



4 December 2018

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Contact: Martin Johnson
Our Ref: DOC2018/102186
Your Ref: Draft Community Participation Plan

Dear Sir / Madam

Department of Planning and Environment, Draft Community Participation Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Department of Planning and Environment's Draft Community Participation Plan (CPP). We support the objectives of the Draft CPP for open and inclusive community consultation and to ensure the community participation process is simple, relevant, timely and meaningful.

We note that the Department's Draft CPP is principally a summary of the existing mandatory consultation timeframes set out in planning legislation. The draft CPP does not detail, to any great extent, other mechanisms for community participation that should be used during the plan making process (e.g. drop in sessions, community reference groups, etc.). We assume requirements to implement other consultation mechanisms are left for councils to determine in their own CPPs. However we would recommend that the Department look into expanding the mechanisms for community participation for the large, important or contentious policies, plans or projects. The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) toolbox may be an appropriate reference in this regard.

Our main concern with the Department's draft CPP relates to Table 6, non-mandatory exhibition timeframes. The draft CPP outlines that the exhibition timeframe for new or amended state environmental planning policies (SEPPs) is 'discretionary'. However, given the overriding importance of SEPPs within the NSW planning framework, we advocate for mandatory exhibition.

While we acknowledge that the Department has recently taken the approach of exhibiting 'explanation of intended effects' (EIEs) to detail proposed changes brought about by new or amended SEPPs, we note that EIEs are not specifically referred to in Table 6 of the draft CPP.

We recommend that EIEs are included in Table 6 of the Department's draft CPP and that a minimum exhibition timeframe of at least two months is applied to EIEs and other draft legislation, regulation, policies and guidelines. The longer exhibition timeframe will provide sufficient time for council staff to seek Council's endorsement of submissions, prior to them being lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on telephone 02 4993 4229.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin Johnson
Strategic Planning Manager