

Council has appointed a Rural Land Strategy Reference Panel, which comprises 10 people with a diverse range of experience but who share a common interest in the future of rural land in the Tweed.

While the Reference Panel will meet infrequently, its input to the technical review of draft documents will be critical in ensuring the Rural Land Strategy is as up-to-date and as relevant as possible.

The members of the Reference Panel are:

Name	Address	Background
Max Boyd	Dulguigan	Grazier, former Councillor/Administrator Tweed Shire
Colin Brooks	Kynnumboon	Landowner and President of Combined Rural Industries Group
Michael Davis	Crabbes Creek	Landowner and qualified urban planner
Anne Duke	Tyalgum	Consultant, Board Chair of Destination Tweed
Rhonda James	Cudgera Creek	Landowner, environmental and business management
Christopher Lyndon	Cabarita Beach	Retired solicitor
Ian McBean	Cumbalum	General Manager Corporate Services NSW Sugar Milling Co-op Ltd
Robert Quirk	Duranbah	Expertise and representative in sustainability and cane farming
Tom Senti	Murwillumbah	Formerly involved with the Tweed Economic Development Corporation Ltd
Peter Smith	Kunghur	Landowner and local butcher

The panel will be chaired by Council Senior Strategic Planner Stuart Russell.

The Reference Panel was formed to review draft documents to ensure they fully considered matters and are relevant to rural lands in the Tweed.

Expressions of Interest were called for qualified professionals, experienced local rural landowners and other persons with a direct and recognised interest in the future of rural land in the Tweed. The panel will provide a technical review of draft documents before they go on public exhibition, and act as a technical resource to inform and guide best land use practices and outcomes of the RLS.

View the [Reference Panel Charter \(65kb\)](#).

The panel will convene for the remainder of the year as the final draft RLS is prepared.

It comprises persons who:

Are recognised for their knowledge and experience in a particular rural or related industry

Are able to provide a positive and expert input

Represent relevant Government agencies or educational institutions

Represent the diverse range of rural land uses and associated industries, including:

- dairy farming
- beef cattle
- vegetable farming
- sugar cane farming
- intensive agriculture
- horticulture
- rural lifestyle living
- rural business (non agricultural/horticultural land use)
- government agencies
- tourism and marketing organisations
- educational institutions
- landcare networks
- organic farming
- other legitimate rural land or associated industries or land uses

Selected applicants were chosen for their:

1. Background, experience and expertise
2. Contribution they can make to the panel's outputs
3. Acceptance of the role of the panel as a technical review panel only
4. Ability to critically analyse and assess draft documents
5. Experience and expertise in one or more of the rural land uses and associated industries listed above