MEDIA RELEASE
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INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO SUTHERLAND LEP

An independent panel will review the draft Sutherland local environment plan (LEP), the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard said today.

Mr Hazzard has written to Sutherland Shire Mayor Steve Simpson endorsing the mayor’s request for a review to address concerns about the integrity of the plan-making process.

The panel will consist of two highly-respected planning experts – Dr John Roseth and Ms Meredith Sussex AM.

Dr Roseth is the current Chair of the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel with over 40 years of planning expertise.

Ms Sussex, a city planning expert who in 2011 conducted an independent review of the Barangaroo development for the NSW Government, also has extensive experience in the public and private sectors predominantly in Victoria.

“Council felt it needed to assure the community of the integrity of its new local environment plan, which is such an important document for the development of the area,” Mr Hazzard said.

“I agree and after so much effort had gone into preparation of the new LEP the Council has decided that, rather than abandoning the LEP, we can address those concerns through an independent review.

“Public hearings, which will form part of the review, will ensure the community can express any concerns about elements of the new plan.”

The terms of reference for the review will see the panel:

- Assess and advise whether Sutherland Council has prepared the draft Sutherland Shire Standard LEP 2013 (draft Plan) in accordance with the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.
- Advise on the appropriateness of the provisions contained within the second exhibited version of the draft Plan.
- Examine the 75 changes made to the LEP by the Mayoral Minute No. 6/13-14 dated 29 July 2013.

- Undertake public hearings, including oral submissions by representatives of community groups.

- Consider submissions and representations made during the public hearings or received by the Panel.

- Report to the Minister findings arising from the review and the public hearings and provide recommendations as applicable.

The Panel’s report will be made public and provided to the Council.