



NEWS RELEASE
The Hon. Kristina Keneally MP
Member for Heffron
Minister for Planning
Minister for Redfern Waterloo

Friday 24 July, 2009

STATE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO JOINT REGIONAL PLANNING PANELS

The NSW Government has today taken the next step in building Australia's best planning system, appointing state members to the new Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs).

NSW Planning Minister, Kristina Keneally, said the 23 state-appointed members have expertise across a range of fields, which will help them make rigorous decisions on projects important to regional areas.

"The successful state nominees have an extensive range of experience and qualifications in areas such as town planning, management, architecture and law," Ms Keneally said.

"The new panels, which will start making decisions from as early as next month, include three State Government appointed members and two members appointed from a relevant local council.

"These 23 people were selected from more than 300 people who put their names forward for consideration."

Ms Keneally said the panels will determine development applications worth more than \$10 million, or \$5 million for community infrastructure or projects where council is the applicant.

"The panels are designed to provide a framework for strong decision making on regionally significant projects and have a balance of expertise, independence and local knowledge," Ms Keneally said.

"It will be the job of the panels to stand in the shoes that previously would have been occupied by a council or the Minister, and make decisions on projects significant to a region.

"The appointment of the state-members to the panels is another clear step in taking the politics out of the planning process." Ms Keneally said the JRPP State appointees are:

- Sydney East:** John Roseth (Chair), David Furlong and Mary-Lynne Taylor, with Julie Savet Ward and Timothy Moore as the alternates
- Sydney West:** Janet Thompson (Chair), Bruce McDonald and Paul Mitchell, with Stuart McDonald and Lindsay Fletcher as alternates
- Hunter and Central Coast:** Garry Fielding (Chair), Jason Perica and Kara Krason, with John Colvin and Bob McCotter as alternates
- Northern Region:** Garry West (Chair), Pamela Westing and John Griffin, with Bruce Clarke as an alternate
- Southern Region:** Pam Allan (Chair), Alison McCabe and Allen Grimwood, with David McGowan as an alternate
- Western Region:** The appointment process for the State's Western Region JRPP is currently underway and will be finalised in the coming weeks.

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Ms Keneally said the majority of councils have already appointed their representatives to the Joint Regional Planning Panels.

“As of last week, some 102 of the 108 councils across NSW, not including the State’s Western region, had either nominated local members or asked for more time to do so,” Ms Keneally said.

“Together the state and local nominees on the panels are expected to start determining regionally significant development applications from as early as next month.”

Ms Keneally said a code of conduct and guidelines are in place for JRPPs, including strict rules in regard to conflict of interest issues. The costs of state members will be met by the NSW Government.

Further information on Joint Regional Planning Panels, including a list of frequently asked questions, is available at www.jrpp.nsw.gov.au.

State member biographies are attached.

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What are Joint Regional Planning Panels?

Joint Regional Planning Panels (JRPPs) will determine development proposals with a value between \$10-100 million, subdivisions of more than 250 lots and specialist development proposals such as eco-tourism, with a value in excess of \$5 million.

Each panel will contain three State and two local members.

Local council staff will publicly exhibit and assess development proposals which will then be determined by JRPPs.

The creation of JRPPs hands back the assessment of some major development proposals, including a number of coastal and residential, retail and commercial projects, from the NSW Government to local councils.

Members of the public will be able to address JRPPs about development proposals, similar to local council meetings.



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BIOGRAPHIES: SYDNEY EAST JOINT PLANNING PANEL

JOHN ROSETH (CHAIR)

John Roseth brings more than four decades of planning expertise to the role, including within the commercial and government sectors. John was a key policy adviser and senior executive with the NSW Planning Commission, with significant achievements over many years. John served on the Land and Environment Court, as a Commissioner since 1995 and as the Senior Commissioner since 2002, retiring in 2009.

A Sydney resident, John holds a degree in Architecture from the University of London, a Doctorate in Planning from the University of Sydney and is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia.

DAVID FURLONG

David Furlong has 25 years of experience in planning and development, including work for local government, which includes a period as Director Planning and Environment for the City of Canada Bay Council, and as a strategic planner and Director of Plan Urban Services in the private sector, providing consultancy services on planning and local government matters to both government and industry.

A Sydney resident, David is a graduate of the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Town Planning.

MARY-LYNNE TAYLOR

Mary-Lynne Taylor is a lecturer in Planning Law at Sydney University and an Adjunct Professor in Urban and Regional Planning at Sydney University's Faculty of Architecture. In addition to academia, Mary-Lynne has undertaken extensive work as a member of or chair of a range of planning panels in areas as diverse as Liverpool, Fairfield, Waverley, Warringah, Ryde and Port Macquarie. Mary-Lynne has also served as a member of the Heritage Council, chairing the Approvals Panel.

A Sydney resident, Mary-Lynne is a graduate of Sydney University with an Arts/Law degree. She has been admitted as a practicing Solicitor and is an Honorary Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia.

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

JULIE SAVET WARD

Julie Savet Ward brings 22 years of planning, environmental and communications expertise to the role, most recently as an Associate (since 1992) and as a Director (since 1995) of the Manidis Roberts consultancy practice.

A Sydney resident, Julie holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) (Applied Physical Geography) and a Master of Landscape Planning, both through the University of NSW.

TIMOTHY MOORE

Timothy Moore has more than 12 years experience working in local government development assessment in rural, suburban, inner city and CBD settings, including with the City of Sydney and Leichhardt Municipal Council. More recently Timothy has worked with Conics, a leading development consultancy focused on urban growth and infrastructure.

A Sydney resident, Timothy holds a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of New England and a Graduate Diploma in Urban Design from the University of Sydney.



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BIOGRAPHIES: SYDNEY WEST JOINT PLANNING PANEL

JANET THOMPSON (CHAIR)

Janet Thomson has over 30 years of planning system experience at all levels of government, as well as the private sector, covering strategic planning and development issues. Janet has held senior executive positions in the Department of Planning and the former Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority in the 1980s and was a Director at APT Planning for 12 years.

Janet is now a planning consultant and a member of the Planning Assessment Commission.

BRUCE MCDONALD

Bruce McDonald has extensive experience in local government and planning, having served with Penrith City Council in a range of planning roles for 35 years, culminating in an appointment as Deputy General Manager.

A Sydney resident, Bruce is currently providing Hunters Hill Council with strategic planning advice and until recently was co-chair of the Local Government Planner's special interest group of the Planning Institute of Australia.

PAUL MITCHELL

Paul Mitchell is a specialist in environmental resources management, having served as the President of the International Council of Mining and Metals for five years. Between 2000 and 2002 he was the CEO of CARE Australia where he was responsible for that organisation's international operations. In addition, Paul has served on the World Bank's Advisory Committee on Extractive Industries, helping to develop best-practice guidelines for extractive industries and has been a director of two environmental services consultancies.

Holding a Bachelor of Arts (Geographic and Environmental Studies) from Macquarie University, a Master of Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Applied Science from the University of NSW, Paul is the author of more than 30 publications on sustainable development, corporate strategy and social responsibility, urban and regional planning, environmental assessment and expert testimony.

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

STUART MCDONALD

Stuart McDonald, a Director of consultancy SJB Planning, brings 25 years of experience in planning and development to the Panel, gained in local government roles with the City of Sydney, South Sydney City Council and Leichhardt Council, as well as a mix of commercial clients. Stuart is also a member of both Waverley Shire and Sutherland Council Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels.

Holding a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning (Hons) from the University of New England, Stuart is also an accredited Mediator, a Certified Practising Planner and a Member of the Planning Institute of Australia.

LINDSAY FLETCHER

Lindsay Fletcher is an experienced planner, having served with Local and State Government agencies, including as City Planner and Director Environmental Services for Fairfield Council and in other roles for Kogarah, Woollahra and Warringah Councils. Lindsay is a Director of the environmental planning consultancy Planning Ingenuity and has been called upon to provide planning evidence in court, including numerous direct appointments by the Land and Environment Court as the Court's Town Planning expert.

A Sydney resident, Lindsay holds a Master of Environmental Planning from Macquarie University and is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia.

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BIOGRAPHIES: HUNTER AND CENTRAL COAST JOINT PLANNING PANEL

GARRY FIELDING (Chair)

Garry Fielding has more than 35 years experience in Local and State Government, including roles with Maitland City Council, Newcastle City Council, Woollahra Council, the NSW Department of Planning and as Managing Director of Planning Workshop Australia.

Garry is a resident of Newcastle and holds a Bachelor of Arts (Urban Geography and Sociology) from the University of Newcastle, a Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of New England and a graduate Diploma in Local Government from the Mitchell College of Advanced Education (now Charles Sturt University) and is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia.

JASON PERICA

Jason Perica brings 20 years of expertise in planning matters, gained across Local and State Government, including with the City of Sydney, Mosman, South Sydney, Rockdale and Woollahra Councils and the NSW Department of Planning, within which he held a number of senior positions, culminating as Executive Director, Strategic Sites and Urban Renewal.

Jason holds a Degree in Science (Architecture) from University of NSW and a Master in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Sydney.

KARA KRASON

Kara Krason has undertaken planning roles in local government with Hornsby, Pittwater and North Sydney Councils and the private sector. In these roles Kara was responsible for development applications, environmental assessment, town planning and project management.

Kara holds a Bachelor of Town Planning (Hons) from the University of NSW, tertiary qualifications in Wine Technology and Viticulture and is a Member of the Planning Institute of Australia.

ALTERNATE MEMBERS

JOHN COLVIN

John Colvin has extensive experience, particularly as a community leader in local government, including seven years as Deputy Mayor and nine years as Mayor of Muswellbrook Shire Council, retiring in 2008. During this time John was instrumental in dealing with the many competing and complex demands of the mining, agriculture, wine and equine industries throughout the region. John is also a qualified teacher, having taught at Muswellbrook High School for 35 years, concluding in 1996.

A resident of the Upper Hunter, John, in addition to serving in local government, has served with the Australian Army Reserves, rising to the rank of Brigadier.

BOB MCCOTTER

Bob McCotter is a Director of McCotter Investment Company, advising on venture capital and property investment and was previously a Director of Mitchell McCotter (1984-1994) and Deputy Chairman of Environmental Resources Management Australia (1994-2003), both of which were environmental and planning consultancies. He is well recognised as a leading practitioner in environmental impact assessment and strategic planning.

Bob holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) (Civil and Structural) and a Diploma of Building Science from Sydney University, is a guest lecturer in environmental engineering at the Universities of Newcastle, Wollongong, UTS and NSW and is a Founding Fellow of the Institute of Company Directors.

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BIOGRAPHIES: NORTHERN REGION JOINT PLANNING PANEL

GARRY WEST (Chair)

Garry West is a former member of the NSW Parliament (1976-1996) and held various Ministerial portfolios including the Tourism, Lands and Forests, Conservation and Land Management, Energy, Police and Emergency Services. Retiring in 1996, Garry now provides strategic advice to a number of clients. He has been instrumental in conducting the State's Inquiry into rural land.

Garry holds a number of positions on various regional Livestock Health Pest Authority Committees and is active in the community.

PAMELA WESTING

Pamela Westing brings more than 25 years of experience in planning and Local Government in NSW. Currently running her own town planning and business management consultancy, Pamela's Local Government experience includes five years as General Manager, Byron Shire Council, plus roles with Port Stephens Council and Eurobodalla Shire Council in a variety of planning, development and environmental roles.

A resident of the NSW North Coast, Pamela holds a Master of City and Regional Planning and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Hons) from the University of California, Berkeley and is a fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia

JOHN GRIFFIN

John Griffin has 34 years of experience working for State and Local Governments, culminating in 15 years as General Manager of Tweed Shire Council. John's previous roles included Chief Operating Officer of the Northern Territory Electricity Commission and senior roles with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria.

A resident of Tweed Heads, John holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical), Diplomas in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, a Master of Engineering, a Doctorate of Management and is Fellow of the Institute of Company Directors and the Institute of Management.

ALTERNATE MEMBER

BRUCE CLARKE

Bruce Clarke is a lawyer and has extensive experience as an advisor to Local and State Government and the private sector and is a Director of Ally Group, a private consultancy. During a career which included Directorships with Price Waterhouse Coopers and Ernst & Young, Bruce developed particular expertise in the area of Public Private Partnerships and has advised State Government Ministers and the private sector on a range of high profile infrastructure projects.

A resident of Byron Bay Shire, Bruce is a practicing Barrister and Solicitor of the ACT Supreme Court and a Solicitor of the NSW Supreme Court and continues to practice.



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BIOGRAPHIES: SOUTHERN REGION JOINT PLANNING PANEL

PAM ALLAN (Chair)

Pam Allan is a former member of the NSW Parliament (1988-2007) and held the role of Minister for the Environment from 1995-1999. Since leaving politics Pam has been a Visiting Fellow at the Graduate School of Environment at Macquarie University and chairs a number of community and consultative committees serving the communities of South-Western NSW, including the Wagga Wagga City Council Planning Panel and the Ministerial working party on Liverpool Plains Water study.

Pam holds an Arts Degree with Honours in Government and a Diploma in Education, both from the University of Sydney and is a Director of the ASX listed company Phoslock Water Solutions.

ALISON MCCABE

Alison McCabe brings 28 years expertise in the planning, consulting, State and Local Government fields to the role. Roles with Rockdale, Cessnock, Woollahra and North Sydney Councils culminated in the position of Director, Environmental and Community Management with Leichhardt Council. Alison has also held positions with the then Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and private consultancies BSD Consultants and SJB Planning.

Alison holds a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of New England, a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law from Sydney University and has lectured on planning-related matters at Sydney's University of Technology and the University of New South Wales.

ALLEN GRIMWOOD

Allen Grimwood is a Consultant Planner with Zenith Town Planning and has worked in senior planning roles within both Local Government and consultant roles. Allen was Senior Planner or Strategic Unit Leader with Eurobodalla Shire Council for 21 years and is a recognised expert on sustainability and planning.

A resident of Moruya, Allen holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) (Geography) from the University of NSW, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Sydney and is a Member of the Planning Institute of Australia.

ALTERNATE MEMBER

DAVID MCGOWAN

David McGowan has almost four decades of experience in Local Government and planning matters, having served with the Councils of Canterbury, Willoughby, Wingecarribee and the Blue Mountains and has also worked within a number of specialist planning consultancies.

A resident of Bowral, David holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons) (Geography) from the University of Wales, a Master in Town and Country Planning from the University of Sydney and is a Member of the Planning Institute of Australia.