Central Sydney Planning Committee Report Released

The NSW Government today released the report of an independent review into the functions of the Central Sydney Planning Committee (CSPC).

NSW Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the CSPC has been responsible for decision-making on large development proposals in the City of Sydney local government area for 22 years.

“The review was conducted by an independent panel chaired by Gabrielle Kibble AO, a highly regarded former Director-General of the Department of Planning,” the Minister said.

The review has concluded the CSPC:

- Continues to play an important role in planning for the City of Sydney;
- Generally undertakes its operations in an efficient manner; and
- Has a membership which remains appropriate for its role and functions.

Mr Kelly said in reaching its conclusions the panel considered 115 submissions from interested parties including local residents, business and peak industry bodies.

“However, the panel has made a number of recommendations to improve the operations of the CSPC,” the Minister said.

These include:

- The formation of a major development assessment team within the City of Sydney;
- Protocols to streamline design advisory input into the assessment process;
- Improved monitoring of major development assessment performance; and
- Proposals to improve transparency and communication with stakeholders.

Mr Kelly welcomed any measures that will lead to ongoing improvement in the operation of the CSPC given Sydney’s status as Australia’s only global city, particularly those that will improve consistency with Statewide planning systems.

“I’ve written to the Lord Mayor seeking the City of Sydney’s comments on the panel’s findings,” the Minister said.

“I have also asked the Department of Planning to examine the findings and provide advice back to me in coming weeks.”

The panel report and all submissions have been made available at www.planning.nsw.gov.au.