



PCU065114

PO Box 45 Millthorpe NSW 2798

18th April 2016

Executive Director

Resource Assessments and Business Systems

NSW Dept of Planning and Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission to the Draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines-State Significant Projects

Please see attached my comments on the draft Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Projects.

Ian Rogan

Independent Chair

Flyers Creek Wind Farm CCC

Bodangora Wind Farm CCC



COMMENTS ON DRAFT COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

The following comments have been compiled by Ian Rogan, independent chair of the Flyers Creek Wind Farm and Bodangora Wind Farm Community Consultative Committees, following discussion of the guidelines at meetings of these CCCs in Feb/March 2016.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The development of comprehensive guidelines for the objectives, membership and operational procedures of Community Consultative Committees for State Significant Projects is strongly supported. It is our view that the CCCs play a crucial role in securing and providing advice to government and project proponents/developers on actual and potential social, economic and environmental impacts of such projects on the local region (and its residents) and to provide a mechanism for communicating aspects of project planning and implementation from the project proponent/developer and government to residents and organisations in the local region.

MEMBERSHIP

The optimum number of community members of such committees is difficult to define and may vary from region to region and the nature of the project. Certainly, no less than 3 community members is supported. There may be justification for more than 5 community members in some projects, to ensure adequate representation of the diversity of community interests and skills-particularly in environmental and economic skill areas.

There is some inconsistency and potential for confusion, between the overview of “community representatives” on page 3 and the selection criteria which are detailed separately for “community representatives” and “environmental representatives” on pages 4/5.

The selection criteria for local government representation on the committee are not defined. In our view the local government representative must be a councillor or senior manager (at General Manager or Director level). Engagement at a senior level with local government, in this process, is crucial and perhaps the guidelines should provide more definition of the expectations for involvement of local government.

The process for appointing alternates for community and local government representatives is not defined-alternates should be identified for all. Terms of appointment should be clearly defined (suggest 3 years, with an option for reappointment for a second term only). The process for filling a vacancy on the committee should be defined. It should be more clearly defined what is meant by...if a member “fails to attend committee meetings regularly” (pg 7)-we would suggest that a committee member be replaced if they fail to attend 3 consecutive meetings.

OTHER ISSUES

We support the suggested meeting frequency of at least four times per year during the construction and initial operation phases of a project and suggest a minimum of two times per year prior to those phases.

One member of the Bodangora Wind Farm CCC expressed concern about the exclusion of community representatives from entitlement to claim sitting fees.

While we support the casual attendance of community, government or company representatives at CCC meetings, there should be provisions for the chair to close sections of the meeting to non-members where confidential matters need to be discussed.