

Meeting Overview for distribution to members

- The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is grateful to Peak Bodies for providing such invaluable feedback from members on issues affecting their industry as a result of Covid-19. This feedback will inform the Government's response going forward.
- DPIE has been in regular and active consultation with development, retail and industry peak bodies, as well as with Councils and LGNSW. We are currently compiling a comprehensive, living list of issues and recommendations put forward by stakeholders and working to prioritise actions.
- DPIE advised that Will Power has taken up a short term role with DPIE to assist with the COVID19 response and has taken leave from the Property Council to undertake the role. He will work with industry, the Department and with stakeholders to find practical solutions to issues that arise throughout this period. Will's role will focus on the Government's immediate response as well as looking at longer term options and solutions.
- DPIE provided an overview of recent Government planning-related responses to Covid-19 including a summary of two Orders published on the Planning Portal. The Orders relate to:
 - Health Service Facilities - this Order permits government Health assets to be repurposed to support the pandemic response;
 - Temporary Workers' Accommodation - this Order permits, existing buildings or places at Bayswater or Liddell Power Stations to be repurposed into temporary accommodation and the construction or installation of new temporary structures for the purpose of temporary accommodation.
- DPIE is also currently exploring concerns raised by various stakeholders such as:
 - Extended operation of dark kitchens and food trucks;
 - Extended hours of operation for construction sites.
- Peak Bodies put forward a number of suggestions / discussion points in this session. Key points and responses included:
 - The planning system is essential to maintain a healthy development pipeline in the immediate and longer term. There is a need to address ongoing planning issues including streamlining assessment processes and resolving blockages in the system.
 - RESPONSE: DPIE is working on broader planning reform issues as well as working to address issues arising from Covid-19.

- To maintain the development pipeline, application process times should be reduced, whilst maintain the appropriate planning considerations.
 - RESPONSE: The Governments around the country are working to find an appropriate balance between streamlining assessment processes and maintaining a level of consideration in line with planning principles.
- DPIE should take a centralised role in providing planning services within NSW and assist Councils to continue providing services.
- RESPONSE: DPIE is working closely with the Office of Local Government to give councils guidance on their requirements and to give regular updates on legislative changes It is important to fast track both social housing and affordable housing for key workers.
 - RESPONSE: DPIE are exploring options and criteria to fast track social housing projects.
- DPIE will work with industry to development a set of guiding principles to assist with the prioritisation of work streams.