

The Mayor of Penrith City Council, Cr Ross Fowler OAM,
and

The Research Committee of the newDemocracy Foundation

INVITE YOU

to participate in an innovative, randomly-selected jury-style process

PENRITH COMMUNITY PANEL: THE CITY WE WANT

TOPIC:

The Community Panel is asked to advise Council on **What local services and infrastructure do we need in Penrith?**

Like every government Penrith City Council has more things to spend money on than we can afford. The Council's 2015/16 budget is \$237m and we have identified over \$298m of future infrastructure needs, over the medium to long term, that will require funding from other sources.

What should we do and to what level of quality, and how should we pay for it?

SELECTION:

You have been randomly selected to be involved as a community member of the City of Penrith. This invitation has been sent to 5,000 people just like you in the local community.

From acceptances to this invitation the Foundation will conduct a random selection (similar to a jury selection) in order to approximately match the population profile of the Penrith local government area. This ensures the group of 35 community members selected is representative of the wider community.

AUTHORITY:

The Mayor and Councillors will meet with the Community Panel in person to discuss which of your recommendations will be implemented.

It is the intention of Council to implement as many of the Panel's recommendations as possible – however the final decision rests with the elected Mayor and Councillors.

HOW:

You will be provided with open access to Council information and given time to reach informed, consensus style recommendations in a process designed by newDemocracy to allow the group to make its own decisions.

A one off payment of \$500 will be made to recognise your time and commitment to this process.

Meals will be provided at the Community Panel's meetings.

RSVP:

Register before **Monday 10th August 2015** by clicking on the RSVP button at newdemocracy.com.au/rsvp

Further information:

Contact newDemocracy on 0467 066 185 or PenrithProjectHelp@newdemocracy.com.au

Community members whose primary employment is a party political role are ineligible for selection.

WHEN AND WHERE:

The Community Panel will meet in person on six occasions

Day 1 - Saturday 5th September, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Penrith City Council Civic Centre,
Passadena Room (Level 1), 601 High Street, Penrith

Day 2 - Saturday 26th September, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Penrith City Council Civic Centre,
Passadena Room (Level 1), 601 High Street, Penrith

Day 3 - Saturday 17th October, 9:30am – 4:30pm

St Marys Community Centre, Cnr Great Western Hwy and Mamre Road,
St Marys (access via 29 Swanston Street, St Marys)

Day 4 - Saturday 7th November, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Cranebrook Neighbourhood Centre, 17-35 Hoskings Street, Cranebrook

Day 5 - Saturday 21st November, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Penrith City Council Civic Centre,
Passadena Room (Level 1), 601 High Street, Penrith

Day 6 - Saturday 5th December, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Penrith City Council Civic Centre,
Passadena Room (Level 1), 601 High Street, Penrith

A session with the Mayor and Councillors will be held early in 2016 to discuss your recommendations and Council's response.

WHY DO THIS?

You should do this because it is the single best opportunity to inform the council about spending priorities which affect everyone. Governments get given wishlists of things people want which everyone will pay for through taxes. This is your chance to explore that and weigh the tradeoffs involved.

There is no draft decision that the Council has prepared and is engaging with the community just to tick that box. The result is uncontrolled - what you recommend will be public and taken to the Council unedited for their consideration.

Many decisions taken by the Mayor or Council are open to criticism by someone. The only 'good' policy decision is one that the community agrees is fair. That's subjective, and the people best placed to decide it are people from the general community.

A process like this won't turn the members of the Community Panel into subject matter experts, in much the same way that criminal trials do not turn jurors into forensic experts, but after over 48 hours of learning and discussing you'll be well placed to make an informed decision and give the Council an unambiguous recommendation.

Council, interest groups, community groups and community members will be invited to make their case, but making recommendations is in the hands of you the randomly selected Community Panel - not organisers, facilitators or the Council.