



Anthony Roberts MP

Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing, Special Minister of State

IRF18/5963

Professor Mary O'Kane AC
Chair
Independent Planning Commission
Level 30, 201 Elizabeth St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Professor O'Kane

Multi-Stage Hearings

As you know, the Government is committed to implementing an improved public hearing process for the Independent Planning Commission which allows the Commission to play a role earlier in the assessment of State significant developments, and I welcome your recent discussions with the Department of Planning and Environment on this matter.

I request that you now take steps to develop a multi-stage hearing process, to be implemented in relation to matters where I request that the Commission hold a public hearing in relation to the carrying out of a particular State significant development.

The multi-stage hearing process should include two hearing stages (as a minimum), with the first stage held shortly after the conclusion of the public exhibition of the relevant development application and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Following the public exhibition period, the Department will prepare and publish a Preliminary Issues Report describing the strategic context for the project and summarising the issues raised by the community, government agencies and any independent experts.

After the initial stage of the public hearing, I request that the Commission prepare and publish an Issues Report which considers the submissions on the project and identifies the key issues for the Department's detailed merit assessment of the project.

The second stage of the public hearing would be held after the Department has provided the Commission with its assessment report in relation to the relevant application, prior to determining the matter.

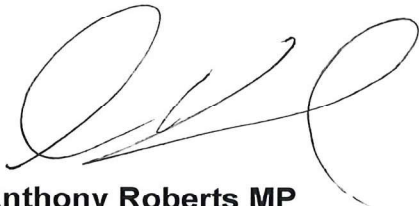
I agree that the Commission might, in addition to the public hearings that I request, also hold public meetings for example on discrete topics of significant public concern relating to a particular development. This should be done in accordance with the Commission's own procedures.

It will not be appropriate to require this new multi-stage process to apply to matters where the Department's assessment is significantly progressed, particularly if the proponent has already provided a response to submissions, or where a review under the previous legislative provisions has been conducted.

I will make clear in any request I make to the Commission to hold a public hearing whether this new process should apply. This will ensure a smooth transition to the new procedures and will provide certainty to the community regarding which processes apply to the Commission's consideration of a particular development.

As this is a significant change in the Commission's process, I request that you formally review it by the end of 2019 and provide Government with any recommendations for changes and further improvements at that time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Roberts', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

Anthony Roberts MP
Minister for Planning
Minister for Housing
Special Minister of State