

The Commission's Role

The Commission's role at Initiation, when the Commission is not the Proponent, is to:

- Provide advice to the Minister for her consideration in making a decision on initiation pursuant to section 73(2)(b) of the Act.
- Specify any person or body the Designated Entity must consult with under section 73(6)(e) of the Act, noting that the designated entity will also need to prepare an engagement plan in accordance with the Community Engagement Charter prior to consultation.
- Specify any investigations to be carried out and/or information to be obtained by the Designated Entity, in accordance with section 73(6)(f) of the Act.

The importance of the initiation process is two-fold:

- Firstly, it enables proposals considered to be significantly at odds with the State Planning Policies (SPPs) and relevant Regional Plan to be refused early in the process, minimising risk. This is because the decision to proceed is based on an assessment against these documents.

To that end, the Commission may also advise the Minister on how the proposal fits with its stated priorities, including:

- Technical amendments that enhance the operation of the Code
 - Bushfire policy in response to the Royal Commission and improved bushfire mapping data
 - Support land supply, including infill, master planned neighbourhoods and growth areas consistent with the Metropolitan Growth Management Plan
 - Support economic clusters such as agribusiness and value adding, defence industries, energy and resources, health and medical industries and knowledge and creative industries.
 - Provide state-wide strategic benefit such as protection against environmental hazards.
- Secondly, the initiation process is the point at which the scope of the Code Amendment process, investigations and information requirements and the amendments are determined. This provides clarity and certainty for the proponents.

Approval of the Proposal to Initiate may be given on conditions prescribed by the regulations (there are none at this time) or as specified by the Minister.

The Commission has previously determined that (where possible) Code Amendments should be prepared and led by proponents themselves for the first 12 months following implementation of the Phase Three Code.