

10/12/2020

NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment - Southern Region
PO Box 5475
WOLLONGONG NSW 2500

By email only: wollongong@planning.nsw.gov.au

Attention: Sarah Lees

Dear Ms Lees

URGENT

Request for Extension to Respond to Legacy Planning Proposals (PPs) Letter

I am writing to request an extension of time to respond to the attached correspondence from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) dated 1 October 2020 which stated that Council's five 'legacy' PPs must be finalised by 31 December 2020.

The letter and a report on it were considered by Council's Development & Environment Committee on 1 December 2020. The report can be accessed at the following link:

[Report on 'legacy' PPs to Council's Development & Environment Committee, 1 December 2020](#)

Following consideration of the report Council resolved (MIN20.887) to:

1. *Receive the report for information.*
2. *Defer this item to:*
 - a. *Request an extension of time from Dept of Planning Industry and Environment to seek further advice, including but not limited to the existing expert reports that have been prepared for the applications.*
 - b. *Request an urgent meeting with the Hon Shelly Hancock MP Member for South Coast and The Hon. Robert Stokes MP to discuss the NSW Government Direction on these Planning Proposals.*

In accordance with part 2(b), Council is also writing to The Hon Shelley Hancock, MP to request a meeting with both her, and The Hon Robert Stokes MP, Minister for Planning and Public Places to discuss this matter. A meeting is yet to be scheduled.

The outcomes of the discussions will need to be considered by the Council before a formal response can be provided to DPIE's letter dated 1 October 2020. Our ability to respond to DPIE will be determined by the timing of the requested meeting and Council's monthly reporting cycle. As such, we also request an appropriate extension of time to respond to the letter of 1 October 2020.

Further, Council seeks specific advice and confirmation from DPIE on the status of existing studies, relevant to each PP, should a new process be commenced. A substantial body of work has been undertaken in respect of each PP, including many expensive and time-consuming specialist studies. Council (as well as the proponents) seek DPIE's assurance that the extensive work done to date, including the specialist studies, will be recognised and not diminished in any way if a new Gateway is issued.

As you know, Council is frustrated at receiving such short notice that these 'legacy' PPs would need to be finalised or withdrawn by 31 December 2020. Notwithstanding the complexities and delays, each of the legacy PPs in question has strong strategic and/or site merit, and Council remains committed to bringing each to a timely conclusion and achieving good overall outcomes.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could respond to this letter and the extension of time request no later than **close of business 23 December 2020**, so that the future of these important PPs is not in doubt prior to this matter being reconsidered by Council.

If you need further information about this matter, please contact Gordon Clark, Strategic Planning Manager on (02) 4429 3355. Please quote Council's reference 47611E (D20/547022).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Dunshea', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephen Dunshea
Chief Executive Officer