



Proposed changes to the Community Participation Plan

To DPHI

The Berry Forum Committee objects to the proposed reduction in the minimum public exhibition period to 14 days for relevant residential State Significant Development applications.

We represent more than a thousand Berry residents in the Shoalhaven LGA, and as a designated Community Consultative Body (CCB) we provide a communication link and understanding of the decision-making processes of Council and other agencies.

We make recommendations after consulting with the general community via feedback on our email newsletters and at our bi-monthly community meetings. The current process of a 30-day turnaround from notification to the closing date for submissions is extremely tight and a 14-day timeframe would be impossible to achieve.

This proposed change may be seen as improving a slow bureaucratic process when developers are complaining about wait times for approvals and claiming public consultation is holding back progress.

However, sufficient time must be allocated to allow the public to be informed and to exercise the right to object to permanent changes around their communities.

Stuart Coughlan
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