

Expert Panel for the Implementation Review

Agenda Report

Meeting No. 1

Date	23 August 2022
Item Name	Draft Communications and Engagement Plan
Presenters	Jane Trotter (DTI)
Item Number	2.2
Related Items	Nil

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Expert Panel (the Panel) resolves to:

1. Approve the Draft Communications and Engagement Plan (**Attachment 1**), which will guide how the Panel proposes to engage with the community throughout the Implementation Review Project; and
2. Authorise the Presiding Member to make any minor or editorial amendments to the Draft Communications and Engagement Plan as required, to finalise the same.

Background

1. The government's planning and heritage policy platform documents released prior to the March 2022 State Election provide for the commissioning of an implementation review of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act) and the Planning and Design Code (the Code). The election commitment documents provide for the review to be undertaken with the aid of an Expert Panel (the Panel), and will address the following policy objectives:
 - 1.1. protecting the character and heritage of our local communities;
 - 1.2. ensuring greater tree canopy coverage and green open space;
 - 1.3. providing certainty to business, industry, and communities by implementing appropriate design standards; and
 - 1.4. considering improvements to the e-planning system and processes.
2. On 21 July 2022, the Minister for Planning (the Minister) approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the work of the Panel, which will include review of the following:
 - 2.1. the Act;

- 2.2. the Code (and related instruments) as it relates to infill policy, trees, character, heritage and car parking;
 - 2.3. the e-planning system to ensure that it is delivering an efficient and user-friendly process and platform; and
 - 2.4. the PlanSA Website to assess usability and access to information by the community.
3. The ToR require the Panel to:
- consult with the State Planning Commission and other stakeholders (including local government and industry) as required to effectively deliver the Project.*
4. The purpose of this Report is to seek the Panel's consideration of the draft Communications and Engagement Plan (Draft Plan), in furtherance of its consultation requirements set out in the ToR, and to provide any feedback, additions or exclusions to the Draft Plan.

Discussion

5. Draft Plan

- 5.1. The ToR require the Panel to consult with relevant stakeholders in its delivery of the Implementation Review Project. To facilitate this consultation, a Draft Plan (**Attachment 1**) has been prepared for the Panel's consideration.
- 5.2. The Draft Plan anticipates a ten (10) week engagement period between 10 October 2022 and 16 December 2022, which will include:
 - 5.2.1. five (5) events/workshops with relevant stakeholders, including one (1) online 'live chat' with the Expert Panel and one (1) livestreamed workshop, ensuring accessibility to persons not able to attend in person engagement events;
 - 5.2.2. publication of a Panel specific webpage and a 'Have Your Say' consultation page, which will each include the provision of relevant briefing documents, to encourage public engagement; and
 - 5.2.3. social media posts promoting the engagement, articles in relevant newsletters and media releases by the Minister and Presiding Member of the Panel.
- 5.3. Given the length of the Project term (five (5) months), this is a relatively lengthy engagement period. However, as a matter of good governance and transparency, it is **recommended** that the Panel adopt the principles of community engagement found in the Community Engagement Charter (the Charter) established under the Act.
- 5.4. Whilst the Panel is an independent review panel and is under no obligation to observe the Charter, doing so ensures transparency and accountability in the engagement process, and will enable areas for improvement to be identified throughout the course of, and following, the engagement period.
- 5.5. The coordination of the Panel's community engagement is likely to be outsourced to an external provider. If outsourced, selection of the external provider will be subject to a tender process.

6. *Direct Engagement*

6.1. The Draft Plan makes provision for the Panel to undertake direct engagement with relevant stakeholders including (but not limited to):

6.1.1. Ministers and state agencies

6.1.1.1. State leaders – the Minister, Cabinet members

6.1.1.2. Department for Trade and Investment

6.1.1.3. State Planning Commission

6.1.1.4. State agencies and statutory authorities, including Green Adelaide, the Department for Environment and Water, South Australian Heritage Council

6.1.2. Local government

6.1.2.1. Local Government Association (LGA)

6.1.2.2. Local councils

6.1.3. Peak planning bodies

6.1.3.1. Urban Development Institute of Australia (SA)

6.1.3.2. Property Council of Australia (SA)

6.1.3.3. Master Builders Association (SA)

6.1.3.4. Housing Industry Association (SA)

6.1.3.5. Planning Institute of Australia (SA)

6.1.3.6. Australian Institute of Building Surveyors (SA)

6.1.3.7. SA Accredited Professionals Association

6.1.4. The direct engagement will involve hosting in person workshops for each identified sub-group of key stakeholders. This will include hosting a:

6.1.4.1. LGA workshop, including live stream to regional councils;

6.1.4.2. Peak Planning Bodies workshop; and

6.1.4.3. State Government agencies workshop.

7. *Community Events*

7.1. The Draft Plan includes hosting one (1) community focus group event, for the purposes of the Panel's public consultation and community engagement.

7.2. It is anticipated that invitation to attend at the community focus group event would be extended to known interested:

7.2.1. community groups relevant to the scope of the Panel's review; and

7.2.2. various local residents' associations and community associations.

7.3. South Australian residents and the general public would also be encouraged to attend and provide their feedback at this focus group event.

8. *Webpage*

8.1. To ensure its status as an independent review panel, the Panel will have a separate dedicated webpage for its activities. The webpage will be associated with, but notably separate from, the SA Planning Portal.

8.2. It is proposed that the Panel members' profiles, together with relevant documents such as the ToR and community engagement discussion papers, updates on community engagement activities and the final report, will be published on the webpage.

8.3. The webpage is a useful communication tool for the Panel, as the Panel will be able to use the webpage, social media and YourSay to get feedback from relevant stakeholders outside of in person engagement events.

8.4. The webpage URL is www.plan.sa.gov.au/planning_review.

Attachments

1. Draft Community Engagement Plan (Knet #18922208)

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Date: 11 August 2022

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