

**From: Lesley Turner**  
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Below are some initial comments in response to the proposed *Community Consultative Committee Guidelines for State Significant Developments* currently on public exhibition.

It needs to be stressed that these are only provided as preliminary comments, as we have until 31 March to provide a more detailed submission to the Resources Advisory Forum.

While it appears positive that the NSW Government are aiming to establish processes for communities to be involved in State Significant Developments (SSD) earlier in the process, and that such Committees are to have more independent Chairs, will there are a number of issues NSWALC may wish to raise:

- 1. Composition of the Committee:** The Proposed guidelines do not require Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) or Aboriginal people to be part of the Committee, but state:

*Membership of the Committee shall comprise:*

- 1. One Independent Chairperson;*
- 2. Three to five community representatives, including in some cases representatives from environmental groups;*
- 3. One council representative; and*
- 4. Two or three Company representatives, including the person with direct managerial responsibility for environmental management.*

**Preliminary comment:** That the composition of the Committee be revised to include a representative of a Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) or an Aboriginal person.

- 2. Aboriginal culture and heritage:** It is unclear how Aboriginal culture and heritage issues will be dealt with, and it is not considered appropriate that other groups would have a say in these matters.

**Preliminary comment:**

- Clarification is needed regarding the scope of issues that the Committee will cover. Only Aboriginal people should be involved in matters regarding Aboriginal culture and heritage.
- Clarification is also sought regarding the ability of LALCs and Aboriginal groups to have a say in matters outside the Committee process.

- 3. Nomination and appointment process:** The nomination, selection and appointment process is driven by the Company (including the Company short-listing an independent Chair), and the Department decides who sits on the Committee based on a number of selection criteria. It is important that Aboriginal people are provided with genuine opportunities to be part of the Committees.

**Preliminary comment:**

- Sufficient advertising is needed to ensure Aboriginal peoples are aware of opportunities to participate in Committees, and specific notification should be provided to LALCs.
- Consideration should be given to the Department setting up a list of independent Chairs, rather than the Company short-listing.

Regards,

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