

## 8.10 Integrated Planning & Reporting Update

### REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

TO 03 NOVEMBER 2021 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400088, COR400124

### RECOMMENDATION

**That Council receive the report by the Director Development on the Integrated Planning & Reporting Update.**

### Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Council's Integrated Planning & Reporting requirements in preparation for the 2022 review cycle.

It is noted that adjustments to the reporting cycle have been made to accommodate recent changes to the *Local Government Act 1993* and the postponement of elections to 4 December 2021.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

### Detailed report

The Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) Framework was introduced in 2009 and is a requirement for all councils in NSW to develop, document and report on plans for the future of their communities. The main components of the IP&R framework are:

- Community Strategic Plan
- Resourcing Strategy (including the Long-Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Plan and Asset Management Plan)
- Delivery Program
- Operational Plan
- Annual Report

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council is required to undertake a review of its IP&R documentation by 30 June in the year following an ordinary election. With the upcoming election on 4 December 2021, the next IP&R cycle requirements must be completed by 30 June 2022. As a result of the postponement of local government elections from September to December 2021, councils will have a shorter timeframe within which to conduct the review activities.

It is also important to note that the *Local Government Act 1993* was recently amended. The key changes to the legislation are:

- New IP&R Guidelines have been issued under Section 406;
- Repeal of Section 428A which removes the requirement to prepare a stand alone Statement of Environment Report;
- A new Section 428A which requires Council to appoint an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) and specifies the aspects of Council's operations which ARIC must keep under review including implementation of the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and other Council strategies; and
- Under Section 402A, Council's Community Engagement Strategy must relate to the development of all plans, policies, programs and activities not just the Community Strategic Plan.

The requirement to prepare an End of Term Report for an outgoing Council has also been removed from future councils (ie. it is still required for the outgoing Council in 2021 but will not be required at the end of the next Council term). Instead of an End of Term Report, the newly elected Council in 3 years time will receive a State of the City/Region Report at the commencement of their term.

The IP&R Guidelines note that Council is not required to establish and implement a Community Engagement Strategy in accordance with Section 402A, as inserted by the recent amendments, until 12 months after the next ordinary election of Councillors following that amendment (ie. until December 2022). This means that Council's existing Community Engagement Strategy adopted in 2017 will be used to guide community engagement activities for the 2022 review of the Community Strategic Plan. The key tools for engagement will include a community wide survey, permanent displays, direct mailout and online engagement. Given existing public health orders, the use of community roadshows will not proceed for the upcoming IP&R cycle.

At the time of preparing this report, there is limited information for councils in relation to the new responsibilities and oversight role by ARIC. A future report will be provided when the ARIC and relevant staff have had the opportunity to fully consider the implications of the changes.

The newly elected Council will receive an overview of the IP&R requirements and recent changes as part of the Councillor induction program.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Good Governance</b>
Goal	Good communications and engagement
Strategy	Encourage community access and participation in Council decision making

## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Towards 2030 Community Plan.

### **Legislation**

Local Government Act 1993.

## Financial implications

Not applicable.

## Associated Risks

Not applicable.

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15 October 2021

*Attachments:* Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER