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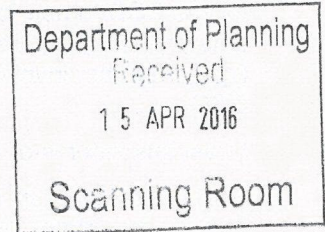


PCU064960

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

Our Ref:
File:
Date:

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8 April 2016



Dear Sir / Madam

REVISED COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised Community Consultative Committee Guidelines: State Significant Projects.

Council notes that the revised guidelines allow for a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to be set up for any state significant project that will benefit from establishing a CCC, rather than just mining related projects at present. It is requested that the guidelines also state that the Department will evaluate the merits of setting up a CCC for a particular project, in consultation with the relevant council.

It is also noted that the revised guidelines allow for a CCC to be set up earlier in the assessment process, rather than only at the post-approval stage. This proposed amendment is supported on the basis that it may allow for improved community and Council involvement / engagement throughout the assessment process to post-determination of a state significant project.

The revised guidelines also provide for better guidance on the conduct of CCC meetings and provide a requirement for CCC members having to sign a code of conduct, prior to joining the CCC, which is fully supported by Council.

The guidelines (page 3) also indicate that the independent chairperson of a CCC may invite state government agency representatives to attend particular CCC meetings. This will ensure that particular environmental management issues can be properly dealt with by a representative of the Department or from other agencies such as the NSW Department of Industry, Division of Resources & Energy.

The guidelines (page 3) also state that the Chairperson may request or agree (on a needs basis) that additional Company representatives be invited to attend meetings if additional specialist, technical or project specific advice is required. Also, page 7 of the guidelines provides a list of non-Committee members whom the Independent Chairperson may invite to CCC meetings. In this regard, it is recommended that the guidelines also allow the Chairperson the option of agreeing to additional Council representatives attending the CCC meeting/s (if requested by the Council representative), in order to provide specific expertise or technical advice to the CCC.

It is also recommended that the guidelines include a mechanism for providing an alternative Chairperson if the Independent Chairperson is inadvertently unavailable to attend a CCC meeting and the meeting cannot be rescheduled, due to its imminence.

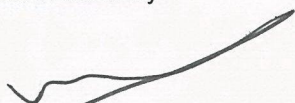
The proposed selection process for community representatives (pages 4 & 5) is generally supported. However, it is recommended that the guidelines state that only one community representative from a particular environmental group will be permitted as a member of a CCC.

The guidelines (page 8) state that *"The Committee may seek annual or one-off funding from the Company for activities related to its purposes. It is up to the Company whether or not it agrees to such requests."* In this regard, it is recommended that the guidelines provide for annual funding from the company for a set amount for the CCC to use for independent advice on issues related to the project. The amount to be set aside will be determined by the Secretary, in consultation with the Chairperson of the CCC, taking into account the size and type of project involved and the likely environmental management issues to be encountered by the particular CCC.

I trust this letter is of assistance.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Council's Special Projects Manager, Mr Ron Zwicker, on telephone (02) 4227 7639.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Farmer', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Farmer
General Manager
Wollongong City Council