

1. What is State Planning Policy 1: State Planning Framework (SPP 1)?

SPP 1 is a State Planning Policy prepared by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) with the approval of the Minister for Planning pursuant to s26 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. SPP 1 expands upon the key principles of the *State Planning Strategy 2050*. It brings together existing State level policies, strategies and guidelines within a central Framework which provides a context for decision-making on land use and development in WA.

2. What are the key changes to SPP 1?

SPP 1 was last updated in 2006. The revised SPP 1 proposes:

- new categories for 'Position Statements' and 'Guidelines';
- an updated list of policies and strategies;
- a revised Regional Development principle;
- a new Governance principle;
- revising the name of Development Control policies as Operational policies; and
- updated and simplified provisions.

3. What is a Position Statement?

Position Statements are an additional category of policy instrument within the policy suite. They set out the WAPC's policy position on particular issues that fall outside the strategic and operational roles of the two existing categories of policies. The absence of such a category has resulted in the use of Planning Bulletins to set out the WAPC's policy position on particular issues. Planning Bulletins that set out a policy position will be renamed as Position Statements.

4. Why are Guidelines included?

Guidelines are part of the suite of planning instruments. They provide detailed guidance on the application of WAPC policy but have previously not been acknowledged within the framework.

5. Why have Development Control policies be renamed as Operational policies?

These policies provide operational guidance for day to day decision-making in relation to subdivision and development control as well as being relevant to structure planning and scheme amendments. "Development" and "development control" have narrower meanings within the *Planning and Development Act 2005* than is reflected in the application of these policies.

6. What has happened to Part B of the previous version of SPP 1 (Variation No. 2)?

Part B provided a list of the relevant documents that formed the State Planning Framework. This list, which has not been updated since SPP 1 (Variation No.2) was published in 2006, has been replaced by Tables 1 to 5. They are presented according to themes for ease of reference and to highlight where there are connections between different categories of instrument.

The WAPC has an ongoing review program of all its policies and other instruments listed in the tables. As part of that process, any naming inconsistencies will be addressed. The tables will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

7. Why has the Regional Development principle been amended?

The changes to the Regional Development principle have been developed in consultation with the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development. They better reflect the role of land use planning in relation to regional communities and their future development.

8. Why has a new Governance principle been inserted?

The new 'Governance' principle ensures consistency with the WAPC's State Planning Strategy 2050. It identifies how planning decision-making processes should promote transparency and take policy into consideration, and key factors in policy development.

9. What is the relationship between the different categories of instruments (Figure 1)?

Figure 1 identifies the State Planning Framework. It replaces the previous Figure 1 in SPP 1 Variation No. 2 which did not include reference to Regional and Sub-regional Strategies, Planning Bulletins or Manuals and Guidelines, and defines each level of the Framework.

As identified in Section 4 which sets out the rules of interpretation between the different levels of the framework, it is not the case that one category of instruments is more important than another as it will depend on the context in which they are being used.

10. What is the status of Liveable Neighbourhoods and what is 'Neighbourhood Design'?

Liveable Neighbourhoods (LN) is the WAPC's principal policy for the design and assessment of structure plans and subdivision for new urban areas in metropolitan and country centres, on greenfield and large urban infill sites. LN takes a holistic approach in relation to both strategic and operational aspects to facilitate the development of sustainable communities. It also prevails in the event of any conflict with any Development Control policies. LN was listed as a Strategic Policy statement in the previous version of SPP 1.

In recognition of this role, the WAPC has recommended to the Minister for Planning that LN become an SPP. As part of this process, it is proposed that LN be renamed Neighbourhood Design as part of the Design WA policy suite which also includes the new *SPP 7 Design of the Built Environment*, R-Codes and new Apartment Design policy provisions (to be incorporated within the R-Codes). Neighbourhood Design remains under development until it is released for public consultation.

11. What level of public consultation occurs in relation to WAPC policies?

The WAPC is committed to ensuring appropriate public participation in the development of planning policies. All efforts will be made to ensure affected stakeholders are consulted on new policies or significant changes to existing policies. State Planning Policies are subject to a minimum 60 days public consultation. Other WAPC policies will also be the subject of a consultation process as required.

12. What is the future role of Planning Bulletins?

Planning Bulletins will be limited to uses such as providing advice on recent changes to legislation, planning practice and subdivision and development control. Generally speaking, it's anticipated that Planning Bulletins will only need to exist for a maximum 12 months to provide sufficient time for the relevant change to be embedded within the planning system.