

8.18. North Sydney Local Planning Panel : Reappointment of experts and chairs

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ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE:

For Council to extend the appointment of the North Sydney Local Planning Panel chair, alternate chairs and expert members until 30 June 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The North Sydney Local Planning Panel has been operating since March 2018. The Panel comprises of:

- A panel chair and two alternative chairs which were approved by the Minister for Planning.
- A rotating pool of expert members which are selected from a Minister approved list of individuals who are considered to have appropriate qualifications, and
- A rotating pool of four community members who are selected by Council.

Council has recently been advised that the endorsement of the Minister approved members of the planning panel lapses at the end of February 2021. These endorsements have been extended by the Minister and will now lapse on 30 June 2021. This will enable the recruitment of a fresh pool of experts by the Department of Planning Industry and Environment.

Council likewise needs to extend the appointment of both the minister approved chairs and experts. According to the department, this does not follow automatically from the extension of the term of tenure of the Minister appointed experts.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost to operate the North Sydney Local Planning Panel is fully funded within the existing budget and there will be no additional cost to extend the existing representative appointments.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the report be received
- 2. THAT** the term of appointment of the North Sydney Local Planning Panel Chair, alternative chairs and expert members be extended until the first ordinary Council meeting in June 2021.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

5. Our Civic Leadership

5.2 Council is well governed and customer focused

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community consultation is not required at this time, however, information regarding the State Mandated Panels is available on council's website.

DETAIL

North Sydney Local Planning Panel

The North Sydney Local Planning Panel (NSLPP) comprises a chair and three panelists, one of whom is a community representative. The panel chair and two alternative chairs were approved for council's appointment by the Minister for Planning.

A rotating pool of expert members have been appointed from a Minister approved list of individuals who are considered to have appropriate qualifications and expertise in fields such as planning, public administration and law.

Council has recently been advised that the endorsement of the Minister approved members of the NSLPP lapses at the end of February 2021. These endorsements have been extended by the Minister and will now lapse on 30 June 2021. This will enable the recruitment of a new pool of experts by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and ultimately the renewal of appointments to the NSLPP in June 2021.

Similarly, Council needs to extend the appointment of both the minister approved chairs and experts, so that their periods of tenure end 30 June 2021. According to advice from the Department, this does not flow automatically following confirmation of the term of tenure of the Minister approved experts.

The Minister approved Chairs of the North Sydney Local Planning Panel are:

- Jan Murrell-Principal Chair
- Grant Christmas-Alternate Chair
- Jason Perica -Alternate Chair

The Council appointed expert members selected from the Ministers endorsed list of experts, as at the writing of this report are;

- Tony Caro
- Grant Christmas
- Lesley Finn
- Deborah Laidlaw
- Helen Lochhead
- Ian Pickles
- Caroline Piddock
- Michael Reymond
- Sandra Robinson
- Annelise Tuor
- David Logan
- Peter Brennan
- Jason Perica
- Lloyd Graham
- Jan Murrell.

Council is responsible for selecting their choice of panel Chairs and experts in June 2021, though this will still be from a Ministerial approved list.

Timing of the appointment of the new local planning panel.

It is of note and perhaps concern that Council will be required to form a new Local Planning Panel in June of this year. Council would recognise that this is in close proximity to the Local Government election in September 2021. This issue has been discussed with the Department with a view to having the appointment of the new panel postponed until December 2021 which would enable the new Council to elect the appointment of the Chair and expert panelist. Whilst the reasoning behind this suggestion was appreciated by the Department representative, the current need to appoint a new panel in June 2021 remains.

A separate report to the Legal and Planning Committee addresses the tenure of the community representatives with a recommendation that this be extended until March 2022 to enable the recruitment and appointment of community representatives under the auspices of the new Council.

Conclusion.

It is recommended that Council extend the tenure of the current chair, alternative chairs and expert members of the North Sydney Local Planning Panel until 30 June 2021.