10 June, 2010

**REVIEW FOR MAJOR INNER-SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The role, function and operations of the Central Sydney Planning Committee (CSPC), the body responsible for decision-making on large development proposals in the City of Sydney local government area, will be reviewed.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the CSPC has been in operation for 22 years.

“It’s now timely to review how it is working and receive advice as to whether it remains the best model for Australia’s only global city,” the Minister said.

The CSPC, which comprises of State and local government representatives, is responsible for:

- Determining major development applications worth more than $50 million that are made to the council;
- Determining DAs which seek to vary a development standard under State Environmental Planning Policy No.1; and
- Endorsing the preparation of Council’s new LEP planning proposals.

“The delivery of appropriate development in the City of Sydney is vital to ensuring Sydney’s future as a global city,” Mr Kelly said.

“There have been great changes to the planning system over the last 10 years including the introduction of Regional Panels and the new plan making provisions last year, as well as the new assessment regime for major projects brought in during 2005.

“In light of these changes now is an appropriate time to review the role of the CSPC.”

The review of the CSPC operations will be undertaken by an independent panel which will be chaired by Ms Gabrielle Kibble AO, a highly regarded former Director-General of the Department of Planning.

The panel will also include one independent member, Professor Kevin Sproats, who’s been appointed by the Minister, and one panel member to be nominated by the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney.

Minister Kelly said the CSPC model was one of the examples used for the establishment of Joint Regional Planning Panels which were introduced across the State from 1 July 2009.

“The six regional panels are now functioning as a successful part of the planning system in New South Wales.
“Importantly both the CSPC and the regional panels share a number of similarities – both combine State expertise and local knowledge, strengthening merit-based decision making for high value and important projects.

“This approach also results in stronger independent decision making for the New South Wales planning system.”

The Minister has issued Terms of Reference for the Panel, which will call for public submissions from the community, industry, the Council and other stakeholders.

The Terms of Reference require the Panel to examine:

- The role, functions and operations of the CSPC… in particular its decision making role and efficiency of functions and operations to deliver planning and development outcomes in the context of Sydney as a global city.
- The consistency of the CSPC roles and functions with other determining regimes applicable in NSW.
- The consistency of the CSPC role with the outcome of recent planning reforms.
- Its performance in ensuring public consultation and stakeholder engagement in its decision making.
- The expertise of the panel in carrying out its functions.

The Panel will be required to make recommendations including implementation measures as applicable and take into account stakeholder and community consultation including any public submissions.

The Minister has requested the review panel report its independent findings to him by early August, with these findings and recommendations to be made publicly available.

Submissions should be mailed to the CSPC Review Panel, GPO Box 3415, Sydney NSW 2001 or emailed to paula.poon@planning.nsw.gov.au by Wednesday, 7 July 2010. Contact details (name, address, telephone, fax and email) should be included in your submission. All submissions to the Review Panel may be made publicly available unless you indicate you do not wish this to happen.
Background information on the CSPC

The Central Planning Committee was established in 1988 and operates under the City of Sydney Act.

The membership of the CSPC is limited to 7, of which:

- 1 is the Lord Mayor and the chair person;
- 2 members are Councillors of the City of Sydney;
- 2 members appointed by the State who are to be senior NSW Government employees, of which one must be either the Director-General or a senior executive officer of the Department of Planning;
- 2 members appointed by the State who are not employed by the Government.

The Act establishes that the Government and non-Government State appointed members must have expertise in at least one of architecture, building, civic design, construction, engineering, transport, tourism, the arts, planning or heritage.

The current State appointed members are:

- Richard Pearson – Deputy Director-General of the Department of Planning with responsibility for Development Assessment and Systems Performance;
- Peter Mould – the NSW Government Architect;
- Brendan Crotty – who has extensive experience in private sector development and has advisory roles with RSL LifeCare and AMP Capital Investors; and
- Craig Knowles – the current President of the Planning Research Centre at the University of Sydney and former Minister for Planning.