



Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Inquiry into the Territory Plan and other associated documents **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA:

Reference: Hearing on 7 December 2023

In relation to: Appointment of Government Landscape Architect

In providing information to a question about establishing the position of a Government Landscape Architect, the Government Architect advised that 'there's forty names approximately on the panel availability list. They're from all around Australia. Panellists are selected for each proposition based on the characters and nature of that proposition... and so we, I select panellists based on their professional expertise with that typology and their conflict of interest and their familiarity with Canberra and their suitability with that panel. I make sure that the panel accurately represents the primary issues on that panel.'

The Terms of Reference National Capital Design Review Panel January 2021 advises that members will be appointed through an open tender process.

1. How many panellists are presently qualified/registered landscape architects?
2. How many landscape architects on the panel are located outside the ACT?
3. When was the last time an open tender process was carried out to procure new panellists?
4. In appointing panellists what criteria are used to evaluate the suitability of an applicant and are referees required to be provided?
5. Are representative independent bodies, such as the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, consulted on the panellists seeking to be engaged on the panel?
6. Have any of the existing members of the panel been re-appointed and have any been re-appointed more than one time?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. For panellists that have appeared as National Capital Design Review Panel (NCDRP) members for design review sessions, fifteen have been qualified Landscape Architects.
2. For panellists that have appeared as NCDRP members for design review sessions, ten have been qualified Landscape Architects located outside of the ACT.

3. The NCDRP is currently serviced by an interim list of panel members. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) is currently finalising the details for an upcoming open tender process (through Expression of Interest (EOI)) for the establishment of a permanent pool of panel membership which will be put to market in early 2024 to support the implementation of the new planning system.
4. NCDRP panel members are selected for their skills, expertise and track record of achievement in one or more fields relevant to planning, design and development (which includes a range of technical areas). This includes consideration of:
 - Individuals with qualifications or registrations recognised in Australia in the fields of architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, urban planning or similar as appropriate to the field of expertise.
 - Ability to provide critical review of design and providing objective and constructive feedback on complex design issues.
 - Communication skills to engage and communicate complex and detailed design issues, and ability to provide constructive guidance in a positive and articulate way.
5. The interim list of panel members has been developed over several years by the Co-Chairs (the ACT Government Architect and National Capital Authority Chief Planner) to include a range of industry experts across the relevant fields. Representative bodies are not consulted in this process.
6. Panellists are selected for each proposal based on the character and nature of the design proposition being presented to the NCDRP for consideration. Once a panel is established, the composition of panel membership is retained for the project through subsequent design review sessions. Panel members are also selected for multiple proposals.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

19 / 12 / 23

By the Minister for Planning, Mr Chris Steel MLA