Item 4.1

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel – Extension of Term

File No: X130456.002

Memorandum by the Chief Executive Officer

To Council:

The term of the current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel (the Panel) was extended for 12 months on 1 January 2026 and expires on 31 December 2026. This memorandum seeks Council approval to further extend the term of the panel to bring it into line with the Council term and the terms of all other Advisory Panels.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel's purpose is to provide advice on the policies and operations of the City of Sydney in relation to matters of importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The Panel is a key stakeholder in the development and implementation of the City's work with and for the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Strong and trusted relationships between City staff, Panel members, the community and other stakeholders are required. To change the membership of the Panel at this time will mean delays to work/projects while new working relationships are built with a new Panel. A new Panel would be in place for approximately 2 years until the 2028 Local Government elections, further limiting the potential for the Panel to be as effective as possible.

The current Panel comprises 9 community members (plus a representative from the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council and Council's representative Councillor Yvonne Weldon AM). As at 31 December 2026, 6 Panel members will have served 2 terms, plus a 12-month extension and 3 Panel members will have served 1 term, plus a 12-month extension.

The possibility of a further extension has been raised with the Panel who have indicated in-principle agreement. Upon approval of Council, individual Panel members will be offered an extension of their Terms of Agreement to 31 March 2029.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

(A) the term of the current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Panel be extended from 1 January 2027 to 31 March 2029

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to issue a Terms of Agreement extension to all remaining Panel members.

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer