



PCU064493



The Executive Director  
Resources Assessment & Business Systems  
Department of Planning and Environment  
G P O Box 39  
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Reference: Submission- Final Draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines**

The Association of Mining Related Councils represents twenty two local government councils from across NSW with extractive industries established in their areas or, having related products transported through those areas. The organisation has been in existence since the early 1980s, and has developed to become the leading local government body for consultation on issues surrounding local extractive industries. The Association also maintains dialogue with the private sector through direct contact with companies and their Associations.

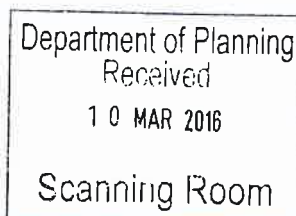
Some member councils have had some form of Community Consultative Committees (CCCS) operating for up to thirty five years where coal mining has taken place. Others are in the newer mining regions and the concept and operations of CCCS are only in their early stages.

Member Councils' experiences with the operation of CCCS to this point in time have been mixed. Where mining has been part of the community for over two decades, there has been some success with the CCCS and their objectives due to the maturing of the industry and its relationship with the local community over time. In the newer areas, there has been some problems often due to extractive industries being a new entrant to the community and seen as a competitor with other established local industries especially agriculture.

Overall therefore, the Association's records show that the government's review of the operations of CCCS guidelines is timely and is supported by this organisation. This advice was also provided to Mr David Kitto who was present at the Association's meeting held in Sydney on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

**Specific Comments on the New Guidelines**

- The need for the operation of CCCS to be extended to other major development projects other than the extractive industries that have impacts on the local community including renewable energy.
- The need for the operation of the CCC to commence early in the approval process to ensure community concerns are addressed in the initial discussions prior to any formal decisions on the project's development .
- The need for flexibility in the operations of CCCS to ensure local issues is clearly addressed.
- Support for the process where the Departmental Secretary scrutinises the nomination of the Chairperson by the company.



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- Support for the scrutiny of potential committee members by the Chairperson and Departmental Secretary to ensure that any local/ parochial values are reduced or eliminated.
- Support for the development of the new Tool Kit which clearly identifies the issues to be considered for the setting up and operations of a CCC.
- The need for State Government Departmental Officers to attend CCC meetings on a regular basis to explain any current State policies which affect local developments or, decisions by Departments on behalf of the State Government which may not be in keeping with local opinion. A member Council staff officer has had the experience (not his role) where he was obliged to defend a State Government decision at a CCC meeting due to the absence of the relevant Departmental Officer.

**Additional Matter**

There is a need for the Department to continue discussions with the local council on any major local development where State policies will be considered. Some more isolated member councils have indicated that they have not been able to obtain the necessary advice on developments taking place and have found this to be frustrating in their attempts to manage the local decision making process. This is considered to be in addition to formal discussions on the setting up and operation of a CCC.

The Association appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on this important matter and looks forward to further discussions with the Department on the guidelines as this matter progresses.

Yours sincerely



D L Tydd  
Executive Officer  
29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

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