Comment sought on extending rules for educational development

The NSW Government will move to ensure that the current planning provisions applying to development proposals by public and private education bodies continue to apply.

Both public authorities and non-Government proponents are currently able to undertake development with consent in certain prescribed zones under an instrument known as the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007* (the ‘Infrastructure SEPP’).

The zones include most rural zones as well as all residential, commercial, and special purpose zones.

“Originally, this provision only applied to public authorities,” said the Director-General of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, Sam Haddad.

“In February 2009, it was expanded on a trial basis to also cover non-Government schools, but that will expire on 20 February 2012.

“However, there is a good case to continue the current provisions beyond 20 February to ensure independent schools are on an equal footing with public schools in terms of State planning provisions.

“In the last three years, no particular concerns have been raised with the way this temporary change applied to independent schools, and there is support for its continuation.”

The department is publicly exhibiting a draft SEPP amendment to extend the current planning provisions, and an explanation of its intended effect, to hear the community’s views.


Comments and submissions must be lodged by Wednesday 8 February 2012.

Submissions can be:

- Mailed to:
  Policy, Planning Systems and Reform,
  Department of Planning and Infrastructure,
  GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001; or

- Emailed to innovation@planning.nsw.gov.au

Media contact: Jim Hanna (02) 9228 6275 or 0457 737 660