the Committee will truly represent what the community would like to see happen in the years ahead.

Given the importance of State Significant Developments, engagement between business, the development industry, local Councils and the community will be crucial. Accordingly, Council would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with State Government agencies, key stakeholders and companies on projects that benefit Penrith's and Western Sydney's growing communities.

If you have any questions in relation to the matters raised in this letter or the attached response, please contact Wendy Connell on the above phone number or email [wendy.connell @penrith.city](mailto:wendy.connell@penrith.city)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Wood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Wood
Development Assessment Coordinator