

## ADDITIONAL ITEM



**Item No:** 3.7  
**Title:** Council Representatives for Hunter and Central Regional Planning Panel  
**Department:** Governance

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12 October 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting

Reference: F2020/00039 - D14226430  
Author: Sarah Georgiou, Section Manager, Councillor Support  
Manager: Shane Sullivan, Unit Manager, Governance and Business Services  
Executive: Gary Murphy, Chief Executive Officer

### Summary

To re-appoint Council Representatives on the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel for a term of one year.

### Recommendation

- 1** *That Council, pursuant to [Part 2 Division 2.4 c. 2.13 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#), re-appoint the following Councillors to be members of the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel:
  - a.** *Councillor MacGregor*
  - b.** *Councillor Burke**
- 2** *That Council, pursuant to [Part 2 Division 2.4 c. 2.13 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#) re-appoint the following two Councillors, as an alternate of the Councillors above to the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel:
  - a.** *Councillor Sundstrom*
  - b.** *Councillor Smith**
- 3** *That Council maintain the remuneration to be paid to each nominee when exercising functions as a member of the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel at \$700.00 per meeting, inclusive of GST and expenses.*
- 4** *That Council note that the re-appointment to the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel will be for a term of one year.*
- 5** *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer notify the secretariat of Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel in writing of the above.*

### 3.7 Council Representatives for Hunter and Central Regional Planning Panel (contd)

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#### Context

At its Ordinary Meeting 9 October 2017 Council resolved:

- 629/17 *That Council nominate, pursuant to cl. 2(1)(b) of Schedule 4 to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the following Councillors to be members of the Hunter and Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Panel:*
- a. *Councillor MacGregor*
  - b. *Councillor Burke*
- 630/17 *That Council nominate, pursuant to cl. 8(2) of Schedule 4 to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 the following two Councillors, each to be an alternate of the Councillors nominated in resolution 1 above to the Hunter and Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Panel:*
- a. *Councillor Sundstrom*
  - b. *The Mayor, Councillor Smith*
- 631/17 *That Council determine that the remuneration to be paid to each nominee when exercising functions as a member of the Hunter and Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Panel is \$700.00 per meeting, inclusive of GST and expenses.*
- 632/17 *That Council note that the above nominations are to take effect immediately and to be for a term of three years.*
- 633/17 *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer notify the secretariat of Hunter and Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Panel in writing of the above nominations.*
- 634/17 *That Council request the Chief Executive Officer notify the current Council representatives of Hunter and Central Coast Joint Regional Planning Panel in acknowledgement of their significant contribution and advising of the changes to the representation from Council.*

In May 2020, the NSW Government announced the postponement of the 2020 local government elections for 12 months to address the risks posed by the COVID-19 virus. Where the Minister exercises the power to postpone elections under section 318B, the election requirements of the Act are suspended for the period specified in the order and current councillors will continue to hold their civic offices during the period specified.

### **3.7 Council Representatives for Hunter and Central Regional Planning Panel (contd)**

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The Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel (“the HCCRPP”) is constituted pursuant to Part 2 Division 2.4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (“EP&A Act”). In accordance with Division 2.4 c2.13(2) of the EP&A Act the HCCRPP must have five members, comprised of three members appointed by the NSW Minister for Planning and two members appointed by an “applicable council”.

#### **Current Status**

The current members of the HCCRPP appointed by the Minister are Alison McCabe, Juliet Grant and Sandra Hutton. Ms McCabe is the Chair of the HCCRPP. Alternate Ministerial appointees to the HCCRPP are drawn from a pool of state appointed experts.

The current Central Coast Council nominees are Councillor Kyle MacGregor and Councillor Chris Burke. The two alternatives for the nominees are Councillor Jeff Sundstrom and Councillor Jane Smith.

Council can nominate members and can determine the duration of each appointment. Generally, so as to ensure the greatest degree of continuity for the HCCRPP, it is recommended that Council consider re-appointing the current members to the Panel for a term of one year, in line with the Terms of office of members and the maximum term of the nine years provided in cl. 11 of Part 4 Schedule 2 of the EP&A Act.

#### **Next HCCRPP meeting**

The next meeting of the HCCRPP is scheduled to take place on 15 October 2020.

#### **Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact on Council. Appropriate budget provisions have been made in accordance with the current Policy. This report does not recommend any significant changes which would impact these provisions.

The Minister for Planning has provided guidance to all Council on appropriate rates of remuneration for travel and subsistence allowance for their members in accordance with cl. 14 of Schedule 2 of the EP&A Act. In accordance with Sydney and Regional Regional Planning Panels – Operational Procedures – January 2020 Council is responsible for determining the fee paid to their panel members, which includes the Minister recommended rate for remuneration for travel and subsistence allowance.

It is proposed that the remuneration and expenses to be paid to those nominees that attend meetings of the JRPP in the capacity as a member should be maintained at \$700.00 per scheduled meeting, inclusive of GST and expenses, where expenses are estimated to average up to \$100 per meeting. These figures are based on what is currently paid to the current Central Coast Council representatives attending HCCRPP meetings.

### **3.7 Council Representatives for Hunter and Central Regional Planning Panel (contd)**

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#### **Link to Community Strategic Plan**

Theme 4: Responsible

#### **Goal G: Good governance and great partnerships**

R-G1: Build strong relationships and ensure our partners and community share the responsibilities and benefits of putting plans into practice.

#### **Critical Dates or Timeframes**

Council was notified of the need to appoint Panel members on Friday, 2 October 2020.

The current Panel memberships expire 8 October 2020. Council is required to nominate members for the Panel and provide this advice to the secretariat of Hunter and Central Coast Regional Planning Panel.

#### **Attachments**

*Nil.*