Updates to the Plan Making Ministerial Directions

As part of reforms to the NSW planning system, the Plan Making Ministerial Directions have been updated to align with the new planning focus areas. This document answers frequently asked question about the changes.

Why have the Plan Making Ministerial Directions been updated?

There have been housekeeping amendments to the Plan Making Ministerial Directions made under s.9.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to renumber and realign with a new thematic framework for planning that provides a simplified structure for NSW planning policy. As part of this realignment, housekeeping amendments have been made, including:

- the consolidation of the application provisions (where and when the direction applies)
- other currency updates.

The amendments align with the communication of the planning policies through the thematic framework and improve accessibility and ease of navigation in the planning system.

Why create a new ministerial direction?

This update also includes a new ministerial direction (Direction 1.1) that requires a planning authority to have regard to the Minister’s Planning Principles and give consideration to relevant principles when preparing a planning proposal.

When will the updated ministerial directions take effect?

The new and updated ministerial directions will be released as part of the broader thematic framework and the Minister’s Planning Principles on 2 December 2021 and will come into effect on 1 March 2022.

This delayed commencement will enable councils and industry sufficient time to consider the changes and make any necessary adjustments ahead of their commencement.

Has there been any change to policy intent?

No. The intention of the housekeeping amendments to the existing directions is not to make any changes that impact policy, practice or the legal status and effect of the plan-making directions.

Further Information

For more information, please visit the department’s website or email the Systems and Productivity Team at: SystemsProductivity.Policy@planning.nsw.gov.au.

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