



**CITY OF
PARRAMATTA**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY PANEL

April 2025

DOCUMENT ADMINISTRATION

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| Document Owner | Group Manager, Office of the Lord Mayor and CEO - Secretariat Services |
| Related Documents | City of Parramatta Code of Conduct City of Parramatta Media Policy City of Parramatta Social Media Policy Assets and Infrastructure Standing Committee Terms of Reference (December 2024) City of Parramatta Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2024-2033 Relevant Council policies and plans related to the environment |
| References & Legislation | Local Government Act 1993 Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 |
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1. PURPOSE AND LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The primary role of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel is to provide strategic, expert and impartial advice to the Council on the development, implementation, monitoring and review of the City of Parramatta's Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2024-2033) and related policies and plans.
- 1.2 The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel is an advisory body to the City of Parramatta and is not an executive panel and does not have the authority to:
- Expend money on behalf of Council
 - Undertake any work or make decisions on behalf of Council
 - Commit Council to any arrangement
 - Consider any matter outside its specific reference
 - Direct Council officers in the performance of their duties; or
 - Represent the Council in any communication with the public or media without the express permission of the City of Parramatta.
- 1.3 The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel's advice must take into consideration current City of Parramatta's policies, strategies and operational plans.
- 1.4 These Terms of Reference set out the rules that members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel must follow.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel are to:
- Provide advice to Council on the implementation, monitoring and review of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and any Council key plans or actions that support environment sustainability and our natural environment.
 - Promote an increased knowledge and understanding of environmental sustainability, including advice on industry trends and emerging issues.
 - Provide input into policy development, planning and advice to Council across all areas where there is a likely impact on environmental sustainability.

- Actively support Council's consultation with and advocacy to the broader community on environment and sustainability related matters.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

| Position | Responsibility |
|--|---|
| All Committee Members | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the agenda prior to each meeting and actively contribute to the discussions. • Be an advocate for the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel. • Have a broad understanding of relevant issues, the adopted Council strategies and associated actions. |
| Chairperson (Councillor) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel. |
| Deputy Chairperson (Councillor) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel when the Chairperson is unable to attend. |
| Convenor (CEO, Executive Director or delegate) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene the meetings and support the Chairperson of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel. • Prepare the agenda for meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel. • Provide notice of cancellation of an Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel meeting in circumstances where there is no business (reports) to be considered. |
| Other Councillors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Councillors, other than the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, are ex-officio members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel. • Ex-officio Councillor members may contribute to the meeting, as permitted by the Chairperson. |
| Council Secretariat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the Convenor and Chairperson with all aspects of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel. • Responsible for reporting the minutes and outcomes of each Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel meeting to the next available meeting of Assets and Infrastructure Committee for consideration, assisted by the Convenor. |

4. CONVENOR

- 4.1 The Convenor of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel is the CEO, Executive Director City Assets and Operations or their delegate.
- 4.2 The Convenor will assist the Chairperson in progressing the meeting in accordance with the agenda.
- 4.3 The Convenor is responsible for ensuring any action items, such as requests for information or guest speakers, as recorded in the minutes, are actioned and reported back to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel at a subsequent meeting.

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1. Councillor Membership

- 5.1.1 The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel are Councillors as determined by Council resolution.
- 5.1.2 All other Councillors are ex-officio members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.
- 5.1.3 Ex-officio Councillor members may contribute to the meeting, as permitted by the Chairperson.
- 5.1.4 Councillor members and ex-officio Councillors do not have voting rights on matters presented to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel as the Panel is not a decision-making body.

5.2. Community Membership

- 5.2.1 A minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 community members will be appointed to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.
- 5.2.2 Community membership to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel is voluntary (unpaid).
- 5.2.3 The appointment of community members to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel will seek to:
 - a) achieve a mix of skills and experience to facilitate the sound functioning of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel; and
 - b) represent the diversity and interests of our community.
- 5.2.4 Community members will be appointed following a public Expressions of Interest (EOI) process prior to the first Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel meeting of the new Council term (refer to Clause 6 of this Terms of Reference).

5.2.5 Community members do not have voting rights on matters presented to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel as the Panel is not a decision-making body.

5.3. **Community Membership Selection Criteria**

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel will comprise of community members reflecting the diversity of our community who;

- Have relevant qualifications related to environmental sustainability and/ or
- Are recognised in relevant professional fields with demonstrated experience, seniority and/or knowledge across environmental sustainability topics and principles.

Community members should also live, work, study or have a strong commitment to the City of Parramatta local government area.

Past participation in the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel, or previous Council advisory committees, will also be taken into consideration.

5.4. **Member Leave of Absence**

5.4.1 Members need to inform the Council Secretariat staff by email (secretariat@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au) when they are unable to attend a meeting, at least 1 day prior with the reason for their absence.

5.4.2 All absences must be recorded in the minutes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.

5.4.3 If a member misses more than two consecutive meetings without informing the Council Secretariat and/ or a valid reason, their membership will be withdrawn, and their position will become vacant.

5.5. Member Vacancies

5.5.1 Where a vacancy occurs:

- (a) within six (6) months from the appointment of members, the vacancy may be filled firstly by a person on the eligibility list, if they are still interested and available to join the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.
- (b) after six (6) months from the appointment of members, and more than 12 months from the end of the Term, an Expression of Interest (EOI) process must be undertaken, in accordance with Clause 6.

5.5.2 Vacancies occurring within the last 12 months of the end of the Term will not be filled.

6. COMMUNITY MEMBER SELECTION PROCESS

- 6.1 All applications must be made using the online application and should address the selection criteria of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.
- 6.2 Applications will be assessed by the Convenor of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel on merit according to the selection criteria in accordance with Clause 5.3.
- 6.3 The Convenor is to prepare a report to Council recommending the community members to be appointed to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.
- 6.4 Community membership shall be determined by Council resolution.
- 6.5 If more applications than positions are received, and deemed suitable for appointment as community members, offers of membership will be made to the top applicants and the remainder placed on an eligibility list.
- 6.6 Where a vacancy occurs, the vacancy may be filled by a person on the eligibility list (without the need for further approval from Council) if they are still interested and available to join the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel, unless within 12 months of the end of the Council term.

7. TERM

- 7.1 The term of membership generally coincides with the term of Council, or such other period as resolved by Council.

8. CHAIRPERSON / DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

8.1 Chairperson

8.1.1 The Chairperson of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel is to be a Councillor determined by Council resolution.

8.1.2 The Chairperson is appointed for the duration of the Term.

8.2 Deputy Chairperson

8.2.1 The Deputy Chairperson of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel is to be a Councillor determined by Council resolution.

8.2.2 The Deputy Chairperson is appointed for the duration of the Term.

8.3 In the absence of both the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, the Convenor of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel will act as the Chairperson for that meeting.

8.4 If the position of Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson becomes vacant for any reason, Council is to select another Councillor to be the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson for the remainder of the Term.

9. QUORUM

9.1. The quorum of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel shall comprise a minimum of 40 percent of members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.

9.2. Business must not be conducted at any meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel unless the Convenor or their delegate is present.

9.3. Business must not be conducted at any meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel unless a quorum is present.

9.4. Where a meeting is cancelled, members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel will be notified by email.

10. PUBLIC ATTENDANCE

10.1 Meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel are not open to the public to attend.

10.2 Notwithstanding Clause 10.1, guest speakers, relevant experts, or other interested parties, may be invited to attend and speak at Panel meetings subject to the approval of the Chairperson.

11. MEETING ADMINISTRATION AND PROTOCOL

11.1 Council will provide administrative support to the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel including:

- scheduling meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel, in consultation with the Panel.
- compiling and circulating agenda and relevant documents to all members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.
- taking and distributing minutes that include attendance, declarations of interest and outcomes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.
- Coordinating other meeting arrangements, as required.

11.2 Frequency of Meetings

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel will meet quarterly, on a day and time determined by the Council, in accordance with the annual Council and Committee meeting calendar.

11.3 Venue

The venue for meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel shall be determined by the Convenor.

11.4 Webcast

Meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel will not be webcast.

11.5 Audio-Visual Attendance

11.5.1 All Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel members may attend and participate in the Advisory Panel meetings by audio-visual link.

11.5.2 To attend an Advisory Panel meeting by audio-visual link, the panel member must notify Council Secretariat staff by email

(secretariat@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au) before midday on the day of the meeting.

11.5.3 Following the midday deadline, Council Secretariat staff will:

- issue an audio-visual link to all/any Advisory Panel member/s attending the meeting remotely; and
- notify the Chairperson and Convenor of all/any Advisory Panel member/s who will be attending the meeting remotely.

11.6 Agenda and Business Papers

- 11.6.1 The Convenor is responsible for the preparation and distribution of meeting agendas and minutes of all meetings, with the assistance of the Council Secretariat.
- 11.6.2 The Convenor will inform the Chairperson of the meeting agenda prior to publication of the agenda.
- 11.6.3 The Convenor will publish the agenda a minimum of three (3) business days prior to the meeting, with the assistance of Council Secretariat.

11.7 Minutes

- 11.7.1 The outcomes of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel meetings shall be reported to the Assets and Infrastructure Committee, as per Clause 11.8.
- 11.7.2 Council is to keep full and accurate minutes of the proceedings of Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel meetings.
- 11.7.3 The minutes of the meetings of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel must be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel.
- 11.7.4 The Convenor, with the assistance of Council Secretariat, will publish the confirmed minutes on Council's website a maximum of five (5) business days after the meeting where the minutes were confirmed.

11.8 Reporting Requirements

The Council Secretariat is responsible for reporting the minutes and outcomes of each Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel meeting to the next available meeting of Assets and Infrastructure Standing Committee for consideration, assisted by the Convenor.

12. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 12.1 The general order of business of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel meeting will be as follows:
1. Opening and Acknowledgement of Country
 2. Meeting Attendance, Apologies and Disclosure of Interests
 3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes
 4. Matters for Discussion
 5. Status Update
 6. Emerging trends, recent developments and funding/partnership opportunities
 7. General Business
 8. Conclusion of Meeting

13. CODE OF CONDUCT, CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 13.1 Members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel must comply with the City of Parramatta's Code of Conduct in their capacity as a Panel Member.
- 13.2 Members of the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel must act lawfully, professionally, ethically and with integrity.
- 13.3 Any confidential information discussed, received and used in the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel meetings must not be distributed, until deemed otherwise by the Convenor. Council or the CEO may terminate an Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel member's term for breaching these requirements, or Terms of Reference.
- 13.4 Conflicts of Interest must be disclosed and managed in accordance with the Code of Conduct. It is each members responsibility to be aware of their obligations under the Code of Conduct for both pecuniary and non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.
- 13.5 In addition, where members are engaged as City of Parramatta contractors or consultants, outside their work on the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel but for work that pertains to an item on the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Panel agenda, the member shall not participate in any discussion on that item.

14. VARIATION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 14.1 The Terms of Reference may be amended by resolution of the Council at any time.

15. VERSION CONTROL AND CHANGE HISTORY

| Version | Amendment Details | Document Owner | Period Active | Review Date |
|---------|--|--|---------------|----------------------|
| 1.0 | <i>New Terms of Reference document - no previous version</i> | <i>Group Manager, Office of the Lord Mayor and CEO</i> | | <i>December 2028</i> |