

Council Policy

Community Committee Framework and Appointment of Community and Stakeholder Representatives

Policy Statement

To prescribe the process for the appointment of individuals to Council Committees, as either representing organisations, groups or other stakeholders, or the general community, where the composition of the Committee is established in the relevant Committee Terms of Reference or Charter.

To ensure representatives are objectively selected on merit, thereby removing any claim of political patronage.

Principles

The following principals and procedure shall be followed in the appointment of organisational, stakeholder and general community representatives to Committees established by the Council or on behalf of other agencies.

- Community Committee Framework (adopted 28 November 2017):

Category	Summary Definition and Principles	Council Resolution Required?
Strategic Reference Groups (SRGs)	6 Groups with a Strategic Focus aligned to CSP Goals. Mayor + 3 Councillors, 12 stakeholder / community members, 4 (+2) meetings pa. Supported by Staff.	Yes
Statutory Committees	Organised and run by Council. May have joint ToR. Supported by Staff. Members may include Mayor, councillors, staff or community members. eg ARIC, Code of Conduct, Traffic, etc	Yes
Joint Stakeholder Committees (External)	Set up and run by Agency. ToR determined by Agency or jointly. Members may include Mayor, councillors, staff or community members as per ToR. eg. State Parks, RFS, ClubGrants, PCYC etc	Yes
Joint Stakeholder Committees (Council)	Set up and run by Council with other Agencies as members. ToR determined by Council. Supported by Staff. Members will include Mayor / councillors and community members. Eg. Ingleside Precinct Reference Group, Flood Management Committee, Safety Committee, Planning Panels, etc	Yes
Memberships	External Associations that offer membership to Council. Members may include Mayor, councillors or staff as per ToR. eg Sydney Coastal Council, Metro Libraries Assoc etc	Yes
Project Working / Advisory Groups	Project based advisory groups aligned to approved projects for the term of the engagement process. Implemented as required as part of the engagement approach for projects. Supported by staff. Community and stakeholder members only.	No
Community Groups	Self-appointed and managed. Includes Resident groups, sports groups, environment groups (200+) etc. Invited to be included in all project engagement activities.	No

- All appointments to Committees are to have due regard not only to the provisions of the relevant Committee Charter or Terms of Reference but also to the general principles of merit-based selection, gender balance, equality and diversity of membership.
- The selection of community representatives on Council Committees is a function best administered independently of the elected Council, and in accordance with the Terms of

Reference of the relevant Committee. This approach avoids both the perception and reality of political interference in the appointment process. Committee representatives shall be entitled to be appointed without influence from political beliefs, philosophical reasons, affiliations or community standing. They are entitled to be considered for appointment because of their interest or involvement in the work of the Committee or because they have particular skills or professional training of benefit to the Committee's deliberations.

Scope and Application

It is appropriate that organisations, the general community and other relevant stakeholders be represented on Committees to assist Council in its ongoing planning and decision-making processes.

Council is responsible for adopting the Charter of each Committee established by it, including the composition of the Committee and any specific skills or requirements to be included in that composition.

Organisational and Stakeholder Representatives:

Where an organisation, community group, interest group, user group or other stakeholder is, according to a Committee Charter or Terms of Reference, to be represented on that Committee:

- The organisation or group shall nominate its representative in writing to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- The written nomination is to be made, as appropriate, by a duly authorised office bearer or office holder of the organisation/group concerned using the template provided by Council for that purpose including evidence of constitution and membership.
- The CEO shall appoint such nominated representatives and reserves the right to reject such nominated representatives should there be any non-compliance with requirements in the relevant Committee Charter or Terms of Reference.

Individual Community Representatives:

- Nominations will be publicly invited for appointment to a Committee.
- All nominees will be required to make written application to Council using the template provided by Council for that purpose. Any particular skills, experience or expertise required of members by the relevant Committee Charter or Terms of Reference must be addressed in any nomination submitted to Council.
- Where complying nominations received are equal to or less than available positions on a Committee, the CEO may appoint such nominees to the relevant Committee.
- Where the number of complying nominations exceeds the number of individuals required for appointment, the CEO shall arrange for an assessment panel to make a direct appointment(s) based on merit. In such cases the Panel, comprising the Head of Integrity and Complaints Resolution Unit (or delegate), a member of Human Resources (or other nominee of the CEO) and the relevant Executive Manager, is to have regard to any membership requirements outlined in the relevant Committee Terms of Reference or Charter as well as those detailed in this Policy.

Term of Appointment

A person appointed to a Committee shall continue as a member of the Committee for the period outlined in the relevant Committee Terms of Reference or Charter.

Where a person has been nominated to represent a particular organisation or group on the Committee, a duly authorised representative of the organisation may request a change to its nominated representative during the relevant term.

Community Notification

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Opportunities for Nomination will be advertised in the local newspaper. Emails will be sent to target groups and the Community Engagement Database. Detailed information and nomination forms will be available on the website. Ideally nominations will be open for 28 days and a minimum of 14 days.

Delegation of Authority

By adoption of this Policy, the Council specifically and hereby delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to exercise all functions, powers or actions required to implement this policy.

Responsible officer

Executive Manager Governance and Risk

References and related documents

- NSW Local Government Act 1993

Definitions

“*Committee*”, for the purposes of this Policy, refers to any Strategic Reference Statutory Committees and Joint Stakeholder committees or other advisory committees that have councillors and community members represented.

Review Date

November 2021.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Change	TRIM Ref
1	17 April 2018	Policy adopted by Council	2018/266800
2	17 April 2020	Policy amended by Director Corporate and Legal to incorporate the Community Committee framework (see related email 2020/221767)	2018/266800