

1. Role of the Panel

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (NSW Planning) has established an Independent Expert Advisory Panel for Energy Transition (the Panel) to assist NSW Planning and the NSW Independent Planning Commission (the IPC). Its role is to provide expert advice for decision-makers on the anticipated impacts and management options associated with proposed energy transition developments related to the Renewable Energy Zones (REZ).

2. Responsibilities of the Panel

The Panel, as requested, will provide specialist knowledge and other expert advice to NSW Planning and the IPC on the ecological, economic, and transport impacts of renewable energy developments and the practical operations of renewable energy infrastructure and their management. The scope of the Panel's advice includes:

- a) scale, likelihood and consequences of transport, economic and environmental impacts from development related to a REZ (including when development applications, modification applications and post approval documents are being assessed);
- b) monitoring and management of risks and impacts, including the avoidance and mitigation of impacts and arrangements for decommissioning and site rehabilitation;
- c) adaptive management and/or offset actions required for the continued achievement of performance standards and other requirements of development consents related to environmental impacts in and outside of a REZ;
- d) any other matters related to the practical operations and management of impacts associated with renewable energy developments in a REZ, or elsewhere as requested by NSW Planning or the IPC.

3. Membership

The Panel will consist of an independent Chair (the Panel Chair) and appointed members, with expertise across the fields of environmental regulation, development assessment, clean energy technologies, ecological impacts, environmental remediation and transport planning.

NSW Planning will recruit and appoint all Panel members and the Panel Chair and periodically review their appointment.

Other independent experts may also be temporarily appointed as members of the Panel to assist with advice in specific circumstances requiring additional specialist knowledge and experience.

NSW Planning may also appoint an alternate Panel Chair in circumstances where the Panel Chair is unavailable.

4. Preparation of Panel Advice

Requests for Panel advice will be submitted by NSW Planning or the IPC to the Panel Chair (via the Panel Secretariat), together with the desired timelines for completion.

The Panel's advice will then be prepared by a subcommittee of the Panel which is to be convened by the Panel Chair for each request.

Panel subcommittees will ordinarily consist of between 2 and 5 members of the Panel, depending on the complexity of the advice required.

The Panel Chair will consider the relevant expertise of Panel Members and their availability, together with any potential conflicts of interest and any time constraints relating to preparation of advice before appointing the subcommittee to prepare the advice. The Panel Chair will appoint one of the members of the subcommittee as its convenor.

The Panel Chair will be an *ex-officio* member of all Panel subcommittees and may assist the convenor in resolving issues or focusing advice.

Completed work will be returned to NSW Planning or the IPC by the Panel Chair. The Panel Chair will be available to source follow up advice from the members should there be further questions.

5. Conflict of Interest

The Panel must operate in accordance with the applicable *Independent Expert Advisory Panel Conflict of Interest Policy*. This policy recognises that many experts in the technical fields represented on the Panel will have previously worked in various areas within academia and/or the private and public sectors of the planning and development industry.

6. Secretariat Services

Any secretariat and other support services required by the Panel in carrying out its functions will be provided by NSW Planning. Requests for such services should come from either the Panel Chair or the convenor of any operating Panel subcommittee.

7. Funding

NSW Planning will establish agreements with proponents to secure funding prior to the referral of any projects, where it cannot rely on recovering the costs from proponents through existing conditions of consent. Costs may also be recovered from the IPC for any of its requests to the Panel.