



Planning, people, places
have your say!



Planning Reform

3. Better Consistency

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

How our communities grow and develop is a shared responsibility for all of us and these changes affect everyone, shaping the way we live and work in the future. A more consistent and strategic planning system will ensure local planning is developed and implemented in consultation with the community and will improve confidence in decision-making on planning and development matters.

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. We have a unique opportunity to continue our reform program, removing ambiguity and conflict from the planning system, making it easier to use and encouraging more people to get involved in what happens in their community.

Potential Reforms

Consistent with the Action Plan for Planning Reform, a range of legislative, regulatory and policy initiatives have been implemented to streamline processes and improve consistency across the planning system. Further reform measures proposed include:

- Through regulatory and statutory amendments, identify opportunities to reduce duplication and inconsistency in planning assessment and decision making across State Government.
- Review developer contribution plans to improve consistency of approach across all levels of Government, and apply a fair and equal process for all urban areas.
- Introduce a new system for the review of State planning policies, including new Regulations, making the process less complicated and more efficient.
- Further improve consistency of consultation on development applications.
- Consider new requirements for Plain English, one-page community focused summaries of proposed local and regional planning scheme amendments.
- Clarify use and function of local planning policies and identify an appropriate lifespan for their operation.
- Develop standard manner and form for key planning documents to ensure consistency across all local governments.
- Launch online planning portal to track applications and facilitate improved community engagement.
- Review clear and consistent guidance for structure plans, planning schemes and scheme amendments.
- Working with the local government sector, define timeframes and establish consistent/standardised approaches for crossovers (connecting driveway to street).
- Improve public information, access to clear explanatory materials and greater transparency of decision making of the Development Assessment Panel (DAP) process.

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.