

Urban Design for Regional NSW

Frequently asked questions

October 2018

What is the draft Urban Design for Regional NSW: A guide for creating healthy built environments in regional NSW?

- The draft *Urban Design for Regional NSW: A guide for creating healthy built environments in regional NSW* is an urban design guide specifically for regional NSW, jointly prepared by the Government Architect NSW and the Department of Planning and Environment.
- It's part of a series of design guides that support *Better Placed: An integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales*. The guide will be a resource for anyone involved in the design, planning and development of the built environment in regional NSW.

Why has the draft guide been prepared?

- The preparation of the draft guide supports the implementation of the nine Regional Plans for NSW prepared by the Department of Planning and Environment. It responds to an identified urban design resource gap and provides guidance that responds to the challenges and opportunities facing regional NSW.
- The draft guide outlines the importance of urban design and how to approach it, and acknowledges the unique conditions of settlement in regional NSW, which differ from those in Greater Sydney.

Where does the draft guide apply?

- The draft guide applies to regional NSW – consisting of all local government areas in NSW that lie beyond the Greater Sydney Region. It includes a profile for each of the nine regions – including regional context, key statistics, and challenges and opportunities for urban design.
- Applications of the draft guide are broad and include:
 - Supporting councils to undertake urban design projects in their local area;
 - Promoting the value of good design;
 - Empowering all those involved in the design, planning and delivery of the built environment to champion good design;
 - Assisting in developing more specific controls; and
 - Helping councils formulate responses to proposals in their area to achieve better outcomes.
- The draft guide is non-statutory and will not be a mandatory consideration for the assessment of development applications or planning proposals.
- Another application of the draft guide will be its role in helping to build the capacity of councils to embed the seven objectives outlined in *Better Placed* across a range of urban design projects across regional NSW.

What types of projects does the guide offer direction for?

- The draft guide provides urban design guidance for four types of projects:
 - Public realm and open space;
 - Town centres and main streets;
 - Infill development in existing neighbourhoods; and
 - Greenfield development in new neighbourhoods.

How does the draft guide support existing government priorities?

- The draft guide supports the new object of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to promote good design and amenity of the built environment.
- Specifically, the draft guide applies the objectives of *Better Placed* – the integrated design policy for the built environment of NSW, which establishes a baseline of what is expected to achieve good design across all projects in NSW.
- Through its focus on creating healthy built environments, the draft guide also helps to address the Premier's Priority to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by five percentage points by 2025.

Has the draft guide been informed by consultation?

- The preparation of the draft guide has been informed by feedback received from councils through early engagement. In October 2017, all councils in regional NSW were sent a survey with questions about urban design challenges, and the matters for which additional guidance could assist.
- Survey responses received from councils and the issues they raised have informed the preparation of the draft guide – including in the identification of seven urban design priorities for regional NSW.
- The seven urban design priorities for regional NSW identified in the draft guide are:
 - Leveraging the historic and cultural assets of places;
 - Integrating with the natural environment and landscape;
 - Revitalising main streets and regional town centres;
 - Improving connectivity, walkability and cycling;
 - Balancing urban growth;
 - Increasing options for diverse and healthy living; and
 - Responding to climate impacts.

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How do I give feedback on the draft guide?

- The draft guide is available at:
<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Urban-Design-for-Regional-NSW>
- Feedback on the draft guide is being sought until **31 October 2018**.
- Submissions can be made via the Department of Planning and Environment's website at:
<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Have-Your-Say>
- 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 statement at: [planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy)
- Following the conclusion of the public exhibition period, all submissions will be reviewed and considered in the preparation of a final guide, for consideration by the Government.

Where can I find out more?

- Information is available at the Department of Planning and Environment website at:
<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Urban-Design-for-Regional-NSW>
- Call 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.