

## Director Governance & Financial Services Report No. GF22/12



**Subject:** Destination 2036 - release of Action Plan and establishment of Independent Local Government Review Panel

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**Author:** Julie Hartshorn, Senior Administrative Coordinator

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### Introduction

The Minister for Local Government, the Hon Don Page MP, has written to all NSW Councils advising of the establishment of an Independent Local Government Review Panel as part of the Destination 2036 initiative.

In addition, the Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government (Department of Premier and Cabinet) has advised that the Destination 2036 Action Plan has been released by the Implementation Steering Committee (ISC) following approval by the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Don Page MP.

### Issues

Following the successful Destination 2036 conference in Dubbo last August and a request by the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW, the Minister has announced the establishment of an independent expert panel to examine options for governance models, structural arrangements and voluntary boundary changes for local government in NSW.

The Local Government Review Panel is the first initiative to be announced under Destination 2036. The terms of reference for the review are outlined in the attached Ministerial Circular.

The panel will be comprised of three members, chaired by Professor Graham Sansom, and is expected to report back to the Minister for Local Government within 12 to 14 months from the start of the review. It would be prudent for Council to commence work towards addressing the terms of reference of the Local Government Review Panel.

In relation to the release of the Destination 2036 Action Plan, the Division of Local Government has advised that the Implementation Steering Committee will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of actions in the Action Plan. It will monitor and report quarterly progress and ensure that the identified lead agency delivers on each activity, in a continued spirit of collaboration with the sector and other key stakeholders. It will work with the Independent Panel as a key partner.

### Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 1: Leadership in sustainability.
- Direction 1a: Council has a long-term vision based on sustainability.

Direction 1c: Continuous improvement in service delivery based on accountability, transparency and good governance.

### **Financial impact statement**

The costs of undertaking the work to address the terms of reference of the Local Government Review Panel will be funded from the 2012/13 budget.

### **Conclusion**

Destination 2036 is a long-term reform agenda that will lead to stronger local government in the future. The release of the Action Plan and the establishment of the Independent Local Government Review Panel are important first steps.

As indicated in the report to the 28 February 2012 Council Meeting, Randwick City Council will actively participate in the reform process by volunteering to assist in the response and coordination of actions/outcomes, where appropriate.

Councillors will continue to be kept informed of the implementation of the Action Plan and also the activities of the Independent Local Government Review Panel.

### **Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

### **Attachment/s:**

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| <b>1.</b> Ministerial Circular - Independent Local Government Review Panel |                               |
| <b>2.</b> Destination 2036 - Action Plan                                   | Included under separate cover |