

Planning mediation and consultation meetings

Corporate Centre

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Hours of business 8.30am – 5.00pm
Monday – Friday (except public holidays).

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When is a consultation meeting held?

Once the public notification period for a planning application has concluded and objections have been received Council may decide that it is appropriate to have a consultation meeting. The applicant and objector(s) to the application are invited to attend a meeting. This meeting is usually held at the Corporate Centre and in most cases the planner responsible for processing the application facilitates the meeting.

What is the purpose of a consultation meeting?

A consultation meeting provides the opportunity for all parties to hear each others' views and to develop an understanding of the issues from all perspectives. Negotiations may develop and agreement between the parties may be reached. This often involves the permit applicant providing more information about the proposal in response to the objections and/or making changes to the proposal to address them. Specific conditions on the permit might also help to reduce the proposal's impact.

The meeting does not affect the responsibility of the Council to make a final determination to grant or refuse a permit as it deems appropriate. Nor does the meeting prejudice the legal rights of the applicant or the objectors under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to appeal a determination to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Where no meeting is held or where, following a consultation meeting, objections are not withdrawn, the points raised in objections will be carefully considered before a decision is reached.

The next steps following the meeting

At the end of the meeting, the responsible planner will outline what the next steps in the application assessment process will be. Revised plans submitted by the applicant may be circulated to all parties. If issues raised cannot be resolved the application will continue to a meeting of Council's Approval Committee.



There is also an opportunity to seek clarification from the responsible Planner of Council's planning policies and procedures. Where the parties do come to an agreement on the application, and this agreement is consistent with Council policy, the recommendation of the Council Planner will generally include the matters of agreement as conditions to an approval.

