

PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

Peter Duncan AM, Chair

Peter is the principal and director of an advisory business dealing in management, leadership, strategy, and governance. He is currently chair and non-executive director of the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) and Water NSW.

He served for six years with the NSW Independent Planning Commission as a Commissioner and Deputy Chair. Recent roles include as an advisory board member of Infrastructure NSW and the Office of Projects Victoria and as Chair of the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission.

Peter has held senior roles in the public sector, including Acting Secretary and Deputy Secretary in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Chief Executive of Roads and Maritime Services, Director General of the Department of Services, Technology and Administration and Executive Director for the Olympic Coordination Authority.

He was Chief Executive of the Centennial and Moore Park Trust from 1999 to 2003, Project Director for the Millenium Parklands from 1995 to 1999 and was Managing Director of Forests NSW from 2003 to 2006, during which time he:

- managed the transfer of over 65,000 hectares of the north-east forest to be protected as national park, nature reserve, flora reserve or state conservation area.
- implemented reduced wood supply agreements with industry across the east coast of NSW as result of establishment of the reserves.
- completed world leading forest carbon sequestration transactions within the NSW Greenhouse Gas Abatement Scheme.

Peter played a role in the implementation of the River Red Gum review and structural adjustment for industry in the North East Forests, Brigalow (cypress pine) Forests, reporting to the Minister for Planning which led to further landscape protection and growth of the National Park Estate across NSW.

Peter was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2001 for community service and a Member of the Order of Australia in 2013 for significant service to public administration in New South Wales, and to conservation and the environment.

PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

Emeritus Professor Mary O’Kane AC, Panel member

Professor O’Kane is a company director and Executive Chairman of O’Kane Associates, a company that carries out reviews and advises governments and the private sector on innovation, research, education and development. She was Chair of the NSW Independent Planning Commission from 2018-2024; NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer from 2008-2018; and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide from 1996-2001.

Mary is currently Chair of the boards of the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO); Business Events Sydney; and Museums of History NSW. She is Chair of the advisory boards of the Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies at the University of Tasmania; the ARC Centre of Excellence in Antarctic Science; and Sydney Health Partners and is a member of the board of AEMO Services, and of the advisory board of the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

Mary carries out reviews in a wide range of fields. She was Chair of the Universities Accord Review (released early 2024), the most wide-ranging review of Australian higher education in the last 15 years. She co-led the NSW bushfire and flood inquiries. As Chief Scientist & Engineer she led reviews on coal seam gas, decline in koala populations; energy security; and tunnel air quality, among others. She has also carried out many reviews for the Commonwealth Government especially in environmental matters (including Antarctic science; climate services; and the Bureau of Meteorology) and for governments around the world.

PANEL BIOGRAPHIES

The Hon. Mick Veitch, Panel member

Mick is the former Shadow Minister for Regional NSW, Agriculture & Western NSW, and now serves as a consultant and executive mentor with extensive experience leading social and economic change in regional NSW and Australia. He has a systemic understanding of the issues impacting regional areas and has a close grass-roots connection to regional communities and businesses. He provides advisory and consulting services including strategy, political process, stakeholder and community engagement, government relations and leadership development.

Mick served as Parliamentary Secretary for Primary Industries and Deputy Government Whip. In 2011, he joined the NSW Opposition front bench, and as the only Labor MP living in Western Regional NSW, was tasked with transforming the reputation and influence of the Party across rural communities. He held several portfolios including Trade, Water, Forestry, Agriculture and Regional NSW. He was instrumental in the creation of the inaugural Biosecurity Commissioner and securing \$59million to support 60,000 Landcare Bushcare, Rivercare and Dunecare volunteers.

Mick served on and chaired many parliamentary inquiries across his 16 years in parliament and was instrumental in establishing and serving on the 2021-22 parliamentary inquiry into the long-term sustainability and future of the timber and forest products industry in NSW.

Mick holds a Master of Leadership from Deakin University, has held several Board roles and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (MAICD).