

Queensland Planning Reform

May 2015

This week the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, the Hon Jackie Trad MP, released the Queensland Government's planning reform directions paper. The directions paper, [Better Planning for Queensland](#), is a precursor to a new Planning Bill that will be introduced to the Queensland Parliament by October. The paper is designed to prompt consultation with industry, community and local governments around changes to Queensland's planning framework.

Background

Queensland's planning and development assessment system comprises a hierarchy of planning instruments, starting with the *Sustainable Planning Act (SPA)*, which has been in operation since 2009. The Queensland Government is looking to address concerns raised by local governments, planning professionals and industry around the Act and the greater planning framework.

These concerns relate to:

- How difficult it is to understand and use some current planning schemes;
- How long it takes for planning schemes to be made and changed;
- How the focus has historically tended to be on the process, rather than the outcome;
- How long it takes for some development applications (DA) to be assessed; and
- How difficult it is to understand and use the legislation and its many related instruments.

The Queensland Government is looking to revise the current framework. As a core component of the revision process, the Government will introduce new planning legislation.

New Planning Act

The Government will introduce a new Planning Bill to the Queensland Parliament by October.

The Bill focus on the following principles:

- Enabling responsible development;
- Stimulating economic growth and innovation;
- Ensuring genuine public participation in the planning process; and
- Delivering clear and concise legislation that supports effective and efficient planning and development assessment.

As the new Bill is developed the Queensland Government will consult with stakeholders and the broader community. Over the coming months, a more detailed timetable of events and further information will be released, before the Government presents the Bill to Parliament at the end of the year.

Further information

The Directions Paper, Better Planning for Queensland, is available [here](#).

The Deputy Premier's media statement is available [here](#).

Information on Queensland's Planning Framework is available [here](#).

For further information on how we can assist your organisation, contact Hawker Britton's Queensland office on +61 7 3188 8402.

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