



New South Wales

Regional Communities (Consultation Standards) Bill 2024

Explanatory note

This explanatory note relates to this Bill as introduced into Parliament.

Overview of Bill

The object of this Bill is to provide that the consultation of regional communities by government bodies and agencies must be carried out in a proper and effective manner.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name, also called the short title, of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Clause 3 defines the term *regional community* to mean a community outside the Greater Sydney Region.

Clause 4 gives effect to the object of the proposed Act. The proposed section provides that consultation with a regional community by or on behalf of the State, a NSW Government agency or a statutory body representing the Crown must be carried out in accordance with the prescribed standard. The proposed section does not apply to consultation required by an Act to be carried out in a specified way. A failure to comply with this section does not affect the validity of a consultation. The *prescribed standard* to be followed is—

- (a) until the regulations under the proposed Act otherwise provide—the *Quality Assurance Standard For Community and Stakeholder Engagement* published by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2 Federation) in May 2015, with all necessary changes, or
- (b) a standard prescribed by the regulations under the proposed Act.

Clause 5 enables the Governor to make regulations for the proposed Act.