

Meeting Overview for distribution to members

- The Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) has a role to play in responding to Covid-19. DPIE is working on two fronts, the first is the public health response and the second in relation to the role the planning system contributes to facilitating economic activity.
- An overview was provided of the Government response to Covid-19 including a summary of the legislative changes which have been temporarily adopted in Parliament, the COVID-19 LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EMERGENCY MEASURES) BILL 2020 (24/03/20). The Bill, which is understood will get assent today, incorporates the following:
 - It allows the Planning Minister to make orders to enable certain development to take place after consultation with the Minister for Health
 - Removes requirements to have a place provided and a physical copy of relevant documents on public exhibition for inspection so long as exhibition copies are made available electronically
- It was noted that a new SEPP released on Friday to support the supply chain. State Environmental Planning Policy Amendment (COVID-19 Response) 2020 makes clear that truck deliveries are able to supply shops and retailers with essential goods at all times to support communities.
- There was consensus that the Peak Bodies are appreciative of DPIE efforts to ensure close consultation working together during this challenging time and it was confirmed there would be weekly skype meetings to ensure close liaison between peak bodies and Government Agencies.
- There were a number of suggestions / discussion points put forward by the Peak Bodies including:
 - DPIE to work closely at all levels with Councils to emphasise the economic importance of progressing development applications and proposals.
 - Explore changes to operating/construction hours because sites have adopted distancing guidelines for employees which may affect the number on any given worksite.
 - Examine ways to fast track / make procurement more simplified and timely
 - The Department will facilitate regulatory changes to assist with the public health crisis.
- The Department, along with input from stakeholders, has an important role to play in supporting the community and industry, providing flexibility and confidence to support economic activity.