

25 March 2010

Tomerong waste facility clarification

Shoalhaven City Council General Manager Russ Pigg has clarified that under the new State Government planning reforms which set up Joint Regional Planning Panels any Development Application such as the Tomerong landfill proposal is effectively taken out of the hands of the local elected Council.

Any implied criticism of Council is totally unjustified.

The fact is that Council's professional staff need to process the DA, assess the proposal, and submit that assessment report to the Panel for determination.

The elected Council may become involved once the staff report is completed, which is expected at this stage to be at the end of April.

The Council will be briefed on all relevant issues and will make a further and separate representation to the Panel at the appropriate time. Council's representations, the staff assessment, and any further community representations made direct to the Panel will become important issues for the Panel to consider before it makes a decision.

The community consultation and input has been extensive to date. Well over 770 public submissions have been made and are under consideration. Council convened a public meeting which made a valuable contribution, with over 300 people attending.

Council staff will make a professional assessment, in accordance with legislation. The Panel will need to also consider the broad public interest surrounding the proposal, before making its decision.

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