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18 December 2018

Ms Carolyn McNally  
Secretary  
Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms McNally

### **LGNSW Comments on Draft Community Participation Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department of Planning and Environment's draft Community Participation Plan (CPP).

LGNSW supports the concept of planning authorities having a CPP which sets out requirements for consultation and we note that guiding principles are contained in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment ACT, 1979* (section 2.23). We commend the NSW Government for introducing the requirement for the Department to prepare a CPP.

The objectives and approach to community participation, and introduction of minimum exhibition periods are welcomed, giving greater clarity and emphasis about the Department's commitment to consulting the community on a wide range of matters.

It is understood that the Department's draft CPP may be used as a basis for councils to develop their own plans although is not intended to be a new mandatory template imposed on councils. It is pleasing to see recognition of councils' current and extensive community consultation/participation processes and expertise.

LGNSW also notes that under the provisions of section 2.24 (4) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment ACT 1979*, further information may be provided on the form, content and process for making and amending the CPP in the regulations. It is important that councils are able to provide feedback on these issues, so that the regulations can build on current best practice. LGNSW would appreciate feedback from the Department as to the timing and likelihood of further details being contained in the regulations.

Should your staff have any questions, please ask them to contact Jane Partridge, Senior Policy Officer, Planning (P: 9242 4093; E: [jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au](mailto:jane.partridge@lgnsw.org.au)).

Yours sincerely



Kylie Yates  
**Acting Chief Executive**