



19 December 2018

Ms Alison Frame
Deputy Secretary, Policy and Strategy
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Gavin Horobin

Re: Draft Community Participation Plan

Dear Ms Frame

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Department's draft Community Participation Plan (draft CPP).

Customer focus is one of the five core values of Transport for NSW, with our commitment being to 'put the customer at the centre of everything we do'. The environmental impact assessment process under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) is therefore a key component of the community engagement framework implemented by Transport for NSW in the delivery of our projects.

It is noted that the draft CPP seeks to provide clear and easy guidance to communities in their engagement with the planning approvals process. Transport for NSW is generally supportive of the draft CPP, however seeks clarification on the aspects discussed in the following table.

Draft CCP Ref	Aspect	Comment
N/A	Applicability for CPP for staged State Significant Development (SSD) and State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) proposals	It is recommended that clarification be provided as to whether the CPP would apply to staged (ie concept) SSD and SSI applications.
Section 2.2 (Table 1: Inform)	Table 3 identifies that the community will be informed during 'early scoping' and feedback sought to shape the design	For SSI, it is unclear if this consultation is proposed to occur prior to or following the lodgment of an application under s5.15 of the EP&A Act. It is recommended that the timing of this consultation be clarified. Given the scale of major linear transport infrastructure projects, there is a risk that undertaking public consultation before sufficient design maturity has been obtained would unnecessarily raise community concern for large sections of the community in areas which may not

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		<p>be affected as a result of further design development.</p> <p>Accordingly, Transport for NSW recommends that this consultation occur after the lodgment of the initial SSI application unless otherwise agreed by the proponent.</p>
Section 2.2 (Table 3)	Geographical extent of consultation requirements	<p>The 'How' column in Table 3 identifies a range of consultation tools for community engagement. However for consultation activities which are geographically dependent upon the proximity of a project (eg letter mailouts), guidance on how the consultation footprint would be determined is not included. It is recommend that additional detail be included identifying that the Department would determine the footprint for such activities in consultation with the proponent.</p>
Section 2.2 (Table 3)	Use of social media	<p>The industry is seeing an increase in the use of innovative digital consultation tools for community engagement, which can sometimes include bespoke software for specific projects. It is therefore recommended that the selection of a social media platform(s) be mutually agreed between the Department and the proponent to enable flexibility in social media interfaces, and to minimise potential for duplication.</p> <p>It is also recommended that both the Department and the proponent have administrative access to monitor and regulate publication of offensive, threatening, defamatory or other inappropriate material.</p>
Section 3.2	<p>The accompanying notes identify that "a public authority is not required to make available for public inspection any part of an environmental impact statement whose publication would, in the opinion of the public authority, be contrary to the public interest because of its confidential nature or for any other reason." [emphasis added]</p>	<p>It is recommended that this statement be applicable to all stages of the assessment process under the EP&A Act, and not limited to the EIS documentation (ie also include the initial project application, consultation materials, Secretary's Environmental Assessment Report etc).</p>

If you have any further questions, please contact Ben Groth, Associate Director, Environmental Impact Assessment, on 9200 0214.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Sureda', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Louise Sureda

Director, Planning and Environment
Infrastructure and Place
Transport for NSW

