

Chairs and State Members

Sydney and Regional Planning Panels

Department of Planning and Environment
Applicant Information Pack

JULY 2022

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About the Planning Panels

Sydney and Regional Planning Panels were introduced to NSW in 2009 to strengthen decision making on regionally significant development applications and other planning matters. 'Regionally significant development' is generally development with a capital investment value (CIV) over \$30 million.

The Sydney and regional planning panels are independent, expert decision-making bodies not subject to the direction or control of the Minister of Planning (except in relation to the procedure of the panel and any directions authorised to be given to the panel under section 9.1 or other provision of the Act).

The functions of the Sydney and regional planning panels are generally to determine regionally significant development applications and provide advice on certain planning proposals. These functions are set out in detail in section 2.15 of the Act. The classes of regionally significant development are set out in Schedule 7 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011.

Determinations by the panels on regionally significant development generally follow:

- the provision to the panel of a recommendation report prepared by assessment staff of the relevant local council,
- a review by the panel of the written submissions made during the public exhibition of the development application, and
- hearing from members of the public wishing to address the panel at its public determination meeting.

There are five Sydney Planning Panels and four Regional Planning Panels across NSW.

In the Greater Sydney Region, a Sydney Planning Panel operates for each district:

- Sydney Eastern City,
- Sydney Central City,
- Sydney Western City,
- Sydney North and
- Sydney South

Regional Planning Panels operate in the following four regions of the State:

- Hunter and Central Coast,
- Southern,
- Northern and
- Western.



Key Selection Criteria

Capability Areas

Chairs and State members are to be persons who have expertise in at least one area of planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism or government and public administration.

In appointing State members, the Minister is to have regard to the need to have a range of expertise represented among the panel's members.

Chairs and members must be able to demonstrate the following:

- An ability to communicate complex and sensitive information in a tactful manner to all planning panel stakeholders;
- A sound understanding of:
 - Accountability measures;
 - The planning and environmental framework of NSW, and legislative process;
 - The business and environment in which the panel will operate; and
 - Risk management principles.
- Extensive senior level experience in a designated area of expertise relevant to the Sydney or regional planning panels;
- A professional and ethical approach to the exercise of duties and a willingness to comply with the Planning Panels Code of Conduct;
- Qualification, related industry experience and subject matter expertise in a relevant field.

Chairs should additionally be able to demonstrate:

- Leadership qualities and the ability to promote effective working relationships in complex organisations;
- Extensive knowledge in areas such as: risk management, management control frameworks, and governance and business operations;
- Capacity to form independent judgements and willingness to constructively challenge suggested approach, with a view to tact and inclusion of all relevant opinions of the panel;
- Sound understanding of risks associated with conflicts of interest, and appropriate management measures in the context of panel or board operations; and
- Adequate availability (time) to devote to the management of the panel.

Remuneration

Base rates:

- Chairs \$1,866 per 7 hr meeting day plus superannuation
- Members \$1,435 per 7 hr meeting day plus superannuation

Term of Appointment

The maximum term for a single appointment to a panel is up to three (3) years.

Key Selection Criteria

Competencies - Role Related

The following competencies are required to be successful in the role:

Knowledge and Specialist Expertise

- to be viewed as the authority in one or more of the following disciplines: planning, architecture, heritage, the environment, urban design, land economics, traffic and transport, law, engineering, tourism or government and public administration.

Communication

- ability to communicate technical matters and decisions with a diverse range of stakeholders.

Chairs must also be able to:

Facilitate Leadership

- the ability to inform and debrief fellow panel members and relevant stakeholders on current matters and strategies, and the ability to lead constructive and timely discussion and debate, drawing on the expertise of the panel to review strategies.

Influence, Negotiate and Drive

- the demonstrated ability to influence a variety of stakeholders, negotiate suggested approach with the business and drive contentious strategies against organisational resistance.

Management of Risk

- experience in managing areas of major risk to the organisation, including demonstrated management of conflicts of interest.

Competencies - Personal

The following are personal competencies which will form part of an effective individual in either of these roles, however Chair candidates would be expected to show these at a higher level:

Integrity

- fulfilling a Panel member's duties and responsibilities, acting ethically, not disclosing commercial in confidence information, having appropriate independence, putting the panel's interest before personal interests, being able to proactively influence other member's management of real and perceived conflicts of interest and take appropriate action were required.

Collegial Communicator

- the ability to engage and communicate with all relevant stakeholders. Be an active contributor with genuine interest in the panel and its business.

Emotional Intelligence

- as well as self-awareness and self-management.

Commercial Astuteness, Judgement and Instinct

- all Panel members need to demonstrate good business instinct and acumen to be able to assimilate and synthesise complex information.

Application Process

The deadline for your application is midnight, Sunday 31st July 2022.

Davidson Search & Advisory has been engaged to manage this application process.

Please be advised that the selection process is anticipated to be particularly competitive and expected to generate a high calibre of applicant.

Prior to submitting your application, please carefully check to ensure that all required documents (refer to Submission requirements below) are attached and that your forms are fully completed and meet the stated requirements.

Applicants will be kept informed of the progress of their application at regular intervals. However, prospective applicants should note that the outcome of the recruitment process cannot be confirmed until the appointment of the successful applicants.

Where possible, applicants who have not been selected for progression to interview will be advised at an earlier stage of the recruitment process.

To submit your application, please go to the Davidson/NSW Planning Panels application website:
<https://www.davidsonwp.com/partners/sydney-regional-planning-panels>

Submission requirements

Please read the Applicant Information Pack prior to progressing your application.

In preparation for starting the application process, we request you prepare the following three (3) documents:

1. A two (2) page CV
2. A two (2) page Personal Statement addressing the criteria outlined within the application pack.

Complete the online application form (your application cannot be finalised unless this has been completed).

You will receive an email which will indicate receipt of your application.

Initial shortlisting will be undertaken at the close of the advertising period. Following this, applicants selected for progression will be contacted to provide additional documentation to support a range of supplementary probity checks required for nominees to be progressed for consideration.

Eligibility

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Section 2.13 Members of Sydney district and regional planning panels (cf previous Sch 4, cl 2)

...

(3) A person is not eligible to be a member of a Sydney district or regional planning panel if the person is—

(a) a property developer within the meaning of section 53 of the Electoral Funding Act 2018, or

Note—

Section 53 of the Electoral Funding Act 2018 provides that property developer includes a person who is a close associate of a property developer.

(b) a real estate agent within the meaning of the Property, Stock and Business Agents Act 2002.

However, a person is not ineligible to be a member of a Sydney district or regional planning panel merely because the person carries on the business of a planning consultant.

Probity Checks

As statutory appointees, requirements include a range of probity checks to be undertaken on potential Panel members which include:

- completion of a personal disclosure regarding conflicts of interest,
- a national criminal history search,
- searches of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission's banned and disqualified register and bankruptcy index,
- a review of the New South Wales government lobbyist register, and other internet based searches.

To streamline the initial application process, only those nominees selected for further consideration at interview will be contacted by Davidson Search & Advisory to provide certified identity proof for these probity checks.

The Department of Planning and Environment will initiate these probity checks on a confidential basis, and information obtained from the checks will only be used for purposes connected with your application for appointment.

Applicants should note that disclosures of conflicts of interest or convictions of an offence which may not yet be resolved may not necessarily preclude progression to appointment, as such matters will be considered on a case by case basis.

Personal referee checks may also be undertaken by Davidson Search & Advisory on all nominees selected for progression to the Panel.

Use of personal information provided in your application

Personal information on applicants will be collated to assess their suitability for appointment to the NSW Planning Panels. As a part of the selection process, personal information will be handled in accordance with New South Wales Government Privacy Policies.

This means information will be treated confidentially and may be used in a de-identified format to:

- meet Whole-of-Government reporting requirements;
- support the monitoring of the diversity of appointments to statutory and other bodies; and
- allow accurate reporting on the profile of the State's public sector entities' Board and committee memberships.

The name of appointee will be made available on the New South Wales Sydney and Regional Planning Panels website and added to the Register of Appointees to New South Wales Government Bodies, which provides information about all Government agencies and committees.

For More Information

For more information or a confidential discussion please contact:



Ryan Webster
Senior Partner

t. 0427 329 443
e. Ryan.Webster@davidsonwp.com



Nicola Palm
Associate Partner

t. 0402 719 432
e. Nicola.Palm@davidsonwp.com