

### Action Item: 32.3 Question to DPE

#### Question to Department of Planning and Environment

At The 2015 December 8<sup>th</sup> CCC a representative from the Department of Premier and Cabinet addressed this CCC on the procedures around the Santos EIS for the Narrabri Gas Project. In his address he informed the assembled that there were going to be THREE (3) opportunities for the Community to question matters arising from the EIS.

Q. Is this still the case and what is the timing and location within the process, for these three (3) referenced opportunities?

Q. Will the Community be given time to read and respond to the upcoming Response to Submissions on the EIS for the Narrabri Gas Project?

Q. if the Response Document is a lengthy Document as was the EIS, will the Community be given sufficient time to read and respond to those responses?

#### RESPONSE:

At the 2015 December 8<sup>th</sup> CCC a representative from the Department of Premier and Cabinet addressed the CCC on the procedures around the Santos EIS for the Narrabri Gas Project. In his address he informed the assembled that there were going to be THREE (3) opportunities for the Community to question matters arising from the EIS.

Q. Is this still the case and what is the timing and location within the process, for these three (3) referenced opportunities?

There have been 2 opportunities for community input to date, the formal 90 day exhibition period and the community information sessions held by the Department of Planning in Narrabri during the exhibition period.

There would be further opportunity for community input either through:

- a public hearing held by the Independent Planning Commission of NSW, if the Minister for Planning requests that a public hearing be held; and/or
- while there is no statutory requirement, the Commission may also hold a public meeting prior to its determination of the project.

At this time, the Minister for Planning has not requested that a public hearing be held.

The Commission has prepared a guideline on its consideration in relation to holding a public meeting which can be found at:

<http://ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/general/ipcnpublicmeetingguidelinesv6180605.pdf?la=en>

Q Will the Community be given the time to read and respond to the upcoming Response to Submissions on the EIS for the Narrabri Gas Project?

There is no formal step in the assessment process for public submissions on the Response to Submissions Report. There would be opportunity for the community to make written comments or a submission to the Commission, if a public hearing or public meeting were to be held, and also to attend and speak at a hearing and/ or meeting. The Department notes that there continues to be community input on projects which are considered through the assessment process.

The Commission has prepared guidelines on public hearings which provides information on the process and can be found at:

<http://ipcn.nsw.gov.au/resources/pac/media/files/pac/general/ipcnpublichearingguidelinesv3180605.pdf?la=en>

**Q If the Response Document is a lengthy document as was the EIS, will the Community be given sufficient time to read and respond to those responses?**

See response above.