

Draft Land Use Planning and Approvals (Amendment) Bill 2022

Part 3 – Making better use of digital technology for information sharing to make public involvement in the major projects assessment process easier through sharing documents electronically

Issue

Sharing documents by hard copy throughout the major project assessment process, in particular with regard to third party landowners and occupiers, is an administrative burden as much of the supporting information involves lengthy documents.

A better outcome would be to enable sharing these documents through modern electronic means, whilst ensuring those without access to the internet can still participate in the process by being provided with hard copies of the documents.

Discussion

When the Minister is considering whether to declare, or not to declare a major project, consultation occurs with a wide range of persons, including owners and occupiers of adjoining land. With this consultation the Minister is required to provide the major project proposal documentation to enable people to make a thorough informed view about the project.

Experience gained from the Bridgewater Bridge project indicates that the major project proposal document can be quite large at almost 200 pages. Section 60I(2) of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act) requires the provision of this document to each consulted person in a hard copy, resulting in a resource hungry 'mail out' task. In the case of the Bridgewater Bridge project, there were in excess of 150 persons to notify, due to the large scope of the project area and the many adjoining properties.

In the age where most people have the means to view documents in an electronic format, there should be provision to allow the sharing of electronic documents in this process, noting that the process should always accommodate those persons without access to electronic documents.

What can be done?

Allow for documents to be exchanged via electronic means as an alternative to a hard copy.

What is proposed?

1. Provide for the exchange of the proposal and other documents by electronic means during the major projects assessment process, whilst still allowing those without access to digital technology to request a hard copy of any relevant document.

Sections of the draft Bill that relate to this topic

Clause in draft Bill	Section of LUPAA	Clause note
17	60ZL	Updated to provide for electronic exchange of documents
24	60ZZB	Updated to provide for electronic exchange of documents
34	60ZZZH	Updated to provide for electronic exchange of documents throughout the process, including specifying how a person can view documents that are not available for public display, such as a major project proposal document. Also enables a person to be able to request any document to be provided in hard copy.

Department of Premier and Cabinet
State Planning Office

Phone: 1300 703 977

Email: Stateplanning@dpac.tas.gov.au

www.planningreform.tas.gov.au

