

UTS Kuring-gai Redevelopment Proposal Community Reference Group

Project Overview, Process & Terms of Reference

Background

The University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Kuring-gai Campus is the subject of a redevelopment proposal by UTS in conjunction with CRI Australia Pty Limited. The site is currently used for educational purposes by UTS. The site's core faculties are teacher education, nursing, midwifery and health, and business.

Under the provisions of the Ku-ring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance, the site is zoned "5(a) – Special Uses (Teachers College).

The Minister for Planning agreed to consider the site as a potential State significant site on 12 December 2005. The Minister also declared the proposal to be a Major Project (and therefore a project to which Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* applies) on 14 June 2007. At this time he also authorised the submission of a Concept Plan for the proposal. The requirements for a State significant site study were issued by the Department of Planning to UTS on 1 February 2006, and Director-General's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the Concept Plan were issued on 12 July 2007. This guides the preparation of an Environmental Assessment for public exhibition and assessment purposes.

UTS is currently finalising detailed technical studies to determine the potential environmental, social and economic consequences of the proposal to rezone the site for mixed uses and to identify appropriate site mitigation measures. UTS will submit a State significant site study and Environmental Assessment (EA) to support the Concept Plan to the Department of Planning for Assessment and determination by the Minister for Planning. It is intended that the State significant site study and proposed concept plan be exhibited and processed concurrently. This will enable the Department to fully consider all environmental issues at the same time.

The proposed zoning is to be determined through the future listing of the site in Schedule 3 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005* (Major Projects SEPP).

Information about the planning process to date is available on the Department's website: <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/asp/register.asp> (click on 'Greater Metropolitan Area including Central Coast' and scroll down).

Purpose / Terms of Reference

The Minister for Planning directed the Department in June 2007 to form a community reference group (CRG) to provide information and gain input to facilitate the planning assessment process for the UTS Kuring-gai proposal.

The CRG represents a diverse range of stakeholders and it is therefore assumed that members of the CRG may hold diverse views.

The CRG will provide a forum to:

- a) provide information and a forum to enable diverse range of stakeholders to make a considered response to the proposal and prepare informed submissions to the assessment process; and
- b) provide an opportunity for the Department of Planning to understand and consider stakeholder views, issues and comments as made by members of the CRG through the assessment process.

Meetings

The CRG will meet on three occasions to coincide with key steps in the proposal's planning assessment process, specifically:

- 1) Prior to lodgement of the project's EA to provide background and scope to members of the CRG and information on the planning process (**26 July 2007**);
- 2) During exhibition of the EA to enable the group to articulate any concerns and comments, resulting in formal written submissions from individuals on the CRG (**possibly mid-late August 2007**); and
- 3) Prior to or after lodgement of the proponent's Preferred Project Report to provide opportunity for the proponent to articulate to the CRG any changes made to the project and the rationale for those changes (**possibly October 2007**).

The CRG will fold after the third and final meeting.

Members will be notified in writing of actual meetings dates by the Department as soon as they are determined. Whenever possible members will receive written advice of any change to meeting details at least one week prior to the meeting.

Membership

Membership of the CRG has been finalised by the Department of Planning following consultation with UTS, CRI, and Ku-ring-gai Council. Members have been invited on the basis of having a demonstrated interest or links to the site, prior involvement in the planning process or connections with the local community. Specifically, the CRG membership comprises the following groups, businesses and individuals:

- Chatswood West Ward Progress Association
- Principal – Lindfield Public School
- UTS Dean of Nursing
- UTS Faculty of Business
- UTS Faculty of Nursing
- A UTS student
- Shorelink Buses (unable to attend first meeting)
- Guardians of Lane Cove National Park / Blue Gum Valley Preservation Movement
- STEP community group
- Kissing Point Progress Association Inc
- Ku-ring-gai Council (staff and Councillors)
- Film Australia
- Lindfield Chamber of Commerce
- National Trust of Australia (NSW)
- Invited local residents

Employees of UTS, CRI, and the Department of Planning will also be present at all CRG meetings in order to provide information to the CRG. These employees are not members of the CRG but are ex-officio participants in the process.

Meetings will not be open to any observers, except with the agreement of the Department of Planning.

Process and Reporting

Abigail Jeffs of Elton Consulting has been engaged by the Department of Planning to independently chair each of the three meetings as described above in order to ensure consistency, transparency and effectiveness in the CRG process. The chair will not represent the CRG or the views of the CRG or any other party. Meetings will be informally, but professionally, chaired to ensure discussions are focussed and systematic. All members of the CRG will have equal opportunity to contribute and provide feedback.

Elton Consulting is also supplying a scribe for the meetings. Elton Consulting will arrange for meeting notes (as distinct from formal minutes) to be distributed via the Department to all CRG participants within 5 working days of each meeting. Meeting notes will provide a brief record of key discussion items and actions. Members are encouraged to take more detailed notes during the meetings as a means of informing the preparation of individual submissions to be considered through the assessment process.

If members of the CRG have questions between meetings, they are directed to contact the Department of Planning, with queries to be forwarded (if relevant) to the appropriate person.

Contacts:

- Mary Gibbs Ph 9228 6470 Email mary.gibbs@planning.nsw.gov.au
- Anthony Witherdin Ph 9228 6173 Email anthony.witherdin@planning.nsw.gov.au

Terms of Participation

1. Meetings will start and finish on time.
2. Alternate delegates are permitted but attendance should be notified in advance.
3. Members will respect the right of other members to be heard within the CRG and show courtesy to all involved.
4. Members will respect the role of the facilitator as chair of CRG meetings. All questions should be directed through the chair.
5. The agenda for each meeting will be determined in advance by the Department, taking into account issues raised at the previous meeting. Members shall receive an agenda within 2 days of meetings.
6. CRG members shall receive copies of relevant assessment and exhibited documentation (or be provided with access to this documentation) at commencement of public exhibition. CRG members are obliged to make themselves familiar with this documentation to ensure effective and efficient communication ensues.
7. Where a response cannot be given at the meeting, questions shall be taken on notice and a reply given either at the next meeting or addressed via the relevant parties noted above ASAP.
8. Individual members of the CRG should not represent themselves as speaking on behalf of the CRG. Members are encouraged to refer any media enquires regarding the CRG or the planning process for the UTS Kuring-gai proposal to the Department of Planning Media Unit (Ph 9228 6111).