



21 April 2016

Executive Director, Resource Assessments & Business Systems,
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

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

Infigen Energy Limited

Level 22, 56 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia
T +61 2 8031 9900
F +61 2 9247 6086
www.infigenenergy.com

Infigen Energy appreciates the opportunity to make a submission with regards to the draft CCC guidelines above.

Infigen Energy (ASX: IFN) is an Australian Securities Exchange listed specialist renewable energy business that owns 6 wind farms across Australia. Infigen Energy is the largest owner and operator of wind energy facilities in Australia (557 MW) with six major wind farms in Australia capable of producing approximately 1,600 GWh per annum, or enough energy to supply over 200,000 homes annually. Infigen also has a significant pipeline of solar and wind development opportunities in Australia --- including three proposed wind farms and two proposed solar farms in NSW. These five projects have all been granted development approval.

As a general comment, we would like to congratulate the NSW Government for developing the CCC guidelines to cover all State Significant Projects. Wind farms and solar farms are significant infrastructure projects, and while no two types of infrastructure projects are the same, all infrastructure projects should be assessed and determined using the same processes. Only when an infrastructure project has a peculiar characteristic, such as shadow flicker for a wind farm, should separate rules or guidelines be established.

Infigen Energy supports the formation and operation of CCCs for State Significant Development projects including wind and solar farms. Infigen Energy has been participating in CCCs for several years including CCCs for our proposed Bodangora and Flyers Creek wind farm projects. We have found them to be a useful mechanism to improve community consultation and obtain feedback and suggestions for our projects.

We only have a few minor comments and suggestions with respect to the draft guidelines, and they appear below.

Committee Membership

Infigen Energy considers that the proponent should have between one and three members on the committee rather than being required to have a minimum of two. For less contentious and smaller projects, the development project manager should be able to more than adequately explain the project's status and answer questions. For both the Bodangora and Flyers Creek wind farm development project CCCs, Infigen Energy has had a single



representative, and this has worked out well. Once these projects proceed to construction, we may well decide to have more than one representative.

Committee Training

In our experience with CCCs, community members who are interested in the project have the ability to effectively contribute to the CCC without specialised training. It is also not clear what a 'reasonable request' for training is. While a proponent should have the option of paying for training courses that are desired and/or perceived to be needed, we do not agree that proponents should be obligated to fund training of committee members.

Committee Funding and Remuneration

Infigen Energy supports the position in the draft guidelines that it should be up to the proponent whether sitting fees are paid to Committee members (and the Chair). In our experience, reasonable sitting fees are appropriate for the Chair, but are not necessary, or even desirable, for the committee members.

Tool Kit

Infigen Energy appreciates the 'Tool Kit' included as an Appendix in the Guidelines as it will provide assistance and consistency to the establishment of new Community Consultation Committees.

Please contact the undersigned, if there are any questions or clarifications needed with regards to this submission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Upson".

Jonathan Upson
Senior Development & Government Affairs Manager
03-9674-7173
Jonathan.Upson@infigenenergy.com