

## First report of South Australia's Expert Panel on Planning Reform

December 2013

In February 2013 the South Australian Government established an Expert Panel on Planning Reform to provide recommendations for a new planning system to Government and Parliament by December 2014.

On 9 December 2013 the first report of South Australia's Expert Panel on Planning Reform was released. The report, entitled *What We Have Heard*, provides a summary of feedback provided to the Panel following an extensive consultation period.

The Expert Panel's report is available [here](#).

### The Review

The review comes 20 years after the South Australian *Development Act* 1993 came into force and will examine all South Australian legislation relating to planning, urban design and urban renewal, and its impact on the planning system.

The review has two parts that will run in parallel:

- an engagement stream, which is seeking input from across South Australia at each stage of the reform process; and
- a research stream, which is looking at best practice systems across the world and developing options for South Australia.

The Panel is also tasked with proposing a new statutory framework, governance and administrative arrangements for the planning system and will consider any matters referred to the Panel by the Minister for advice.

The Panel's work will be undertaken in four stages, with a final report will to be presented to the South Australian Government and Parliament in December 2014.

### Process

#### 1. Stage One—'Establishing Partnerships'

In February 2013, the Minister for Planning, the Hon. John Rau MP, announced the formation of the Expert Panel to fulfil broad terms of reference. The first work of the Panel was to establish partnerships with key stakeholders and to review the current planning system.

Members of the Expert Panel are:

- Brian Hayes QC
- Natalya Boujenko
- Stephen Hains
- Simone Fogarty
- Theo Maras AM

The Terms of Reference for the Panel are available [here](#).

## 2. *Stage Two—‘Listening and Scoping’*

From July to December 2013, the Panel undertook an engagement program whereby over 1 200 attendees at workshops and briefings assisted the Panel to identify the key areas for planning reform, and some initial ideas for doing so. These are outlined in the Panel’s *What We Have Heard* Report, discussed below.

## 3. *Stage Three—‘Exploring and Discussion’*

Over the first half of 2014, the Panel will be developing options for reform, with support from the engagement and research streams. An ‘Options Paper’ will be published in mid 2014 to underpin debate about which options should be pursued.

## 4. *Stage Four —‘Proposing and Recommending’*

Following the release of the Options Paper in 2014, the Panel will conduct a public debate on the options it will be considering for reform, prior to making final recommendations to the South Australian Government and Parliament in December 2014.

### ***What We Have Heard Report***

On 9 December 2013, the Panel released its first report, *What We Have Heard*. The report summarises the views and ideas of more than 1 200 participants canvassed through over 75 community workshops, meetings and briefing sessions across metropolitan and regional South Australia by the panel and stakeholders, an online feedback form and written submissions.

The Panel received feedback from a wide range of people, including representatives of councils, industry and business organisations, community and special interest groups, and government agencies.

Some of the key ideas that came out of the feedback included:

- the aims and expectations of planning, including tailoring the system to different parts of the State, encouraging investment and statutory objectives;
- roles, responsibilities and participation in planning and development, including the balancing of various state, regional and local interests, community input, accountability and oversight and integrity in decision-making;

- setting directions and coordinating outcomes in planning, through triple bottom line thinking, the linking of strategic policies and directions and performance monitoring;
- the adequacy of the current planning rules, tools and frameworks, in particular consistency of rules across South Australia, certainty, the transparency of processes for changing planning frameworks, and priorities.
- development pathways and processes, including elements of assessments, the provision of planning information and consultation and representation, and review of decisions; and
- alignment and integration of agencies, reducing overlap and aligning funding and budgets.

The 128-page report, which summarises feedback collected across all these areas, is available [here](#).

### **Further information**

Comments on the report can be left at the Panel's website at [www.thinkdesigndeliver.sa.gov.au](http://www.thinkdesigndeliver.sa.gov.au).