

Action Plan for Planning Reform



A historic program of reform is being implemented by the Western Australian Government to ensure we have an efficient planning system that works for everyone in our community, and not just a select few.

We have already implemented a raft of changes that significantly cut red tape, remove barriers to development and address issues that the community has asked us to fix.

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

We are seeking the views of the community, industry, stakeholders and urban planners.

Tell us what you think is missing.

The Action Plan for Planning Reform has already resulted in major changes to the planning system – with a second phase of proposals that will continue to expand our reform.

There is still plenty of scope for bright ideas and big fixes so make sure you have your say! Your feedback will inform further updates to legislation and help shape a contemporary and robust planning system that supports Western Australia into the future.



What we've done

So far, we have made changes to simplify and streamline the planning system, including:

- ✓ Expanding the scope of developer contributions to include community infrastructure.
- ✓ A new State planning policy and a fairer system for infrastructure contributions.
- ✓ New guidelines for development around precincts including METRONET stations.
- ✓ Appointing a Director, Road Access and Planning within Main Roads WA.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Increasing the consultation period for structure plans to 42 days.
- ✓ Requiring WAPC approval for local planning policy changes that vary the R Codes.
- ✓ Exemptions from planning approval for certain land uses.
- ✓ New provisions for car parking and cash in lieu.
- ✓ Trial of pre-lodgement in a temporary assessment pathway for significant development proposals.
- ✓ Removing the option for continual extensions of time for referred applications.
- ✓ Reducing the number of Development Assessment Panels from nine (9) to five (5).
- ✓ Publishing WAPC agendas and minutes, improving transparency.

What's next?

These are just some of the reforms proposed in Phase 2.
What do you think?

- Government led structure planning for key locations with fragmented land ownership.
- Better balance in land use, transport and road planning outcomes for key urban roads and highways.
- A more coordinated approach to Government land acquisition for schools, hospitals and transport infrastructure.
- Reduced duplication and conflict in decision making across State and local Government.
- New State planning policy to guide medium density development.
- Greater focus on local planning strategies so all local governments have a clear development vision for their communities.
- Introduction of a new Planning Engagement Toolkit.
- New requirements for a plain English, one-page summary of planning scheme amendments.
- Online portal to track planning applications.
- Clear and consistent guidance for structure plans, planning schemes and scheme amendments.
- A new, streamlined model for pre-lodgement of development applications.
- Defined timeframes and a consistent approach for driveway crossovers.
- Reduction in assessment and decision-making red tape.
- A review of advertising timeframes for schemes and local planning strategies.
- Reducing the number of Development Assessment Panel to three (3).
- A new Special Matters DAP to deal with development proposals of State significance.
- Reframing the WAPC as a more flexible and independent board.
- Investigate a central referral process across State Government agencies to improve consistency in consideration of related development matters such as heritage, environment and traffic.

Get involved



Complete our quick survey.



Find us at selected Perth events.



Visit us at major shopping centres in July.



Register for a community workshop.

All of the details will be updated on our website at www.dplh.wa.gov.au/planning-reform.



Learn more about our Action Plan for Planning Reform at www.dplh.wa.gov.au/planning-reform.

