



Planning, people, places
have your say!



Planning Reform

2. More Red Tape Reduction

A historic program of reform is being implemented by the State Government to create a more flexible, responsive and contemporary planning system that can support Western Australia's economic recovery.

Planning reform has been at the core of Western Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, underpinning a thriving development sector and delivering essential reductions in red tape to support small businesses and homeowners.

A review of local government regulations will help identify further opportunities to reduce red tape for users of the planning system, provide greater clarity and consistency across the State and reduce the administrative burden on our local government sector, saving time and money.

Potential Reforms

The Action Plan for Planning Reform is making the planning system easier to understand and navigate. Reducing unnecessary red tape through exemptions, deemed to comply checks and consistency of approach across all local governments is reducing costs and impacts on small businesses, homeowners and applicants. Working with the local government sector to mirror proposed reforms, the Government will:

- Introduce a new system for review of State planning policies, including new Regulations, making the process less complicated and more efficient.
- 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.
- Identify opportunities to improve consistency of consultation on development applications.
- Consulting on a new system to resolve conflicts with Main Roads Western Australia following development approval. The current system is lengthy, and often ends at the State Administrative Tribunal, without formal and final resolution.
- Working with the local government sector, define timeframes and establish a consistent, standard approach for crossovers (connecting driveways to the street).
- Reduce red tape in assessment and decision-making for region schemes, structure plans and amendments.

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.