



CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING COVID-19

30 April 2020

The NSW Government has today introduced the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (COVID-19 Planning Bodies) Regulation 2020* to provide for public hearings and public meetings of planning bodies to be held by means of an audio link or audio-visual link for six months during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As such, the Independent Planning Commission NSW will conduct all public hearings and public meetings electronically, using tele- and/or video-conferencing facilities, until 25 September 2020. In the interest of openness and transparency, the Commission will stream proceedings online and continue to publish transcripts on its website.

Public notice will be given at least two weeks (14 days) in advance of the commencement of electronic public hearings (EPH) and electronic public meetings (EPM). The public notice for the hearing or meeting will provide information about how interested individuals and/or groups can participate and how they can view or listen to proceedings.

The Commission recognises that community participation is an integral part of the decision-making process for complex and contentious state significant development in NSW.

While there will be some practical changes to how interested individuals and/or groups can participate in our public hearings and public meetings, the Commission is committed to working collaboratively with our stakeholders to encourage broad participation in these processes.

(END OF STATEMENT)