

Bayside Council

Serving Our Community

Bayside Design Excellence Guidelines

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1) Explanation

- a) These guidelines provide criteria and procedures for the assessment of design excellence and to support clause 6.14 *Rockdale LEP 2011 (RLEP 2011)* which requires that an Independent Design Review, or an Architectural Design Competition must be held in relation to certain types of development or for specific sites before development consent may be granted. Clause 6.14 of the RLEP 2011 prescribes the locations where Design Excellence must be determined prior to the submission and acceptance of a Development Application
- b) These procedures provide details which are essential to ensure that design competitions will:
 - i) Operate in a manner which is accountable, fair and efficient
 - ii) Explain the competition process which includes tasks, responsibilities and timelines

2) Design Excellence Criteria

- a) Design Excellence shall be determined with regard to the areas described in the *RLEP 2011 Clause 6.14*.
- b) Key Criteria to be used as a guide when developing and evaluating merit
 - i) Capacity to transform existing character and activity within and beyond its context
 - ii) Creative integration of design and technical requirements
 - iii) Communication of lateral responses to current planning controls and guidelines
 - iv) Contribution to amenity and place making through the development of a proposal that is presented as a cohesive place, contributing to civic quality, public realm, systems and paths of movement and activity
 - v) Comprehensive appreciation of environmental features
 - vi) New public spaces, frontages to public and communal areas that generate high levels of activation and encourage social interaction
 - vii) Scale, character, form and siting complement surrounding urban qualities and likely future development
 - viii) An appropriate balance between resilient materials, embodied energy and resource consumption and dependence
 - ix) Land uses, activity, building configuration and occupancies that may be adapted in future.
- c) Design Excellence Procedures provide a framework in establishing, reviewing and progressing Design Excellence.

3) Objectives for These Guidelines

- a) Provide a detailed explanation of terms and procedures which are provided by Clause 6.14 of the *RLEP 2011*
- b) Criteria that define the "highest standard of ... design" in order to ensure consistent evaluation of competition entries and a baseline for the assessment of development applications which are affected by the LEP's clause 6.14
- c) Establish a Design Excellence – Competition Strategy and Design Excellence – Competition Brief that ensures balance with Council's Design Excellence requirements and the proponent's (developer's) objectives
- d) Outline the procedures and approach in assessing, decision making and responsibility
- e) Intended to select a design proposal which demonstrates that the scheme's Architect has the capacity to deliver design excellence throughout the life of the project

4) The Guidelines

- a) Design Excellence
 - i) Objectives for design excellence apply to Independent Design Review and Architectural Design Competitions, and require design solutions that are *exemplary* as opposed to solutions which demonstrate a basic level of competence.
 - ii) Design Excellence Guidelines and Criteria shall be considered in the following:
 - (1) Competition Entries
 - (2) Evaluation and review of Design Excellence and Competition Entries
 - (3) Assessment of Development Applications that are affected by the LEP's clause 6.14 that consider the Design Excellence Guidelines and Criteria, in addition to statutory requirements of s79C in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EPA Act).
 - iii) Design Excellence integrity shall be continued through to detailed development proposals.
- b) Procedures for a Design Excellence Competition
 - i) The Design Excellence Competition procedures involve a sequence of tasks which are summarised below. This initially requires the proponent to complete a Design Excellence Strategy and Design Excellence Competition Brief for consideration, approval and endorsement by Council.
- c) Design Excellence Competition - Design Excellence Strategy
 - i) The Design Excellence process is to be undertaken in accordance with a Design Excellence Strategy that defines the following:
 - (1) Location, extent and scope of the design excellence process
 - (2) Type of Design Excellence process to be undertaken that shall be an "Invited" Design Competition.
 - (3) Number of submissions to be sought
 - (4) Design Excellence Guidelines and Criteria
 - (5) Assessment and decision making participants and process
 - (6) Jury (Design Excellence Panel) composition and financial remuneration/honorarium
 - (7) Outcome of the Design Excellence Process
 - (8) Fees and charges to be paid to Bayside Council by the proponent to cover management and financial considerations and obligations including remuneration and or honorarium to members of the Jury (Design Excellence Panel).
 - ii) Design Excellence Competition - Brief
 - (1) The Design Excellence Brief will identify all of the competing design groups.
 - (a) The same information is to be provided to the competing design groups:
 - (i) Draft competition briefs must be endorsed by Council officers before any competition may commence
 - (ii) If the proponent's draft brief is considered unacceptable, Council's response will confirm reasons and will recommend matters which require further attention.
 - (b) The design brief must provide a comprehensive range of information about the site and its context.
 - (c) A schedule of fees to be charged by each competitive submission
 - (d) Ongoing role of a selected schemes Architect
- d) Design Concepts

- i) Design competitions require the submission of design concepts by at least three competing design groups:
 - (1) Proponents are responsible for selecting the design groups, and for making an agreed payment to each design group for their completed design submissions
 - (2) Each of the selected design groups will be independent and shall be headed by a registered Architect, and may be a single firm or a consortium of complementary design professionals, together with project experience that has direct relevance to the competition brief. The nominated Architect may only represent a single Architectural Practice Competing in the Design Excellence Competition.
 - (3) All of the selected design groups should demonstrate a capacity to deliver design excellence have levels of skill and expertise which are broadly-equivalent and meet the conditions and requirements for eligibility, assessment and entry to the NSW Government Architect's Strategy and Design Excellence Prequalification Scheme.
- ii) Details on specific Design Excellence submission requirements are to be detailed in the Design Excellence Competition Brief set out by the proponent.
- e) Design Excellence Review
 - i) A Design Excellence Jury of no less than four, and no more than six members shall be established for each competition and act as a jury.
 - (1) Jury members shall have recognised qualifications and expertise in Architecture, or Landscape Architecture, or Urban Design,
 - (2) The Jury shall consist of an equal number of members who are nominated by the proponent and by Council.
 - (3) The Jury may also include a member who is independently selected from both the proponent and Council.
 - (4) Members of a Design Excellence Jury shall provide a fair and honest appraisal of design concepts.
 - (5) In situations where heritage considerations are relevant, the Jury may refer to the proponent's technical advisors.
 - ii) Excluding any submissions that are deemed to be disqualified, the Jury shall consider and assess a minimum of three competition entries to determine an outcome.
 - iii) The Jury will be engaged by Council.
 - iv) The proponent is responsible for remuneration or honorarium costs to members of the Design Excellence Jury.
 - v) Review of design submissions by the Design Excellence Jury requires reference to the following:
 - (1) Primarily, to matters for consideration which are specified by clause 6.14 of the (draft) RLEP 2011; and
 - (2) Design Excellence Guidelines and Criteria; and
 - (3) Any design quality considerations which might be specified by state or local planning controls that are relevant to the subject site or to the development concept.
 - vi) In relation to design competitions, reviews by the Design Excellence Jury require the following:
 - (1) A majority opinion of the Jury that identifies the preferred design submission that exhibits design excellence
 - (2) A statement that explains how the preferred submission exhibits design excellence

- (3) If none of the submissions exhibit design excellence, the Jury may identify amendments to submissions that would guide a competitor in amending a submission
 - (4) If amendments are recommended, the responsible competitor should provide the amended submission within 28 days after receipt of the Jury's report, and the Jury should be reconvened to review the amended submissions.
 - (5) The competition is terminated without an outcome, winner or awarding design excellence to any submission:
 - (a) If the Jury cannot identify design amendments that would achieve excellence
 - (b) Any Jury's recommended amendments have not been provided within a reasonable timeframe
 - (c) The Jury finds that none of the submissions achieve design excellence
 - f) In general, the review of design excellence involves the following procedures:
 - (1) Payment of any required fees to Council
 - (2) Administrative tasks shall be provided by the Proponent: confirmation of meeting dates, distribution of documents and booking of meeting venues.
 - (3) Preparation of a Design Excellence Strategy and Brief for endorsement by Council
 - (4) Design submissions should be distributed to Jury members at least 14 days prior to a scheduled review meeting
 - (5) Review meetings should provide for a 30 minute presentation by each competitor followed by questions from Jury members
 - (6) Discussion and decisions by the Jury should occur during closed sessions that follow presentations
 - (7) Reports should be drafted by the Jury for distribution to the proponent and the Council within 14 days after each review meeting
 - (8) Requests for reconsideration or clarification of the Jury's final report may be submitted by the proponent or the Council within 14 days after receipt of the Jury's report.
 - ii) Requirements of (draft) RLEP 2011 to hold a design competition are deemed to have been satisfied:
 - (1) 14 days after final reports by the Design Excellence Jury have been distributed to the proponent and the Council
 - g) Assessment and Determination
 - i) The consent authority shall have regard for relevant considerations under s79C of the EPA Act and Design Excellence provisions of clause 6.14 RLEP. The outcome of a Design Excellence Competition does not constitute a Development Application or Approval. Any selected design proposal must undergo the Council's DA Process (including review by the Design Review Panel)
- Council reserves the right to convene an independent panel (at the cost to the developer) to review subsequent modifications to the design outcome and determine if they conform to the design intent of the selected scheme.

Version History

Version	Release Date	Author	Reason for Change
1	6 May 2015	Wil Robertson	Initial document
2	4 February 2016	Wil Robertson	Amended content Adopted by Council
3	27 June 2017	Wil Robertson	Amended content for adoption by Council Adopted 12 July 2017