

## Department update

- The second round of Policy Working Groups has been completed for the [Design and Place SEPP](#) with valuable feedback across propositions put forward for consideration. Between now and the exhibition of the SEPP in early November there will be a third round of Policy Working Groups, economic modelling and a community survey. The Department thanked the peaks for sharing sites for feasibility testing. The 8-week exhibition period will close before Christmas.
- An update was shared on the [Draft Wilton Growth Area Housing Complying Development Code](#) currently on exhibition until 20 September 2021. The Wilton Growth Area Development Control Plan was adopted mid-August 2021 and includes a greater emphasis on tree canopy and habitat protection.
- The 14 [Accelerated Infrastructure Fund](#) projects are on track despite a slower delivery due to Covid restrictions.
- The independent report on the outcomes from the [Public Spaces Legacy Program](#) has been delayed due to the bespoke performance indicators for each council, with completion now due by end of September. The report will be publicly available when complete.
- [Local Housing Strategies](#) are progressing with 3 or 4 due for approval in the next few weeks. The completion of housing strategies Woollahra and Fairfield are our current focus. Details of approvals are found on the Planning Portal. This work is being transitioned across to the Department's Place/Regional teams.
- The Department shared two [Infrastructure SEPP](#) amendments on exhibition until 13 September. The first is a proposal to speed up delivery on new telecommunications infrastructure (5G infrastructure). The other is to speed up delivery of household solar batteries. The Department offered to do a deeper dive into major projects with members.
- There are 3 more weeks to comment on the [EP&A regulation](#), on exhibition until 22 September.
- The [Housing SEPP](#) exhibition closed on 29 August, however, the Department will still take submissions into next week.
- A new Order for [Employment Zones](#) will be out in early September. Environment zones will be named Conservation zones which will enable the creation of employment zones as part of the Employment Lands review. There has been some delay due to elections and exhibition is planned for March or April 2022 with updated LEPs.
- The [Regional Housing Taskforce](#) received over 100 submissions with over 500 participants in virtual sessions. The Department thanked the peaks for their submissions. Feedback has included a desire for good partnerships with other agencies, support for more medium density housing in town centres, diversity of housing and town centres as hubs for the community. The recommendations report is on target to be released in October.
- ePlanning intends to publish the first full quarter of data on progress for 128 councils and registered certifiers, now mandated to use the Planning Portal for all planning applications. Data is already being shared with State agencies such as DCS, the Building Commissioner, DoE and ABS and will be pulled together for presentation to industry. This work will significantly reduce the burden on councils and increase information available for planning on a broad scale.
- The project to transition the LEP mapping into a digital environment and retiring of the pdf maps has commenced with councils. This will reduce cost and time for comprehensive LEPs plus planning proposals and re-zonings.

## Group Discussion

- The group asked whether the case studies considered for the Design and Place SEPP included a regional, coastal example.

**RESPONSE:** The Department noted the question and will consider inclusion in the feasibility study.

- The group shared concern over the volume of reform and change from the Department and requested that the Design and Place SEPP be deferred. This concern was countered within the group with support for prioritising the Design and Place SEPP due to the importance of apartment design within the context of climate emergency and that decisions on design cannot continue to be made based on yield.

**RESPONSE:** The Department acknowledged these comments. The State Government remains keen to finalise the SEPP in the first half of 2022. However, commencement of the SEPP will allow for an appropriate transition period.

**ACTION:** The Department will share with the group a forward plan for the remainder of 2021.

- The group expressed concern with the community survey for the Design and Place SEPP, in particular that the Department was collecting and presenting community views without an associated analysis of cost.

**RESPONSE:** The intention of the survey is to establish what's important to people about where they live. The survey aims to capture the community viewpoint, particularly how this has been impacted by the COVID pandemic. To date we have canvassed the views of industry and councils, and this work is to canvass the views of the broader community.

- The group questioned why the Draft Wilton Growth Area Housing Complying Development Code was an Explanation of Intended Effect (EIE) as opposed to a draft code.

**RESPONSE:** The Department advised that it is legislatively required to be an EIE.

- The group asked whether the Public Spaces Legacy Program includes infrastructure projects.

**RESPONSE:** Whilst infrastructure was not a mandatory component, the scoring criteria for applications was heavily weighted towards it.

**ACTION:** The Department will share a presentation with the group once the report is finalised.

- The group questioned how the Regional Housing Taskforce will deliver on remit and whether it's approach could be used for metropolitan Sydney.

**RESPONSE:** Implementation planning is well underway through a multi-agency approach that includes the Department of Regional NSW, DPIE and Landcom. It is worth noting that Sydney is being serviced through multiple ways such as the Accelerated Infrastructure Fund and the Planning Delivery Unit.

- The group questioned the source data for the digital maps and shared issues with councils using incorrect maps that are not accurate and not using GIS data. The group asked whether maps can be digitally linked to the NSW Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB).

**RESPONSE:** The Department aligns the environmental planning instrument datasets to the underlying cadastre supplied by DCS Spatial Services. Based on the feedback received from councils and industry users, the Department has started updating the DCDB database twice a week and has received feedback that it has been effective. There are also provisions in place to update the DCDB database more frequently if there is a need.

To maintain the planning data alignment whenever Spatial Services provides survey accurate cadastral updates from ground truthing, the Department has put procedures in place to detect the cadastral shifts whenever it receives DCDB update, to consider the impact on the planning data and update appropriately.

The Department has been collaborating with Spatial Services in its proposed layer initiative which is planned to be made available to the industry in the coming months. Where a council's cadastre is more survey accurate than DCDB, Spatial Services will continue work with the council to include the more accurate cadastre in the DCDB.

If you have any questions, please the Department at [stakeholder.engagement@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:stakeholder.engagement@planning.nsw.gov.au)