

Approved 17 March 2009

Strategy & Finance Committee Terms of Reference

Background

1. The Strategy & Finance Committee (the committee) is a sub-committee of the New Zealand Registered Architects Board (NZRAB), established under sections 55, 56 and 57 of the Registered Architects Act 2005.

Underlying Philosophy

2. The NZRAB aspires to achieve best practice in:
 - governance
 - planning and budgeting
 - reporting, both from management to the Board and from the Board to the Minister.
3. To that end, the NZRAB is committed to:
 - all NZRAB officeholders and staff being informed as to their respective roles and the expectations that the NZRAB has of them
 - all NZRAB activities being:
 - in accordance with the requirements of the Registered Architects Act 2005 and the Registered architects Rules 2006
 - consistent with the NZRAB Strategic Plan
 - authorised via the NZRAB's planning and budgeting procedures, and delegations
 - the Board and the Minister having accurate and timely information, audited where required, by which they can assess the NZRAB's performance financially and in policy terms.

Objectives

4. The committee's tasks are:
 - to assist the Chief Executive in developing the annual Strategic Plan and budget
 - to monitor and advise the Board in terms of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and budget
 - to advise the Board as to whether the NZRAB complies with relevant statutory and regulatory requirements

- to advise the Board as to whether the financial and other risks that the NZRAB faces have been identified and appropriate steps taken to mitigate or manage them, and, more broadly, to safeguard the NZRAB's resources and reputation
- to advise the Board as to whether the NZRAB has the appropriate procedures, internal controls and delegations in place having regard to risks
- to advise the Board as to whether reporting to the Committee, the Board and the Minister truly reflects the NZRAB's activities, financial and otherwise, and, more broadly, that the accounting function is properly resourced and managed
- to advise the Board as to whether the annual report and audit requirements of the Act (S58 to 63) have been met
- to provide a confidential communications channel by which any staff member or other person can speak up in regard to any improper decisions or activity within the NZRAB
- to foster sound financial practices, and an ethical and professional culture throughout the NZRAB.

Membership

5. Committee members shall be appointed by the NZRAB Chair. As per the Act S 56, at least two committee members must be Board members. Other members may be appointed to provide an appropriate mix of skills and experience. The CEO or management shall not be members. A quorum shall be fifty per cent of the committee members.

Audit

6. Section 61 of the Act requires that the Auditor-General shall be the Board's auditor. During the preparation of the *Annual Report* the Chair of the committee shall be kept apprised of significant correspondence between the auditor and management.
7. The chair of the committee shall provide opportunities for the external auditor to meet with the committee without the CEO or other management present if required or requested.

Procedures

Attendance

8. NZRAB Board members who are not members of the committee shall have the right to attend committee meetings.
9. The CEO and members of management shall be invited to attend meetings of the committee where appropriate.

Meetings

10. The committee shall meet annually to review and approve for recommendation to the Board the draft Strategic Plan and Budget and shall meet at other times as required.
11. The Committee may "meet" via email where appropriate under the same rules as apply for electronic board meetings.
12. Meetings may be called by the Chair of the committee, or at the request of the Board Chair.

Minutes

13. Agendas and supporting documentation are to be circulated prior to meetings
14. Draft minutes are to be distributed to committee members for final approval and to other Board members for their information.
15. Minutes shall be accompanied by an 'action plan' based on the committee's decisions.

Review of Delegations

16. A schedule of NZRAB delegations shall be reviewed annually, or whenever there are major changes in the management structure or organisation.

Publication of Terms of Reference

17. The committee's terms of reference shall be available on the NZRAB web site.