



Planning Reform



Proposed Changes to Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015

3. Improved Consultation Practices

The State Government recognises the need for greater consistency in community consultation on local development matters and has introduced a framework for a consistent approach on complex development proposals. New local planning regulations are one of three key pillars of planning reform to support Western Australia's economic recovery. These regulatory changes will remove unnecessary red tape for small business, make planning easier to navigate and support communities to have their say regarding future development in the local area.

Key Reforms

Amendments to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015* will improve community engagement and consultation processes, making our planning system easier to navigate and establishing clear and transparent consultation practices. The proposed regulatory reforms will support new planning laws recently passed by Parliament and complement changes to State planning policies, including the revised residential design codes policy.

Public Consultation

Proposed changes to the local planning regulations will improve community consultation in planning and development matters and ensure that information about development proposals is presented in a clear, contemporary and consistent manner. These changes include:

- Introduce new consultation requirements for complex development applications, including those applications that are to be determined by a Development Assessment Panel.
 - Applications will be advertised for public comment for 28 days. Any longer period must be agreed by the applicant and the local government.
 - Advertising must include:
 - signage in a manner and form approved by the WAPC; and
 - written notification to owners and occupiers within a minimum 200m radius of the site.
- Replace all requirements for presentation of hard copies of applications and associated planning documents in a physical location with a requirement for online publication. Community members will be able to access documents and plans from the comfort of their home, in their own time.
- Advertising requirements prescribed in the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Scheme) Regulations 2015* will acknowledge the preference for online and digital engagement, with more traditional methods to be used at the discretion of the local government.
- Increase community consultation for all structure plans to 42 days, with the option for further time increases at the discretion of the Western Australian Planning Commission.
- Set limits for additional information requests for development applications that do not require public consultation or referral to ensure that extensive time delays are not added to the assessment process, and providing greater certainty for both the community and the applicant, removing unnecessary angst, avoiding escalating costs and supporting for small businesses.
- Introduce more detail and clarity around consultation requirements into the deemed provisions of local planning regulations, which will reduce the administrative burden of continual policy reviews for local governments, saving time and money and providing for a greater focus on strategic planning.