GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WAPC Western Australian Planning Commission

ACTIVE
IN FORCE

Public Engagement Outcomes Report

Child care premises

October 2026

ACTIVE
IN FORCE

Publication Date
16 October 2026

Operational Date
16 October 2026

Disclaimer

This document has been produced by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage on behalf of the Western Australian Planning Commission. Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith and on the basis that the Government, its employees and agents are not liable for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur as a result of action taken or not taken, as the case may be, in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein. Professional advice should be obtained before applying the information contained in this document to particular circumstances.

© State of Western Australia

Published by the
Western Australian Planning Commission

Gordon Stephenson House
140 William Street
Perth WA 6000

Locked Bag 2506,
Perth WA 6001

Website: www.wa.gov.au/dplh
Email: info@dplh.wa.gov.au

Tel: 08 6551 8002
National Relay Service: 13 36 77

This document is available in alternative formats on application to the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage Communications Branch.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional custodians of Western Australia. We pay our respects to the Ancestors and Elders, both past and present, and the ongoing connection between people, land, waters and community. We acknowledge those who continue to share knowledge, their traditions and culture to support our journey for reconciliation. In particular, we recognise land and cultural heritage as places that hold great significance for Aboriginal people.

1.0 Introduction

The purpose of the Public Engagement Outcomes Report (Report) is to provide a high-level summary of the feedback received on the revised draft Position Statement – Child Care Premises (April 2025) (draft PS 2025) during the formal public consultation period undertaken 29 April to 17 June 2025.

The Report sets out the feedback received on each of the main elements and key themes associated with draft PS 2025, including a range of issues and concerns raised about the application of proposed provisions.

1.1 Background

The WAPC has been progressively moving content from planning bulletins to ensure the content can be given weight by planning decision-makers. The initial draft position statement (2022) was prepared to update updating *Planning Bulleting 72 Child Care Centres* (August 2009) and released for public consultation from November 2022 to February 2023. The initial draft position statement (2022) was significantly modified to address a number of concerns raised during the public consultation period.

These modifications include:

- Four size categories for child care premises (CCP): small (24 or fewer children), medium (25 to 80 children), large (81 to 100 children) and extra-large (101 or more children) consistent with the *Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012*;
- Support for new small and medium size CCP in residential zone, with new large and extra-large CCP to be located in suitable mixed-use and commercial areas or integrated into schools and reserves;
- Locating CCP in commercial and mixed-use zones for less amenity impact and improved workforce convenience, with expanded hours outside what would be possible in residential areas, and proximity to public transport; and
- Improvements to structure and clarity.

As a result of introducing size categories as a locational factor a second advertising period was considered necessary.

2.0 Public Advertising Period

The modified version of the position statement (draft PS 2025) was released for public advertising on 29 April 2025 for 49 days closing on 17 June 2025. The draft PS 2025 was provided online through the Department's Have Your Say, WA portal and was directly mailed to previous submitters, relevant industry organisations, relevant State authorities and all local governments.

3.0 Policy Framework Restructure

The template for position statements has recently been updated to simplify and improve the readability of policy. As a result, some elements of the re-advertised version of the position statement required updating.

These updates include restructuring of the document to align more closely with other recent position statements and simplification of details in the position statement to align with the intended role of a position statement in the state planning framework. While these updates have modified the structure of the Position Statement document, they do not have significant impact on the following response to submissions.

4.0 Submission Feedback

A total of 50 submissions comprising over 200 comments, were received from the following stakeholders, as shown in figure 1 below. Submissions were received either through online survey form (Have Your Say, WA Portal) or directly via email.

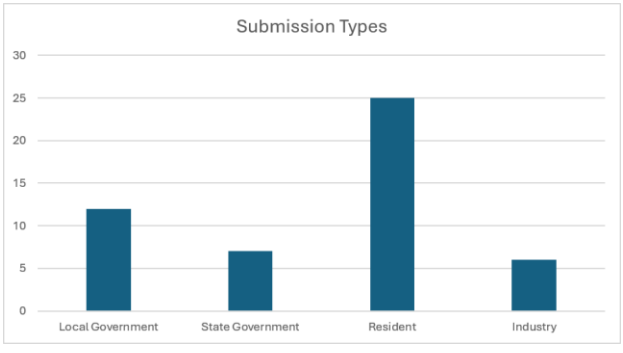


Figure 1: Types of submitters

The majority of submissions (50%) came from private residents (25 submissions). Twelve submissions (24%) were received from Local Governments, seven submissions (14%) from State Government Authorities and 6 (12%) from industry.

The most common themes raised related to centre size categories (36 comments), residential amenity (32 comments), location guidance and use class (24 comments), traffic and parking (20 comments) and noise and emissions (21 comments). Other themes commonly raised included co-location, policy application, public consultation of development applications, agency referrals, building design and layout. A range of other miscellaneous topics were raised including administration and formatting, general support or opposition for the Position Statement and comments relevant to a specific site or development application.

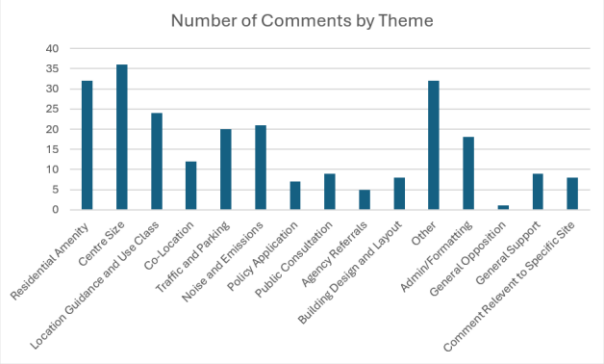


Figure 2: Number of comments raised for most common themes.

The following sections outline the feedback received on the specific questions raised in the feedback form.

4.1 Residential Amenity

Residential amenity was raised in 32 submissions, 14 times with general concerns, 8 times suggesting modifications, 3 times with general support and 7 specifying impact of play areas and privacy.

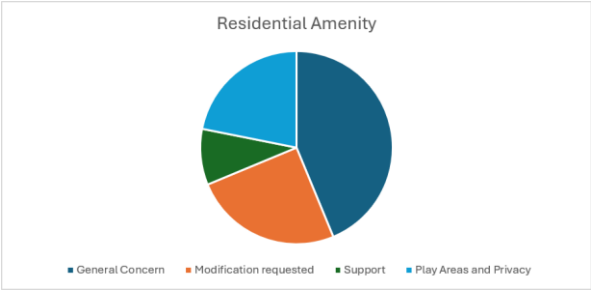


Figure 3: Residential amenity submission types

The general concerns or modifications requested to residential amenity, comprising visual amenity, traffic and noise amenity impacts from play areas, were generally from private residents (20 private residents and eight from government or industry). The general theme of these submissions were around development applications which were being assessed near their properties. Many of the submissions were pre-prepared sent by multiple people, with repeated wording common throughout including that the new Position Statement was 'lessening the threshold test for impact on residential amenity and traffic'. The concept of cumulative impacts was also raised a number of times by private submitters.

These concerns are noted and some modifications have been made to the document as a result of the comments below, which assist to further protect the amenity of residential properties. It is considered that the Position Statement already addresses these matters adequately, as a key issue through the entire Policy Measures section and providing balance for providers, users and surrounding residents.

4.1.1 Play Areas and Privacy

Play areas and privacy have been raised 7 times throughout the submissions, with both general concerns and suggestions for modifications. As a result of the comments modifications have been made to this section including an extra sentence which emphasises the importance of the design of the landscaping of outdoor play areas to minimise impact on neighbouring residential lots and retain existing trees where possible. This acknowledges and addresses the general concern from private submitters around impact on residential amenity.

4.2 Centre Size

Centre size was raised in 36 submissions, 4 times raising general concerns, 8 times suggesting modifications, one with general support, 16 times suggesting that 80 children is too large for residential areas, 4 times suggesting large and extra-large premises should be allowed in residential areas and 3 times relating to the size categories and the Planning and Development Regulations.

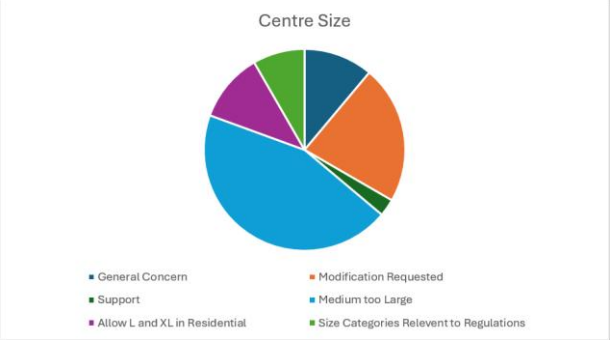


Figure 4: Centre size submission types

Of the submissions suggesting that a premise of 80 children is too large for residential areas, all of these comments were from private responders. The submissions reflect a general concern for the impact of a premises with 80 children on neighbouring residential lots. Many suggest sizes of approximately 40 or 50 children are more appropriate with minimal rationale behind this number. The sizing of child care premises used in the position statement has been chosen to align with the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2012. The decision to encourage small and medium child care premise in residential zones followed a data analysis which showed that these are the sizes which are most common in residential areas based on recent approvals. Further, measures are provided to minimise impact on residential amenity which is detailed below. As such no modifications to the CCP sizes categories are recommended from the advertised draft (2025).

4.3 Location Guidance and Use Class

Location guidance and use class was raised in 24 submissions, 12 times suggesting modifications, once with general support for the provisions, 3 with modifications specific to residential locations, 4 regarding concerns of use class permissibility and location. As a result of the comments a number of modifications have been made to the document.

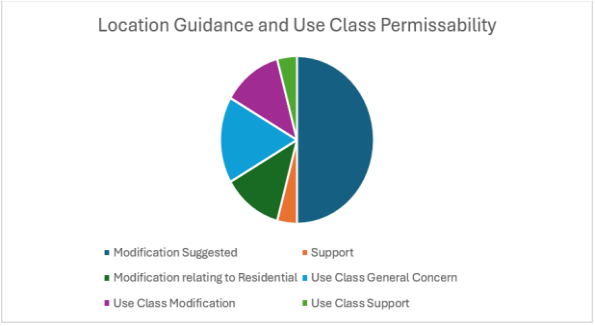


Figure 5: Location guidance and use class submission types

Submissions regarding the location guidance section of the Draft Position Statement are generally based around impact on neighbouring residential lots and a more detailed matter of physical location of the building on site in relation to neighbouring lot boundaries. This matter is more appropriately addressed at development stage where this level of detail can be adequately addressed for the specific site. Two minor wording modifications have been included to provide further clarification on the location guidance.

Submissions concerning Use Class Permissibility were generally from local government authorities and suggestions were a relatively even split ranging from allowing more permissibility across zones (specifically residential) to less permissibility.

4.4 Noise and Emissions

Noise and emissions were raised in 21 submissions, 5 comments with general concerns, 14 with suggestions for modifications and 2 with general support for the provisions.

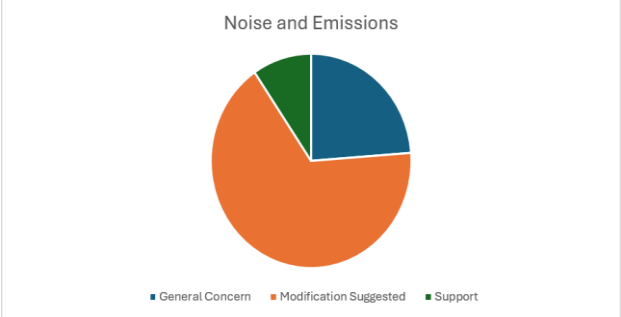


Figure 6: Noise and emissions submission types

Submissions regarding noise and emissions are generally concerned with residential amenity. Most submissions requesting modifications or raising concerns provide varied opinions on how to properly address noise and emissions. There was an even split between submissions from private submitters to submissions from government and industry. These submissions raise a high level of detail which is not appropriate for a state-wide position statement. Such detail, which is highly location and site specific will be address at development application stage through the requirements for a noise impact assessment as required by the decision maker.

Five of the submissions raised concerns about operation hours. It is noted that while 7am to 7pm is provided as a guide, consistent with Department of Communities, this matter is assessed at development stage taking local context into account.

Some modifications have been made as a result of suggestions. The section has been separated into two, 'Child Care Premises Impact on Neighbouring Land' and 'Emissions Impact on Child Care Premises from Neighbouring Land'. Other minor details and clarifications are provided.

4.5 Traffic and Parking

Traffic and parking were raised 20 times throughout the submissions, 10 times with general comments, 9 times suggesting modifications and one with general support.

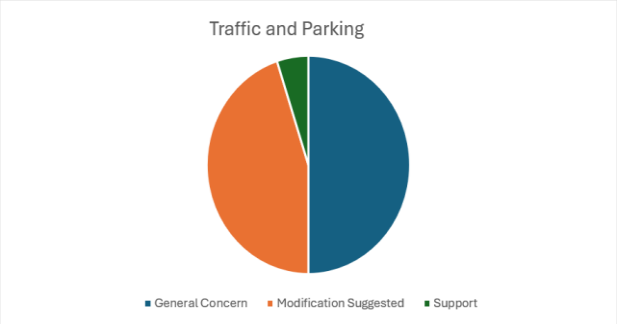


Figure 7: Traffic and parking submission types

Thirteen of the comments were from government or industry while seven were from private residents. Comments from private residents generally expressed a view that increases in vehicle traffic volume is undesirable due increased noise impacts on neighbours and safety concerns for neighbours and children alike. Comments from government and industry provided suggested modifications to some of the technical requirements. Some modifications to the text have been made as a result of these comments. The modifications that are provided are generally to make the traffic and parking requirements more readable as well as further details to be included in a relevant site analysis.

Other modifications that were requested are considered to be too detailed to be appropriate for a position statement and therefore have not been included. These development and assessment requirements can still be applied by the local authorities at the time of preparation of their local policy or assessment of a development application.

4.6 Co-location with Schools and Reserves

Co-location with schools and reserves was raised 12 times throughout the submissions, 6 times with general concerns, 2 times suggesting modifications and 4 times with general support. Submissions of concern or requesting modifications were largely submitted by government authorities (six submissions). These were generally asking questions on the process for this to occur, if it is to be considered incidental to an education establishment, possible impact on public transport, noting that Child Care Premises is not exempt from noise regulations where a school is. While these submissions have valid concerns, they do not provide a need for modification to the Position Statement.

4.7 Public Consultation

Public consultation has been raised nine times within the submissions. Submissions generally raised concerns which cannot be addressed through the Position Statement including minimum advertising periods and how an application is assessed once submissions have been received. There were a number of submissions suggesting advertising should be mandatory in residential zones. While Child Care Premises can be either 'A' or 'D' use in a residential zone, only an A land use is required to be public advertised.

No modifications to the text are proposed.

4.8 Policy Application

Section 2.4 of the Position Statement – Policy Application was raised 7 times in the submissions. The matters raised in these comments are varied; however, they generally reflect a misunderstanding of the text within the Position Statement. A position statement puts forward a policy position of the WAPC. But as a policy document it is subject to discretion, many submissions did not support discretionary provisions guiding CCP and sought for binding compliance. The requirements that were being requested are generally out of the scope of a Position Statement.

No modifications have been made as a result of these submissions.

4.9 Other Comments

A range of other matters have been raised which have resulted in minor modifications to the final Position Statement. Examples of these minor modifications include providing reference to waste management to ensure it is addressed in operational management plans and correcting a number of administrative errors. Further, reference to *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011* is included, minor document restructure, consistent reference to agencies, and use of bold/italics and updated hyperlinks.

A number of other comments were raised that did not provide need for modification to the final Position Statement. In general, these comments were requesting a level of detail which is excessive for the role of a position statement in the planning framework.

5.0 Summary

As summarised in this Public Engagement Outcomes Report, key themes and feedback from the submissions have been assessed and have assisted in minor updates to the revised draft Position Statement. All submissions have been considered in full in a complete schedule of submissions. While a significant number of submissions noted objection to the Position Statement, when reviewed in detail they were objecting to specific details only and were generally supportive of the document. Many of the submissions from private residents provided repeated sentences which indicate pro-forma style submissions.

Responses to the key issues are varied and reflect the competing views held by nearby residents, industry providers, local and state governments as well as professional planners. This range of views supports the conclusion that the Position Statement provides a strong and balanced position.

Following consideration by the Western Australian Planning Commission it is recommended that modifications proposed in response to public comment be made and the Position Statement: Child Care Premises (October 2026) be finalised and published on the WAPC Planning Policy Framework website.

ACTIVE
IN FORCE

APPENDIX A – List of Submitters

State Government

Department of Health
Department of Water and Environment Regulation
Department of Communities
Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) (Infrastructure Planning Policy team, Schemes Team and Design and Build Environment team)
Government Architect Western Australia
Main Roads WA
Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure

Local Government

Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
City of Belmont
City of Canning
City of Vincent
City of Rockingham
Town of Port Hedland
City of South Perth
City of Joondalup
City of Swan
City of Armadale
City of Wanneroo
WA Local Government Association

Industry

Australian Childcare Alliance WA
Property Council of Australia WA Division
Rowe Group (Planning Consultant)
Planning Institute of Australia
Planning Solutions
Kanella Hope (Planning Consultant)

Resident

23 private individual submitters
Residents of 11 Butler Ave Community Group
Burns Beach Residents Association