



# Action Plan for Planning Reform

The Western Australian Government is making historic changes to our State planning system.

These changes affect everyone and will shape the way we live and work.

We've already done a lot to create great places for people, simplify the system and make it more efficient.

And, there are more reforms on the way and room for bright ideas and big fixes.

**Tell us now - what change would you make?**

Planning, people, places  
**have your say!**



# Action Plan for Planning Reform - Have Your Say!



## FOREWORD

We are reforming our planning system to make it more transparent, consistent and to reduce unnecessary red tape.

We have implemented changes to help Western Australian homeowners invest in their future.

We are creating great places for people; making planning easier to understand and navigate; and ensuring planning systems are consistent and efficient.

We're not finished just yet – there is more reform to come.

But first, I want to know what you think.

In this brochure, you will find a series of proposals that I think can give Western Australia a modern, robust planning system.

A system that is consistent across the State, yet still maintains the flexibility required to determine complex or regional matters; a system that embraces the character of your community and helps you to have your say in its future development.

The rollout of METRONET, city-changing and major infrastructure projects and continued growth across our development sector present great opportunities for our future.

Good planning creates great places where everyone belongs.

So far, major changes have been made to the planning system – and now we're working to progress a second phase of proposals that will continue and expand our reform.

But, does this go far enough?

What more could we, and should we, do to improve Western Australia's planning system?

Tell us what you think is missing.

It is important that you take the time to have your say.

**Hon Rita Saffioti MLA**  
**MINISTER FOR PLANNING**

Learn more about our Action Plan for Planning Reform at [www.dplh.wa.gov.au/planning-reform](http://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/planning-reform).



## Planning creates great places for people

### Potential Reforms:

- Government led structure planning for areas of key strategic importance with fragmented land ownership. Consider and test legislative or regulatory amendments required.
- Introduce statutory and regulatory amendments to reduce duplication in decision-making and better balance land use, transport and road planning outcomes for key urban roads and highways. Finalise new Movement and Place Framework.
- Review and reform developer contribution plans, specifically to streamline the assessment and approvals process.
- Reduce duplication and conflict in decision making across State and local Government through regulatory and statutory amendments.
- Finalise new State Planning Policy to guide medium density development.
- Develop and consult on a new Neighbourhood Design Policy to modernise and replace existing policy guidance.



## Planning is easier to understand and navigate

### Potential Reforms:

- Elevate status of local planning strategies to ensure all local governments have a clear development vision for their communities.
- Introduce a new simplified and efficient system for review of State planning policies, including new Regulations.
- Launch online planning portal to track applications and facilitate improved community engagement.
- Further improve consistency of consultation on development applications.
- Introduce new requirements for plain English, one-page community focused summaries of proposed local and regional planning scheme amendments.
- Clarify use and function of local planning policies and identify an appropriate lifespan for their operation.
- Develop standard manner and form for local planning policies to ensure consistency across all local governments.
- Finalise new Planning Engagement Toolkit.
- Develop clear and consistent guidance for structure plans, planning schemes and scheme amendments.



## Planning systems are consistent and efficient

### Potential Reforms:

- Scope and implement a new, streamlined pre-lodgement model for development applications, and progressively implement a similar model for other planning processes.
- Review land use classifications across local planning schemes.
  - Rationalising the number of land use classifications.
  - Establishing a more consistent approach to permissible uses.
  - Developing a suite of consistent car parking requirements.
- Working with the local government sector, define timeframes and establish consistent approaches for crossovers (connecting driveway to street).
- Investigate a central referral process across State Government agencies to improve consistency in consideration of related development matters such as heritage, environment and traffic.
- Reduce red tape in assessment and decision-making for region schemes, structure plans and amendments.
- Review advertising timeframes for schemes and local planning strategies.
- Continue collaboration with local government and key stakeholders to identify data and collection method for mandatory reporting of planning activity.

### Development Assessment Panel (DAP):

- Further reduce the number of panels to three (3).
- Appoint permanent panel members.
- Create new Special Matters DAP to deal with development proposals of State significance.
- Improve public access to clear explanatory materials and greater transparency of DAP decisions.

### Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC):

- Consider WAPC composition to reframe it as a more flexible and independent board.
- Clarify WAPC functions and powers of the WAPC to ensure focus remains on strategic planning, oversight of the planning system and policy framework, and it will also inform emerging trends and challenges.

## Round 2 Legislative Changes

Your feedback will help inform the drafting of a second round of legislative reforms to the *Planning and Development Act 2005* to be considered by Parliament next year. It will also inform changes to the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* to support the three overarching goals and the 19 initiatives of the Action Plan for Planning Reform.



# Planning, people, places **speak up!**

Whether you're renovating or building a new house, taking on a development of any size, or thinking about the shape of your community, town or city – we've been working to make life easier with changes to the planning system.

## **We're talking about:**

- Creating great places for people – new guidelines for precinct design and medium density for example.
- Cutting red tape – quicker, faster approvals for small business in commercial and mixed-use centres, better rules for car parks, and better development approval processes.

- Making the system easier to understand and navigate – updating our planning and development laws, improving industry and community engagement and making clearer information more easily available.

## **What do you think should be next on the reform agenda?**

Right around Western Australia, we will be asking:

- If you had to prioritise one single planning reform measure, what would it be?

- What's the biggest issue hindering the planning and development of your community?
- If you could change one thing in our planning system, what would you change and why?
- What could be done better to shape the development of communities we live in, now and in the future?

**Head to the DPLH  
Consultation Hub now  
and have your say.**

[www.dplh.wa.gov.au/planning-reform](http://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/planning-reform)

