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## PLANNING SYSTEM

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### Local planning

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<b>Related</b>	

# New mapping requirements for local environmental plans

This circular is to advise councils of the new standard technical requirements for local environmental plan (LEP) maps.

## Introduction

Maps adopted as part of environmental planning instruments contain important information for all users of the planning system – including local councils, business and members of the public.

The text component of planning instruments is currently available online on the NSW legislation website <<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>>. However, copies of maps that show where zones and other planning controls apply have historically only been available from the offices of the relevant council or the NSW Department of Planning.

*Standard technical requirements for LEP maps* (Department of Planning 2007) has now been published for use by all councils throughout NSW. These requirements will see all new LEP maps prepared in electronic form so that they can be accessed online after the plan has been made. This will mean that the complete version of new LEPs, including the adopted map/s, will be accessible online for the first time in NSW. This will significantly improve public access to key planning information.

Standards for map preparation will also provide consistency in the appearance of LEP maps, which will assist users interpreting maps across different local government areas.

## Key features

The LEP-mapping requirements apply to the preparation of new plans in accordance with the standard instrument for principal LEPs. Councils will need to ensure that draft LEP maps are consistent with the mapping requirements before submitting new draft principal LEPs to the Department.

The mapping requirements are designed to work with the variety of geographical information systems (GIS) used by councils across NSW. Some of the key features of the new mapping requirements are:

- a base template for map presentation
- specifications for colours, lines and symbols to provide consistency in the appearance of common maps
- requirements for accessibility and readability
- maps to be prepared by councils and submitted to the Department in electronic portable document format (PDF) form
- conventions for referencing maps and naming electronic files
- a process for amending LEP maps that ensures that the current version of maps (incorporating any amendments) is available online.

## Further information

Further information, including LEP practice notes, and map templates for some common GIS applications, can be found on the Department of Planning website at:

<<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planningsystem/local.asp>>. If you have further enquiries, please phone the Planning Information Centre 02 9228 6333 or email [information@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@planning.nsw.gov.au)

## Authorised by:

Sam Haddad, Director General

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