

ITEM 6

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL 'LOCAL EXPERT' MEMBERS AND COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SOUTHERN JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING PANEL (JRPP)

The Joint Regional Planning Panels were established by the State Government in 2009 to provide independent merit based decision making for significant development proposals. The five member panel includes three State appointed members and two Council appointed members one of which is required to be a local "expert" member. This report sets out a process to refresh the Council appointed Panel members.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 Council endorse the advertising for expressions of interest for local expert representatives, namely the Delegate and Alternate Delegate on the Southern Regional Joint Regional Planning Panel and appointment of successful candidates by the General Manager.
- 2 Council endorse the extension of term for existing local expert representative, Mr Michael Mantei and Mr Mark Carlon (alternate delegate) until new appointments are finalised to provide suitable transitional arrangements on current matters.
- 3 Council formally thank Mr Mantei and Mr Carlon for their significant contributions.
- 4 The Councillor representatives, namely the Delegate and Alternate Delegate, be elected for a term determined by Council.
- 5 The election of the Councillor representatives be undertaken by open means, on a show of hands.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Andrew Heaven, Manager Development Assessment and Certification [Acting]
Authorised by: Andrew Carfield, Director Planning and Environment - Future City and Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

BACKGROUND

The regional panels provide independent, merit based decision making on regional development and commenced operation on 1 July 2009. Wollongong City Council is part of the Southern JRPP which was the first in the state to hold a determination meeting on 24 September 2009.

Regional panels consist of five members comprising:

- one (1) chair (appointed by Minister);
- two (2) experts (appointed by Minister);
- two (2) Council appointed members (historically one Councillor and one local expert).

At least one Council appointed member is required to have expertise in one or more of the following areas: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering or tourism.

Council's current local experts are Mr Michael Mantei and Mr Mark Carlon (alternate delegate). These local members have now served their maximum term.

Councillor Representatives are vacant following Local Government elections on 9 September 2017 and this report recommends the appointment of two Councillors; one to be the Delegate and one to be the Alternate Delegate. The alternate member's role is to act in the place of the appointed member when they are unavailable (or where conflicts are declared) with all the powers of the member. Alternative members are generally appointed for all State and Council positions on the JRPP. However, if a Council fails to nominate one or more local members, a regional panel may still exercise its functions in relation to the area of the Council concerned.

PROPOSAL

This report proposes that –

- Council elects the two Councillor representatives; one being the Delegate and the other being the Alternate Delegate; and,
- Expressions of interest (EOI) are sort for local expert panel members via public advertisement.

Following the EOI, the successful local expert members are to be appointed by the General Manager. Until those appointments are finalised it is proposed to extend the terms of the current local expert members.

The local expert candidates are proposed to be evaluated against the following selection criteria:

- Relevant expertise in one of the following areas: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering or tourism.
- Qualification levels.
- Experience in development assessment or as member on an assessment panel.
- Knowledge of local area and local planning issues.
- Ability to act independently and to represent community concerns.

The new members may be appointed for a period of up to three (3) years. This appointment ensures the continuation of local representation and the strong performance delivered by the JRPP on significant local development proposals.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Seek external expressions of interest.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This report contributes to the delivery of Wollongong 2022 goal and Objective – This report contributes to the Wollongong 2022 objective 1.6: *The sustainability of our urban environment is improved* under the Community Goal *We value and protect our environment*.

It specifically delivers on core business activities as detailed in the Key Deliverables 1.6.3, *Development is functional, attractive and sympathetic with the environment and avoids unnecessary use of energy, water or other resources* Service Plan 2017-18.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council determines the fees paid to local panel members and is responsible for making payments to local panel members when they attend regional panel meetings. It is proposed to retain the existing remuneration for the next term. Based on 12 meetings per year the cost to Council would be \$17,600.

Current remunerations paid to the Council appointed members is as follows:

- Councillors: No additional payment beyond existing Councillor Entitlements.
- Council Experts \$1,100.00 GST inclusive per meeting

CONCLUSION

This report recommends that Council elect two Councillor Representatives to the JRPP; one being the Delegate and the other being the Alternate Delegate. Expressions of interest will be publicly sought to refresh the local experts appointed to the JRPP as a result of the current local expert reaching the end of their appointment period. Following the recruitment process two (2) local experts will be recommended for appointment by the General Manager for a period of up to three (3) years. It is also recommended that the outgoing local experts be formally thanked.