

**TABOURIE LAKE RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC.**

**Phone: (02) 4480 1198**

**ABN 27 388 940 520**

**Email: [tabourienews@gmail.com](mailto:tabourienews@gmail.com)**

**Proposed changes to the Community Participation Plan**

To whom it may concern,

We, as the committee of the above organisation wish to strongly object to the above changes to reduce specific development public exhibitions to 14 days.

We represent a village of 600 people in the Shoalhaven LGA. As a Community Consultative Body (CCB) our association enjoys a good relationship with Shoalhaven Council. Our association serves as a two way conduit with council. On one hand we inform the community of council's pending changes, decisions and requests and on the other hand we represent community queries, concerns, complaints and wants back to council.

It is ethically imperative in a organisation like ours to make decisions after consulting with the general community. We do this at our bi-monthly community meetings held on the odd numbered months while our committee meet on the even numbered months. In the current process of a 30 day turnaround from notification to the closing date for submissions, we, on occasions, have had no time to meet the community. Even the committee maybe between meetings. Thus ,we have been forced at times, to make executive committee decisions via emails to get a submission in on time without consulting the community.

The above is also the case for 24 other CCB's in the Shoalhaven LGA.

Indeed, any community group eg. a Sporting club, a surf club etc. would find the same issues in coordinating a considered response for a large group of members.

Currently, at all levels of government, there is a push for speeding up government , corporate and private developments as the process of getting approvals is seen as slowing the process. This proposed change may be perceived as popular because everyone has some experience of slow bureaucratic processes. And developers are crying out aloud that the wait times for approvals and for public consultation is holding back their intentions.

However, in the rush to build and develop we forget the real intent of processes. That is, to allow for the public to be informed and the absolute right to object to permanent changes around their communities.

We believe State government should resist this temptation to rush consultation periods. If efficiency of time is so important perhaps the government should focus on their procurement and tender processes, allocation of adequate resources to manage and deliver

the projects, or on better managing changes in project scope during the delivery of the projects, to ensure a more efficient delivery.

A 14 day exhibition period gives a lot less time for viewing then consulting back to your community group or neighbours, less time for researching, considering, and then returning with feedback or concerns.

We object strongly to the change to a 14 day consultation period as it forgets the notion that **processes are there not to make it hard to do things** but to **make it hard to do bad things**.

David Swarts

Chairperson