



May 2021

Action Plan for Planning Reform

The progress so far

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

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

New legislation, policies and regulations have cut red tape, improved transparency and addressed those issues you asked us to fix.

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

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

This is an update on the work we have done so far.





Planning creates great places for people

Collaborative planning delivers district-level priorities

Pilot a joint District Planning Strategy in a suitable area.

Progress:

- ✓ One metropolitan and one regional pilot project completed.

Urban corridors are realised with integrated planning

Improve coordination between planning and road use and access to realise the potential of priority arterial roads and highways.

Progress:

- ✓ New Movement and Place Framework being prepared.
- ✓ Director, Road Access and Planning appointed within Main Roads WA.

Land use and infrastructure planning is coordinated

Improved alignment of funding for water, power and sewerage works to support urban renewal projects.

Progress:

- ✓ Expanded the scope of developer contributions to include community infrastructure.
- ✓ Revised State planning policy released April 2021. Sets fair, consistent system for developer contributions to fund new roads, paths and cycleways; water supply, sewerage and drainage connections; parks, open spaces, and community facilities.

Good design is required and design excellence encouraged

Progress next stages of Design WA.

Progress:

- ✓ New State planning policy to guide development around precincts including METRONET stations enacted February 2021.
- ✓ New policy drafted to guide medium density development. Results from consultation currently under review. Final policy due early 2022.



Planning is easier to understand and navigate

Planning is strategically led

Elevate the importance of strategic planning in communities and make the State planning policy framework easier to understand.

Progress:

- ✓ Guidance developed to support Councils in preparing local planning strategies.

Engagement and consultation processes are consistent and efficient

Introduce contemporary, consistent and clear engagement and consultation practices.

Progress:

- ✓ Completed pilot community engagement project.
- ✓ Introduce online publication of applications and planning documents.
- ✓ New consultation requirements for complex development applications, including sign on site, advertising and notification to nearby landowners and residents.

- ✓ Increased consultation period for structure plans to 42 days.
- ✓ Draft Planning Engagement Toolkit released for public comment.

Local planning frameworks are more legible

Simplify the local government planning framework.

Progress:

- ✓ More rigour for changes to local planning policies, including requiring WAPC approval for policy changes that vary the R Codes.

Clear and concise guidance is readily available

Develop contemporary guidance on planning instruments, content, process and assessment.

Progress:

- ✓ Clear and consistent guidance developed for local planning strategies.
- ✓ Clear and consistent guidance developed for precinct structure plans.



Planning systems are consistent and efficient

Local planning schemes are more consistent

Simplify the local government planning framework.

Progress:

- ✓ Model text, templates and forms for every local planning scheme in the State.

Approvals are quicker and easier for small business in commercial and mixed-use centres

Car parking requirements in commercial and mixed-use centres are consistent

Partner with local government to develop, test and pilot system changes for change of use applications and car parking requirements.

Progress:

- ✓ Exemptions from planning approval for certain land uses in commercial and mixed-use areas. Such proposals can now progress straight to building approval.
- ✓ New provisions for parking exemptions, shortfalls and cash in lieu – in effect from July 2021.

Pre-lodgement advice facilitates better outcomes

Refine planning processes to provide greater consistency of advice to proponents.

Progress:

- ✓ Pre-lodgement process in place for temporary assessment pathway for significant development proposals.

Targeted reduction in timeframes for lower-risk proposals

Progress:

- ✓ More exemptions from planning approval for simple residential proposals.

Referral processes are well defined and coordinated

Progress:

- ✓ Introduced limit to extensions of time for referred applications, providing clarity for the community on proposed developments without unnecessary delays.



Planning systems are consistent and efficient

Structure and precinct planning rolls are fit-for-purpose

Eliminate confusion and ensure the correct planning tools are used.

Progress:

- ✓ New policy for precinct design released.
- ✓ Regulated structure plan and precinct plan processes across all local governments.

Development Assessment Panel (DAP) processes are more consistent and transparent.

A more consistent, robust DAP system.

Progress:

- ✓ Reduced number of panels from 9 to 5 in April 2020.
- ✓ Implemented new reporting templates and guidelines for clear, concise and consistent information.
- ✓ Introduced electronic meeting options to provide more flexibility for public attendance.
- ✓ Published more supporting information for greater transparency of decision-making.

Development assessment processes are streamlined and outcomes-focused

Remove broad variation across jurisdictions, improve access to information on local development proposals and deliver good practice.

Progress:

- ✓ Introduced:
 - limit of one further information request for simple development proposals;
 - mechanism to pause statutory timeframe when additional information is requested; and
 - voluntary deemed-to-comply check for single house applications in Perth metropolitan and Peel region scheme areas.

The WAPC is more efficient and strategically-focused

Progress:

- ✓ Greater transparency of WAPC agendas and minutes, with new coversheet for confidential items.

Planning activity data drives system improvement

Transparent reporting of performance to inform continuous improvement of the State planning system.

Progress:

- ✓ Early workshops held with stakeholders to identify data source, value and collection.

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

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 Western Australia's planning system.

Tell us now - what change you would make.

Planning, people, places
Speak up!

