Terms of Engagement for Consultants
(Edition 5a; January 2012) ©

CONTENTS

1. INTERPRETATIONS
2. GOVERNING LAW
3. STATUTORY & OTHER REQUIREMENTS
4. PRINCIPAL’S OBLIGATIONS
5. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRINCIPAL
6. DIRECTIONS AND VARIATIONS
7. DISCREPANCIES IN INFORMATION
8. SUBCONTRACTING OR ASSIGNMENT
9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
10. STANDARD OF CARE
11. PERSONNEL
12. REPORTS & INFORMATION
13. DELAYS & EXTENSIONS OF TIME
14. PAYMENT
15. TERMINATION
16. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY
17. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
18. INDEMNITY
19. INSURANCE
20. SAFETY MANAGEMENT
21. DISPUTES
22. WAIVER
23. SURVIVING OBLIGATIONS

The Contracts Panel of the Hunter Region Organisation of Councils
in association with Gosford City Council
1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 In these Terms of Engagement for Consultants (Conditions) unless the context otherwise requires:

"Agreement" (or "Contract") means the written agreement between the Principal and the Service Provider, dated, together with the documents referred there to in;

"Contract Sum" (or "Service Fee") means the lump sum in Australian Dollars set out or calculated in accordance with service rates or expenses stated in the Contract Schedule - 'Schedule – Tender Price';

"Contract Term" means the initial term of the Agreement and any period for which the operation of the Agreement is extended;

"Day" means business day, that is not Saturday or Sunday or public holiday for the Principal's employees;

"Information" means all information, including documents or data however held, stored or recorded, drawings, plans, specifications, calculations, reports, models, concepts, source codes, files, computerised data, or photographic recordings, audio or audio visual recordings;

"Intellectual Property" includes all proprietary rights in relation to Information including copyright and neighbouring rights and all proprietary rights in relation to inventions (including patents) registered and unregistered trademarks (including service marks), registered designs, confidential information (including trade secrets and know how) and circuit layouts, and all other rights resulting from intellectual activity in the industrial, scientific, literary or artistic fields as defined in Article 2 of the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organisation of July 1967.

"Moral Rights" means rights of integrity of authorship, rights of attribution of authorship, rights not to have authorship falsely attributed, and rights of a similar nature conferred by statute that exist, or may come to exist, in the Agreement.

"Principal" means the Council;

"Principal's Representative" means the person appointed by the Principal for the management of the Agreement;

"Service" means the obligations to be performed by the Service Provider in accordance with the Agreement and includes, but is not limited to, the provision of professional services, the supply of any materials related to these services and all other things required to be carried out by the Agreement;

"Service Provider" (or "Consultant") means the person bound to carry out and complete the Service and includes his executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns of that party;

1.2 In these Conditions and any Agreement, unless a contrary intention appears, a reference to:

(a) a person includes an individual, a corporation, partnership, joint venture, governments, local government authorities and agencies;

(b) a Special Condition of Contract, Schedule or Annexure is a reference to a Special Condition of Contract, Schedule or Annexure to the Contract and each of them forms part of the Agreement;

(c) a party to the Agreement includes the executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns of that party.

1.3 In these Conditions clause headings are for convenience of reference only and have no effect in limiting or extending the language of the provisions to which they refer.

1.4 If a party to the Agreement consists of more than one person, those persons shall be bound jointly and severally.

1.5 Except as provided at law or elsewhere in the Agreement, none of the terms of the Agreement shall be varied, waived, discharged or released except with the prior written consent of the Principal.

2. GOVERNING LAW

The Agreement shall be subject to and construed in accordance with the laws, Acts and other prescribed rules applying in the State of New South Wales.

3. STATUTORY & OTHER REQUIREMENTS

The Service Provider must comply with the requirements of all legislation of the Parliament of New South Wales and the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, all relevant Australian Standards and with the lawful requirements of public and other authorities in any way affecting or applicable to the performance of its obligations.

4. PRINCIPAL'S OBLIGATIONS

The Principal, through the Principal's Representative must give to the Service Provider timely directions, instructions, decisions and information including any approvals the Principal is required to obtain. These directions, instructions, decision and information must be confirmed in writing.

5. RELATIONSHIP WITH PRINCIPAL

The Service Provider must not act outside the scope of the authority conferred on it by this Agreement.

The Service Provider must take upon itself the whole risk of performing its obligations under the Agreement. The Service Provider must also comply with every and all reasonable and lawful direction of the Principal's Representative.

The Service Provider must use all reasonable efforts to inform itself of the requirements of the Principal and must regularly liaise with the Principal's Representative on progress and outcomes during the term of the Agreement.

The Service Provider, shall have the status of an independent contractor and is not an employee of the Principal. The Service Provider shall not be entitled to any benefits that might apply to an employee of the Principal and shall be responsible for any legal entitlements relating to worker's compensation, payroll tax and superannuation.

6. DIRECTIONS & VARIATIONS

Unless otherwise provided, any notice to be given may be given by hand, facsimile, e-mail, or by pre-paid post addressed to the Principal or Service Provider at its stated address.

The Principal may, by written notice, direct the Service Provider to vary the Service. Any variation in the fee payable to the Service Provider as a consequence of a direction issued under this Clause shall be agreed between the Principal and the Service Provider.
Unless otherwise agreed, the value of a variation shall be determined using the service rates and expenses which form the basis of the Contract Sum. If the Contract Sum is a lump sum, then reasonable rates and expenses shall apply.

7. DISCREPANCIES IN INFORMATION
The Service Provider must as soon as practicable give written notice to the Principal’s Representative if information and particulars made available to it are inadequate or contain errors.

8. SUB-CONTRACTING OR ASSIGNMENT
The Service Provider must not without the prior written approval of the Principal’s Representative subcontract or assign any performance of rights or obligations under the Agreement. In giving approval the Principal may impose such terms and conditions as deemed necessary.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST
The Service Provider warrants that it does not hold any office or possess any property, is not engaged in any business, trade or calling and does not have any obligations by virtue of any contract or any family relationship whereby, directly or indirectly, duties or interests are or might be created in conflict with or might appear to be created in conflict with its duties and interests under this Agreement.

The Service Provider must inform the Principal of any matter which may give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest at any time during the term or the duration and any extension beyond the term of the Agreement and the Principal may regard a conflict of interest as a breach of a fundamental term of the Agreement and may elect to terminate the Agreement.

10. STANDARD OF CARE
The Service Provider must perform all its obligations required by the Agreement in a diligent manner and to the standard of skill and care expected of a competent Service Provider.

The Principal reserves the right to qualify or not accept any conclusions or recommendations made by the Service Provider under this Agreement.

11. PERSONNEL
The Service Provider warrants that all personnel engaged by it are appropriately qualified, competent and experienced in the provision of the type of activities connected with the Agreement.

The Service Provider shall reasonably ensure that the personnel nominated in ‘Schedule – Management & Staff Resources’ are engaged throughout the entire period of the Agreement.

The Principal may direct the Service Provider to immediately and permanently remove from any activity connected with the Agreement any person who in the opinion of the Principal’s Representative is incompetent, negligent or otherwise unacceptable.

12. REPORTS & INFORMATION
The Service Provider must provide the Principal’s Representative with written reports or information on any aspects of the Agreement when requested.

Any Information that is produced or reproduced in an electronic format, the consultant must deliver it to the Principal in a format approved by the Principal.

13. DELAYS & EXTENSION OF TIME
The Service Provider shall proceed with the work under the Agreement with due expedition and without delay. When it becomes evident to a party that anything, including an act or omission by another party, may delay carrying out the Service, that party shall notify the other party as soon as practical in writing with details of the possible delay and the cause.

If the Service Provider is or will be delayed in carrying out the Service by a cause beyond the reasonable control of the Service Provider, the time for carrying out the Service shall be extended by the extent of the delay.

The Principal may, at any time, by written notice to the Service Provider extend the time for carrying out the Service for any reason.

Nothing in this Clause shall:
(a) oblige the Principal to pay extra costs for delay or disruption which have already been included in the value of a variation or any other payment under the Agreement; or
(b) limit the Principal’s liability for damages for breach of the Agreement.

14. PAYMENT

14.1 Costs, Fees and Expenses
The Contract Sum (or Service Fee) is inclusive of all expenses of the Service Provider, including fees, disbursements, provisional sums and taxes, all of which shall be paid by the Service Provider. Unless otherwise provided, no payment will be made for travelling in relation to the Service.

Fees and expenses shall not be subject to price variation (rise & fall) unless otherwise provided in the Agreement.

14.2 Claims for Payment
The Service Provider must provide the Principal’s Representative with a payment claim in the form of a valid tax invoice or adjustment note, in respect of the Service performed and accepted.

If the Service Provider fails to provide an ABN on any tax invoice or adjustment note, the Principal may be required to withhold from the payment an amount of tax calculated in accordance with the relevant taxation act or regulation.

14.3 Time for Payment
The Principal shall pay to the Service Provider the invoiced amount within 25 Days of the receipt of a payment claim if the claim is certified by the Principal’s Representative as being correct.

14.4 Disputed Claims
If the Principal’s Representative disputes the payment claim amount, the amount the Principal’s Representative believes is due for payment shall be paid by the Principal and the liability for payment of the balance of the amount shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.

14.5 Payments on Account
Any payment is not evidence of any value or an admission of liability or that the Service is satisfactory but is a payment on account only; nor shall it amount to a waiver of any right or action, which the Principal may have at any time against the Service Provider.
15. TERMINATION

15.1 Termination by the Principal – Default of the Service Provider
Without prejudice to any other rights, the Principal reserves the right to terminate the Agreement
(a) if the Service Provider commits a substantial breach of the Agreement, including:
   (i) failure to carry out the Agreement at all, or within the time specified, or at a reasonable quality.
   (ii) failure to carry out a reasonable direction of the Principal’s Representative
(b) if the Service Provider becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangements with its creditors or being a Company which goes into liquidation or has a receiver or administrator appointed.

The Principal’s Representative must in writing specify the breach and ask the Service Provider to give reasons why the Principal should not take further action. The Service Provider must respond within 5 Days of receiving the notice and if it fails to respond, the Principal’s Representative may immediately refuse acceptance of the Service, decline to accept any further Service, take over the uncompleted Service, suspend payments due and have the Agreement completed by others; or immediately terminate the Agreement in writing by itself or through the Principal’s Representative.

Termination by the Principal will not release the Service Provider from liability in respect of any obligation relating to this Agreement. Any shortfall in costs whatsoever shall be a debt due from the Service Provider to the Principal.

15.2 Termination – Frustration, Convenience
The Agreement may be terminated at any time by mutual agreement or if, under the law governing the Agreement, the Agreement is frustrated. Furthermore the Principal may, for its convenience and without the need to give reasons, also terminate the Agreement at any time. In which ever case, the Principal must give a written notice to the Service Provider. The Service Provider must, on receipt of such notice, immediately cease all activities under the Agreement and take all appropriate action to mitigate any loss or prevent further costs being incurred. The Principal must pay the reasonable fees and expenses of the Service Provider for the extent of the Service performed based upon agreed service rates to the earlier of:
(a) the date of cessation; or
(b) the date that the Service Provider was required to cease work.

In no circumstances must the Contract Sum payable for the terminated Service include any loss of prospective profits or exceed the Contract Sum that would have been paid had the Agreement been completed.

15.3 Termination by the Service Provider
If the Principal fails to:
(a) pay the Service Provider in accordance with this Agreement; or
(b) issue instructions required.
The Service Provider must in writing specify the breach and ask the Principal to give reasons why the Service Provider should not take further action. The Principal must respond within 5 Days of receiving the notice and if it fails to respond the Service Provider may terminate the Agreement.

16. CONFIDENTIALITY & PRIVACY
The Service Provider its employees, agents, directors, partners, shareholders or consultants must not disclose to any third party, any Information including by way of media interviews or releases relating to the Principal or the affairs of others which may have come to its or their knowledge as a result of the Agreement.

The Service Provider shall not issue any Information, publication, document or article for publication concerning any aspect of the Agreement in any media without prior approval of the Principal, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Service Provider shall refer to the Principal any enquiries concerning any aspect of the Agreement from any media.

The Service Provider agrees to comply with the provisions of the Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act 1998, as if it were included in the definition of ‘public sector agency’ under that Act, the Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government and the Principal’s Privacy Management Plan.

17. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
The Service Provider warrants that it is entitled to use any Intellectual Property which may be used by it in connection with this Agreement. The Service Provider indemnifies and must at all times keep the Principal indemnified against any action, claim, suit or demand, including a claim, suit or demand for or liability to pay compensation or damages and costs or expenses arising out of or in respect of any breach of any third party’s Intellectual Property rights relating to the scope of activities under the Agreement.

The Service Provider grants to the Principal a non-exclusive licence to use the Service Provider’s Intellectual Property rights in relation to the Service and must execute an agreement giving effect to this sub-clause if requested by the Principal’s Representative.

The ownership of all Intellectual Property in all Information created under this Agreement shall vest with the Principal. The Service Provider must assign ownership of all Intellectual Property rights to the Principal and will ensure that its employees, subcontractors and agents execute all documents necessary to assign such rights to the Principal.

To the extent permitted by law, if the Service Provider is the owner of the Moral Rights in the Intellectual Property referred to in this clause, the Service Provider unconditionally and irrevocably:
(a) consents to any act or omission that would otherwise infringe its Moral Rights in that Intellectual Property, including any act or omission that may have taken place before this consent,
(b) waives all of its Moral Rights in that Intellectual Property, for the benefit of the Principal, its licensees, successors in title and anyone authorised by any of them to do acts permitted under the terms of this Agreement.

18. INDEMNITY
The Service Provider indemnifies the Principal, its servants and agents from and against all actions, claims, losses, damages, penalties, demands or costs whatsoever which may be brought or made against it or them by any person in respect of or by reason of or arising out of the performance by the Service Provider of the Agreement including:
(a) any negligence, wrongful act or omission of the Service Provider or of any other persons for whose acts or
omissions the Service Provider is liable; and/or
(b) death or injury to any person or loss of or damage to any property; and/or
(c) any breach of a third party’s Intellectual Property Rights; and/or
(d) any breach of the Agreement by the Service Provider; and/or
(e) any action, claim or demand from liability brought against the Principal in connection with a breach by the Service Provider of the WH&S Act and associated legislation (so far as it is permissible at law).

The Service Provider’s liability to indemnify the Principal is reduced proportionally to the extent that an action or omission of the Principal or employees or agents (other than the Service Provider) of the Principal may have contributed to the injury, damage or loss.

19. INSURANCE

Before commencing the Agreement, the Service Provider must effect and maintain the insurance policies nominated in the "Schedule – Insurances". The Service Provider must ensure that all sub-consultants are similarly insured. The Principal’s Representative may at any time require proof that these insurances have been effected and are being maintained.

The Service Provider must keep current during the contract term, policies of insurances stated in the Schedule – Insurances:

(a) public liability - in respect of any one occurrence, $10,000,000 but unlimited in the aggregate;
(b) Accident insurance - Complying with the Workers Compensation Act 1987. Alternatively, where the Service Provider has no employees, insurance for personal accident and illness providing:
   (i) Weekly benefits of at least 75% of weekly income;
   (ii) Death benefits of at least $250,000;
   (iii) Minimum benefit period of 24 months.
(c) professional indemnity insurance - a limit for any one claim of $10,000,000 unless otherwise stated by the Principal.

20. SAFETY MANAGEMENT

The Service Provider must comply with the current WH&S legislation and the Principal’s Site safety requirements.

If the Service involves any Site work or the use of major equipment, then the Principal’s Safety Management requirements shall apply.

21. DISPUTES

In the event of any dispute arising between the Principal and the Service Provider that can not be resolved by negotiation, the Principal shall nominate a formal dispute resolution process to be followed by the parties.

The Service Provider must continue to perform its obligations under the Agreement notwithstanding the existence of a dispute.

22. WAIVER

A waiver by either party in respect of any breach of a condition or provision of this Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver in respect of any continuing or subsequent breach of that provision, or breach of any other provision.

The failure of either party to enforce at any time any of the provisions of this Agreement shall in no way be interpreted as a waiver of such provision.

23. SURVIVING OBLIGATIONS

The obligations of the Service Provider under the Clauses on Confidentiality & Privacy, Intellectual Property, Indemnity and Insurance shall be of a continuing nature and shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.