

Botany Mercury Independent Review Panel

List of Panel Members:

Chair - Mark Gifford, Chief Environmental Regulator, EPA

EPA representative - Greg Sheehy, Manager Sydney Industry

Science representative - Dr Klaus Koop, Director Environment Protection Science, Office of Environment and Heritage

Health representative - Professor Mark Ferson, Public Health Unit Director, South Eastern Sydney

Botany Bay Council representative – Catherine McMahon, Principal Planner

Randwick City Council representative - Dr Talebul Islam, Coordinator Waste Management

Independent health expert - Professor Alison Jones, Dean Graduate School of Medicine, University of Wollongong

Independent science expert - Emeritus Professor Chris Fell

Community representative - Lynda Newnam

Community representative - Ross Salter

Panel Member Biographies

Chair

Mark Gifford – EPA Chief Environmental Regulator

Mark Gifford has more than 30 years' experience in management and leadership positions in government. For most of that time he has been working in the areas of regulation and environment protection and conservation. As the NSW EPA's Chief Environmental Regulator, he is responsible for leading the day-to-day regulatory operations of the EPA and ensuring efficient delivery of diverse and complex environmental services. Mr Gifford heads the EPA's Regulatory Services Division that delivers operational environment protection activities, develops operational policy and reform, conducts compliance assurance and environmental audit programs, and manages regulatory administration and systems.

Environment Protection Authority

Greg Sheehy – Manager, Sydney Industry

As Manager, Sydney Industry for the Environment Protection Authority, Greg Sheehy manages a team that regulates a range of industrial, local government and pesticide-related activities across the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

Department of Health

Professor Mark Ferson – Public Health Unit Director, South Eastern Sydney

Professor Mark Ferson, the NSW Health nominee on the panel, is a public health physician and paediatrician as well as Director of the Public Health Unit for South Eastern Sydney Local Health District. Professor Ferson has qualifications in medicine, public health and epidemiology and 25 years' experience as a public health practitioner.

Office of Environment and Heritage (Science Division)

Dr Klaus Koop – Director, Environment Protection Science

Dr Klaus Koop has qualifications in chemistry, physics, botany and zoology and an academic career at universities in South Africa, Sweden and Australia. Dr Koop currently works mainly on issues of marine ecology and the effects of chemicals on marine ecosystems. Since joining the NSW Public Service in 1994, Dr Koop has held a number of senior directorships in the science area of his agency. He is also currently responsible for the analytical and forensic laboratories, which undertake assessments of the toxic effects of chemicals on the environment, analyses of soil constituents and assessments of the risks to human health and the environment from environmental contamination.

City of Botany Bay Council

Catherine McMahon – Principal Planner

Catherine McMahon has 30 years' experience in planning and management positions in Local Government, with 20 of those years spent at the City of Botany Bay Council in both development assessment and strategic planning roles. Catherine was the principal officer involved in the preparation of the Council's new Botany Bay Local Environmental Plan 2013 and the Botany Bay Development Control Plan 2013. She is currently heading the Council's Strategic Team and is involved in rezoning applications, amendments to the Council's DCP and in general strategic policy work for the Council.

Randwick City Council

Dr Talebul Islam – Coordinator, Waste Management

Dr Talebul Islam is an Agricultural Engineer with a PhD and MBA and 13 years of research experience, including irrigation and water management and post-doctoral research in the areas of agro-environment and water pollution in Japan and New Zealand. He has also published numerous papers in these areas. For the last 17 years, Dr Islam has worked in local government waste strategy, policy, contracts, landfill and contaminated site management for Hutt City Council in New Zealand and Randwick City Council. He has investigated and remediated landfills and is responsible for developing and implementing waste management strategy and programs.

Independent health expert

Professor Alison Jones – Dean, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Wollongong

Professor Alison Jones has an international reputation in clinical toxicology, including chemical toxicology. She is an expert toxicology adviser to a number of government agencies, including NSW Health. Professor Jones is also called upon to provide expert evidence in legal cases of clinical complexity involving toxins. She is Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine at Wollongong and Deputy Director of the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute. Professor Jones also plays a clinical role as staff specialist in general medicine at Maitland Hospital and clinical toxicology at Blacktown Hospital with an active teaching and research contribution. Professor Jones has maintained a strong grant and publication track record in toxicology and public health research.

Independent science expert

Emeritus Professor Chris Fell is a chartered chemical engineer and formerly Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the UNSW responsible for its research and international activities. He joined the university after a period in industry having an eminent research career working on water treatment, separation processes and membrane technology becoming Head of the School of Chemical Engineering and Industrial Chemistry and Dean of Faculty of Engineering. Chris' post-university life has included Presidency of FASTS (now Science Technology Australia) representing Australia's 50 professional science organisations, numerous consultancies and chairmanship of the board of the Australian National Fabrication Facility Pty Ltd, a national network of state-of-art research infrastructure. In recent years he has chaired over 30 panels for the NSW Department of Education and Training, deciding on the fitness for registration of higher education institutions and has also provided ongoing advice on science and engineering matters to the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. Chris was heavily involved in establishing Australia's first environmental engineering undergraduate program.

Community member

Lynda Newnam

Community member

Ross Salter