PRACTICE DIRECTION 5

Appointment of Additional Members to an Assessment Panel

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

This practice direction is issued by the State Planning Commission under section 42 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

Introduction

Section 42 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act) allows the State Planning Commission (the Commission) to issue practice directions for the purposes of the Act. Generally, practice directions specify procedural requirements or steps in connection with a matter arising under the Act. In certain cases, the Act requires a particular matter to be addressed or dealt with by a practice direction.

This practice direction is made by the Commission to support the operation of section 85 of the Act.

Section 85 allows an assessment panel to appoint 1 or 2 additional expert members to the assessment panel where necessary.

Practice Direction

Part 1 – Preliminary

1 – Citation

This practice direction may be cited as the *State Planning Commission Practice Direction 5 – Appointment of Additional Members to an Assessment Panel.*

2 – Commencement of operation

This version of the practice direction comes into operation on the day on which it is published on the SA planning portal.

3 – Object of practice direction

The object of this practice direction is to provide a list of the qualifications and experience which a person must hold to be appointed as an additional member of an assessment panel pursuant to Section 85 of the Act.

4 – Interpretation

In this practice direction, unless the contrary intention appears –

Act means the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.*

Note: Section 12 of the Legislation Interpretation Act 2021 provides that an expression used in an instrument made under an Act has, unless the contrary intention appears, the same meaning as in the Act under which the instrument was made.

Part 2 – Appointment of Additional Members to an Assessment Panel

5 – Purpose and operation of section 85

(1) Section 85 of the Act stipulates that an assessment panel appointed or constituted under the Act may appoint 1 or 2 members to act as additional members of that panel for the purposes of dealing with a matter that it must assess as a relevant authority.

(2) However, a person is not eligible to be appointed as an "additional member" unless the person holds a qualification, or has expertise or experience, recognised by a practice direction.

(3) This practice direction lists the qualifications and experience which a person must hold in order to be eligible to be appointed as an additional member of an assessment panel.

(4) Additional members may be required on an assessment panel in circumstances where a development application requires expert assessment in a particular field of expertise that is not possessed by the existing assessment panel members.

6 – Qualifications and experience of additional members

(1) The below table lists the various assessment considerations which may require the appointment of additional assessment panel members to provide the necessary expert advice.

(2) Where the assessment panel forms the view that additional expert advice is required for an application which requires assessment of a matter listed in Column 1, the assessment panel may engage an additional assessment panel member provided that person maintains both the minimum experience detailed in Column 2, as well as the minimum qualification listed in Column 3.

(3) Satisfaction of the minimum experience and qualifications will be to the satisfaction of the assessment panel (or its delegate).

(4) The appointment of additional members to an assessment panel is at the discretion of the assessment panel (or its delegate). The below table does not mandate the appointment of additional members where the relevant assessment consideration may exist.

Column 1: Matter requiring expert consideration	**Column 2: Minimum experience**	**Column 3: Minimum qualifications**
Arboriculture (regulated trees)	2 years' experience in a role providing arboricultural assessments and advice	Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Level 5 qualified Arborist
Engineering (including traffic or civil matters)	2 years' experience in a role providing advice and assessment of relevant engineering issues	Relevant qualification in engineering or relevant discipline

Column 1: Matter requiring expert consideration	Column 2: Minimum experience	Column 3: Minimum qualifications
Native flora/fauna, biodiversity, or general environmental issues	2 years' experience in a role involving environmental assessment	Relevant qualification in horticulture, conservation, land management environmental science, natural environmental management or relevant discipline
Acoustic impacts	2 years' experience in noise and vibration monitoring and assessment	Qualification in an engineering, science or relevant discipline
Heritage	2 years' experience in the assessment or provision of advice regarding the development or conservation of heritage items	Relevant qualification in planning, archaeology, anthropology, history, earth sciences, geography, environmental science, surveying or relevant discipline
River Murray Floodplain Area	2 years' relevant experience in analysis or conservation of the River Murray	Relevant qualification in planning, conservation, land management environmental science, natural environmental management or relevant discipline
Marine Parks and Coast	2 years' relevant experience in coastal conservation	Relevant qualification in conservation, land management, biology, environmental science, natural environmental management or relevant discipline
Site contamination	2 years' relevant experience in site contamination assessment	Relevant qualification in science, engineering or relevant discipline
Urban design	2 years' relevant experience in urban design matters	Relevant qualification in planning, urban design, architecture, arts, science, environmental design/studies or relevant discipline

Issued by the State Planning Commission

Note: This Practice Direction commences operation in accordance with clause 2 'Commencement of operation'.

Version 2: Commenced operation on 6 February 2026

Version 1: Commenced operation on 1 July 2019