

## Environment & Planning Alert

### NSW Planning System Review – Announced

July 2011

#### Announcement

On 12 July 2011, the Minister for Planning announced that a comprehensive review is to be undertaken of New South Wales planning laws.

The announcement foreshadows the introduction of a new planning framework, together with the creation of new draft State planning laws in the latter part of 2012.

#### Planning review panel

A Planning Review Panel is to be established to oversee the review and to provide independent advice to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure and the Government. The Panel is to be jointly chaired by:

- Mr Tim Moore: a former New South Wales Environment Minister and current Senior Commissioner of the Land and Environment Court (who will take leave from the Court); and
- Mr Ron Dyer: a former New South Wales Labor Minister.

The Panel is to provide the principal interface with the community and key stakeholders and is to ensure that a comprehensive community engagement and public participation process is undertaken.

#### Staged review

The review is expected to take about eighteen months and is to be divided into three key stages:

- **Stage 1:** a 'listening and scoping stage' led by the Panel to identify the main outcomes and principles for

a new planning system (which will take about 4 months). Stage 1 is to conclude with the Panel providing a report to the Minister;

- **Stage 2:** the preparation of a 'green paper' to outline options in relation to the new planning system and the basis for a legislative scheme (which will take about 6 months). A working group is to develop the 'green paper' drawing upon the Panel's findings in Stage 1; and
- **Stage 3:** a 'white paper' which will set out the Government's framework for the new planning laws of New South Wales, including draft legislation (which will take about 8 months). The 'white paper' is to be prepared by the Minister, with the Panel serving as a reference group.

#### Possible issues

At this early stage, the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure has indicated that issues likely to be examined include:

- the role of any new legislation in relation to strategic planning, growth management and infrastructure provision;
- the roles of State and local government; and
- how to obtain high-quality public participation in the planning system.

#### Consultation

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has also indicated that consultation with stakeholders and

communities is to be a key focus of the review.

Accordingly, there is to be a clear program of engagement with individuals, stakeholders, groups and communities incorporating public talks, widespread public meetings, online consultation, advertising and intensive workshops.

Interested parties should consider making written submissions to the Panel at the appropriate time.

## More information

We will keep you up to date on developments in the review as it moves forward.

[Click here](#) for a link to the review announcement, including a media release and fact sheet.

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