

Design Advisory Panel - Reappointment of Members

File No: X002290

Summary

In April 2007, Council approved the establishment of the Design Advisory Panel (the Panel). In accordance with the Panel's Terms of Reference, the Panel is to provide the City with high level independent expert advice and expertise on urban design, architecture, landscape architecture, art and sustainability.

The Panel has met regularly since its establishment. The work of the Panel, which has included input on the implementation of Sydney 2030, Green Square, City Centre transformation projects, City projects, major developments and development applications, underscores the City's ongoing commitment to excellence in urban design and planning.

Members of the Panel were appointed for an initial two-year term. Subsequently, Panel members were re-appointed for further terms of two years from 2009-2017.

The current members of the Panel are Professor Ken Maher (Chairperson), Peter Mould (Deputy Chairperson), Kerry Clare, Ben Hewett (Acting Government Architect), Professor Richard Johnson, Elizabeth-Ann McGregor, Rachel Neeson, Ché Wall and Professor James Weirick.

The current term of appointment of members of the Panel has now expired. This report recommends re-appointment of all current members of the Panel for a further two years and the appointment of one additional member.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council re-appoint the following members of the Design Advisory Panel for a further term of two years: Professor Ken Maher, Peter Mould, Kerry Clare, Professor Richard Johnson, Elizabeth-Ann McGregor, Professor James Weirick, Ché Wall, Rachel Neeson and the NSW Government Architect (Ben Hewett currently acting in the role);
- (B) Council re-appoint Professor Ken Maher as Chairperson of the Design Advisory Panel and Peter Mould as Deputy Chairperson for a further term of two years;
- (C) Council approve the draft Revised Terms of Reference of the Design Advisory Panel – 2019, as shown at Attachment C to the subject report; and
- (D) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, to appoint an additional member and any new members of the Design Advisory Panel within the two year term should the need arise.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Resolution of Council of June 2017
- Attachment B.** List of Panel Members and Short Biographies
- Attachment C.** Draft Revised Terms of Reference of the Design Advisory Panel (additions in underlined text and deletions in ~~strike through~~),

Background

1. In April 2007, Council approved the establishment of the Design Advisory Panel (the Panel). Members of the Panel were appointed for an initial two-year term. Subsequently, Panel members were re-appointed for further terms of two years in March 2009, April 2011, August 2013, December 2015 and June 2017.
2. The current members of the Panel are Professor Ken Maher (Chairperson), Peter Mould (Deputy Chairperson), Kerry Clare, Ben Hewett (Acting NSW Government Architect), Professor Richard Johnson, Elizabeth-Ann McGregor, Rachel Neeson, Che Wall and Professor James Weirick.
3. Previous members of the Panel are Rob Adams, Director City Design and Projects at the City of Melbourne, Maria Atkinson, who resigned following her appointment as the District Commissioner for the Central District at the Greater Sydney Commission and Peter Poulet, former NSW Government Architect.
4. The Panel has provided valuable input on the implementation of important projects, including the implementation of Sydney 2030, Green Square, City Centre transformation projects, City projects, major developments and development applications, underscoring the City's ongoing commitment to excellence in urban design and planning.
5. In March 2019, the Panel participated in the City's "Sydney 2050, your ideas for our city's future" workshop with all of the City's advisory panels - an appropriate continuation of their ongoing input on the implementation of Sydney 2030. It is intended that the Panel will continue to provide input on the development of Sydney 2050.
6. Between July 2017 and May 2018, the Panel provided input to more than 120 development applications, a number of planning proposals and many of the City's major projects including the upgrade of Hyde Park, Green Square Library and Plaza, Gunyama Park Aquatic Centre and the design of Sydney Light Rail project, in particular George Street and Devonshire Street public domain.
7. The Panel's corporate knowledge and continuing involvement in complex projects and implementation of strategies that can only be delivered over a long period of time has been invaluable.
8. On the basis of the value provided to the City by the current membership mix of the Panel, and to ensure continuity in knowledge of complex development applications, urban design strategies, major projects and the impact of the Central Sydney Planning Strategy, it is recommended that all current members of the Panel be re-appointed for a further term of two years.
9. In accordance with part 4 of the Terms of Reference, it is recommended that Professor Ken Maher be re-appointed the Chairperson of the Panel for a further term of two years. It is also recommended that Peter Mould be appointed as Deputy Chairperson.
10. It is noted that Council resolved to establish a Residential Subcommittee of the Design Advisory Panel in December 2017. The Subcommittee has been in operation since September 2018 with Kerry Clare as the chair and crossover member of the Design Advisory Panel.

Terms of Reference – Proposed Revisions

11. Terms of Reference for the Panel were developed and approved in 2007. The Terms of Reference was subject to a comprehensive review in 2011 and 2017. In June 2017, Council approved the revised Terms of Reference and delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, to further revise, as necessary, the Terms of Reference.
12. In recent years, the Panel has dealt with an increasingly large workload and have been meeting, on average, ten times per year. To meet the current demands for meetings and to ensure that there is a quorum at each meeting, it is recommended clause 3.2 be amended from 'nine' to 'ten' permanent members to allow for additional member be added to the Panel. (Attachment C)
13. It is recommended that the additional member possess urban design / landscape architecture skills and experience.
14. It is recommended authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Lord Mayor, to appoint the new member of the Panel and any new members (should any Panel members resign) within the two year term.
15. It is also recommended that Clause 5.1 be updated, noting the need for Panel members to comply with the City's Code of Conduct.

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

16. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 1 - A Globally Competitive and Innovative City - The Panel's role assists greatly in the creation of a culture of design innovation and excellence, both within the City and within the relevant professions who contribute to the activities of the City.
 - (b) Direction 7 - A Cultural and Creative City - One member of the Panel, Professor Richard Johnson, also sits on the City's Public Art Advisory Committee enabling a strong co-ordination of urban design and public art planning and implementation.
 - (c) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - The recommendation to re-appoint the Panel aligns with the City's Sustainable Sydney 2030 plan to improve the quality of the City's built environment and the capacity of the City to ensure the 2012 Local Environmental Plan Design Excellence provisions are carried out.

Organisational Impact

17. The Panel provides high-level peer review of advice given by City staff on development applications, strategic design and capital works projects. This advice is a cost-effective tool for achieving design excellence. Panel members do not make any decisions and do not hold any delegation from Council to bind it to any position.

Social / Cultural / Community

18. The Panel ensures that projects are subject to independent high quality design review.

Environmental

19. The Panel reviews projects to ensure sustainable design outcomes are achieved.

Budget Implications

20. Sufficient funds have been included in the draft 2019/20 City Design operational budget and further funding allocations have been allocated in the future year forward estimates included in the City's Long Term Financial Plan.

Relevant Legislation

21. Local Government Act 1993

Critical Dates / Time Frames

22. Re-appointment of Design Advisory Panel members is required now.

Options

23. Not proceeding with the re-appointment of the Panel will jeopardise the City's ability to provide timely, high quality advice to proponents and, in turn, Council.

KIM WOODBURY

Chief Operating Officer

Bridget Smyth, Design Director

Pauline Chan, Urban Designer