



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



# Planning Reform

## 1. One Planning System

A historic program of reform is being implemented by the State Government to develop a planning system that works for everyone in our community, and not just a select few.

Initiatives implemented last year have significantly cut red tape, removed barriers to enable development and responded to the concerns of businesses and homeowners. Implementation of the *Action Plan for Planning Reform* continues and it is timely to seek feedback and ensure we consider any further changes that can be incorporated in our reform program to create a contemporary and robust planning system for Western Australia.

Government processes can be difficult to navigate, and local governments around the State are often the front door to those systems. This is a unique opportunity to also work with local government and identify further reforms in their sector that can support our planning reform agenda, improving consistency of decision-making on planning and development matters, reducing more red tape and making our planning system easier to use.

### Potential Reforms

A number of process improvements have been identified to reform how planning and development proposals are prepared, assessed and determined. The introduction of standardised measures and better strategic coordination across Government will reposition our planning system to be more efficient, making it easier to navigate and understand. Proposed reforms include:

- Building on the success of the temporary significant development pathway, scope and implement a new, **streamlined pre-lodgement model** for development applications. Once established, a similar pre-lodgement model will be progressively implemented for other planning processes such as structure plans, scheme amendments and subdivisions.
- Explore models to establish a **central referral process across government agencies, utilities and departments** to improve consistency of approach and decision-making in consideration of related development matters such as heritage, environment and traffic. The ability to centrally coordinate referrals for significant and complex development applications through the special COVID-19 pathway has delivered key benefits for both Government and applicants and should be expanded to centralise responsibility for referral and follow-up.
- Investigate an expansion of **State Government led structure planning** for areas of key strategic importance with fragmented land ownership. Any Legislative or regulatory amendments required to facilitate a more strategically led structure planning process will also be considered and tested.
- Introduce statutory and regulatory amendments to **reduce duplication and conflict in decision-making** and better balance land use, transport and road planning outcomes for key urban roads and highways.
- Review and **reform the assessment and approvals of developer contribution plans** to improve consistency of approach across all levels of Government.

**What do think? Does this go far enough?**

Visit <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/planning-reform> to have your say about what more could be done to improve Western Australia's planning system.