

Schools

Why are changes to the planning approval requirements for schools proposed?

- Population growth means student enrolments are increasing quickly, in both public and private schools, particularly in the Sydney metropolitan region. The improvements to the planning system will deliver new facilities and upgrade existing facilities faster.

What school facilities are proposed to be exempt development?

- Minor developments such as play equipment, landscaping, amenities building, single storey portable classrooms and sporting facilities will be permitted as exempt development at existing schools. These developments are routine developments commonly associated with schools, and are expected to have minimal impacts. If the proposed works meet all nominated development standards development approval is not needed.

What school facilities are proposed to be complying development?

- Planning legislation already exists in the Infrastructure SEPP for buildings such as classrooms, libraries, administration offices, school halls and canteens to be undertaken as 'complying development'.
- The proposed SEPP will permit these buildings to be constructed up to a maximum height of four storeys or 22 metres, provided they meet the requirements including side and rear street setbacks, privacy and landscaping.
- If the proposal does not meet all of the complying development standards, a development application must be submitted.

What are the planning approval requirements for new and major school developments?

- All new schools and major expansions of existing schools with a project value of \$20m or more will become State Significant Development (SSD), to be assessed by the Minister for Planning.

How will the traffic impacts of school development be considered?

- Road and traffic safety outcomes are a key issue related to development of schools. Applications for complying development certificates, where it is proposed to increase student numbers by more than 50 students, must be accompanied by a traffic certificate from the Roads and Maritime Service certifying the impacts on the surrounding road network are acceptable. Applications for SSD will require submission of a traffic impact assessment report.

What are the design requirements for schools buildings?

- A major focus of the proposed SEPP is to ensure school facilities are well designed, sustainable, and align with the character of the local neighbourhood. Facilities should also be welcoming, accessible and fit for purpose.

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- Applications for a complying development certificate for a building more than 12 metres in height must be accompanied by a written statement by a qualified designer verifying the proposed building achieves the design quality principles in the proposed SEPP.
- For work requiring development consent, the consent authority will consider the design quality based on the design quality principles before determining the application.

Consultation on the proposed SEPP

Who has been consulted on the policy development?

- The Department of Planning and Environment has undertaken preliminary consultation with State agencies, peak industry bodies and education providers. Comments received from these bodies have been considered by the Department in its initial development of the draft SEPP.

How do I comment on the proposed changes?

- You can view and comment on the changes until 24 March 2017 at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals
- All submissions will be made public in line with the Department's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission. Before making a submission, please read our privacy policy at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy

Where can I find out more?

- Call the Department of Planning and Environment's Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- If English isn't your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- Email: education.sepp@planning.nsw.gov.au