

10.6. Re-formation of Design Excellence Panel for 2023/24 - 2024/25

AUTHOR	Leonard Vogel, Planning and Development Advisor, and Stephen Beattie, Manager Development Services
ENDORSED BY	Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Community, Planning and Environment
ATTACHMENTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CONFIDENTIAL - DEP Short List [10.6.1 - 1 page] 2. CONFIDENTIAL - DEP Community Rep Shortlist [10.6.2 - 1 page] 3. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 1 [10.6.3 - 1 page] 4. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 2 [10.6.4 - 4 pages] 5. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 3 [10.6.5 - 1 page] 6. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 4 [10.6.6 - 1 page] 7. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 5 [10.6.7 - 2 pages] 8. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 6 [10.6.8 - 2 pages] 9. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 7 [10.6.9 - 1 page] 10. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 8 [10.6.10 - 4 pages] 11. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 9 [10.6.11 - 2 pages] 12. CONFIDENTIAL - CV 10 [10.6.12 - 2 pages]
CSP LINK	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our Living Environment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2 Environmentally sustainable community 1.3 Clean and green places 3. Our Innovative City <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.3 Distinctive sense of place and design excellence 5. Our Civic Leadership <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Lead North Sydney's strategic direction

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the recommended appointments for the Design Excellence Panel (DEP) for 2023/24 – 2024/25.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- North Sydney Council encourages high quality urban design and sustainability outcomes in the North Sydney local government area (LGA). This is achieved, in part, by seeking the independent advice of the Design Excellence Panel (DEP), established under Council's recently amended *Design Panel Policy*.
- In accordance with the *Design Panel Policy*, membership of the DEP should be renewed every two years. Expressions of interest for DEP membership for the 2023/24 – 2024/25 term were sought from 15 June 2023 to 16 July 2023. A total of 116 applications were received.

- A review of the *Design Panel Policy* and Design Excellence Panel Charter was undertaken. The Policy was subsequently amended to include sustainable building design as an area of expertise sought for membership to the Panel.
- Support for the recommended appointments will enable the reformed DEP to commence in November 2023.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council resolves that the identified attachment to this report is to be treated as confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the Local Government Act for the following reason under section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act:

(a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors)

2. THAT Council endorses the appointment of the recommended panel members nominated within the confidential report for the reformation of the North Sydney Design Excellence Panel for the 2023/24 - 2024/25 term.

3. THAT Council writes to acknowledge the valuable contribution made by the previous members of the Design Excellence Panel.

Background

On 13 June 2006, the Design Excellence Panel (the 'DEP') was established.

On 26 June 2023, Council endorsed an amendment to the Design Excellence Panel Charter to include building sustainability acumen as a selection criterion for panellists.

Report

Function of the Design Excellence Panel

North Sydney Council encourages high quality urban design and sustainability outcomes in the North Sydney local government area (LGA). This is achieved, in part, by seeking the independent advice of the Design Excellence Panel (the 'DEP'), established under Council's *Design Panel Policy*.

The policy is working well. The DEP has been operating since 2006 and its success is attributed to the high calibre of members that Council has been able to attract and engage. Panel advice has been regularly sought by Council's strategic planning and development services staff. It has clearly informed the deliberations of the Sydney North Planning Panel (and its predecessor), the Independent Planning Commission, and more recently, Council's North Sydney Local Planning Panel (NSLPP).

Most importantly, the DEP's advice has informed the final design of major development across North Sydney LGA with significant improvements being achieved to both the built form and the public domain.

Amendment to the DEP Policy and Charter 2023

An amended DEP Policy and Charter were adopted by Council on 26 June 2023. The amendments made to the Charter and Policy relate to the inclusion of sustainability as part of the aims and functions of the DEP, as well as expertise for membership of the Panel. The adopted policy and charter can be found in the attached documents.

Reformation of the DEP for 2023/24 – 2024/25

Current membership for the DEP expired in July 2023. Expressions of Interest for DEP membership for 2023/24 – 2024/25 were sought from 16 June 2023 to 15 July 2023. 116 applications were received.

To be selected for membership on the DEP, the *Design Panel Policy* requires the following:

4.1.1 To receive the support of both the community and the development industry, the panel needs to be recognised as an expert body capable of providing high quality design and sustainability advice. Accordingly, the panel will be comprised of well-known and respected professionals who are involved in the design of major projects and have extensive expertise in architecture, urban design, urban planning or sustainability. The

inclusion of at least three professionals on the panel with a range of expertise will encourage debate and develop creative design solutions.

To bring a local perspective, the panel should also have a community representative with a demonstrated understanding and experience in architecture, urban design, urban planning or related field.

The Community, Planning, and Environment Division has reviewed the submissions and recommends the appointment of 10 panellists for the 2023/24 – 2024/25 DEP.

Acknowledgement of the service of incumbent panel members

The panellists for the period 2021/22 - 2022/23 are listed below:

Emeritus Professor Peter Webber
Ms Kylie Legge
Mr David Tordoff
Ms Louise Pearson
Mr Peter St Clair
Ms Anita Morandini

Their professionalism and expertise have contributed greatly to both the DEP and North Sydney's future. It is recommended that Council write to acknowledge the valuable contribution they have made to design excellence in North Sydney.

Options

Council has the following options in relation to this matter:

1. Empanel the applicants recommended in the confidential attachment
2. Incumbent members are reappointed by the General Manager as per DEP Policy

These options are assessed in the table below.

Option	Finance/Resourcing	Risk/Opportunity	Consultation
1.	No additional expenditure to the \$80,000 annual DEP budget will be incurred.	DEP is empanelled for commencement in September. Sustainability acumen will percolate through to the Panel and design outcomes as per the amended DEP Policy and Charter.	No further consultation required
2.	No additional expenditure to the \$80,000 annual DEP budget will be incurred.	Current DEP panellists remain, opportunity to incorporate sustainability knowledge into the Panel as per the DEP Policy and Charter is missed.	No further consultation required

Option 1, is recommended for the following reasons:

- No additional expenditure is envisaged;
- It provides an excellent opportunity to align the outcomes of DEP with organisational directions.

Consultation requirements

Community consultation is not required.

Financial/Resource Implications

The recurrent budget of \$80,000 will cover the operation costs of the DEP. Panel member remuneration is currently a yearly retainer of \$2,000 (provided the Panel member has attended a minimum of two meetings within a 12-month period), and \$1,100 for each meeting attended. The Panel Chairperson shall be paid \$1,400 for each meeting attended. If the role is shared, each Panel Co-Chairperson shall be paid \$1,250 for each meeting attended.