Glossary of Terms

February 2019

Active frontages

Continuous business or retail land uses that open directly to the footpath provide active street frontages. They enhance public security and passive surveillance and improve the amenity of the public domain by encouraging pedestrian activity.

Active transport

Modes of transit that include walking, cycling, skateboarding and scootering which promote increased sustainability, personal wellbeing and healthy, active lifestyles.

Aerotropolis

A metropolitan sub-region whose infrastructure, land-use and economy are centred on an airport. For example, the future Western Sydney Aerotropolis at Badgerys's Creek.

Building typologies

The comparative study of physical or other characteristics of buildings and their classification into distinct types. For example, detached houses, semi-detached houses, town houses or apartments can determine a community's demographic composition and relationships.

Built Environment

The constructed environment, understood as distinct from the natural environment. It includes all aspects of our surroundings made by people. The built environment includes cities and towns, neighbourhoods, parks, roads, buildings, infrastructure, and utilities like water and electricity.

Community participation plan (CPPs)

CPPs set out when and how planning authorities will engage their communities across all the planning functions they perform under the EP&A Act 1979.

Community Strategic Plans (CSP)

CSPs identify the main priorities and aspirations of a community, providing a clear set of strategies to achieve its vision for its area. It is a requirement for all NSW councils under the Local Government Act 1993.

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Complying development

Complying Development is routine development that an EPI (environmental planning instrument) provides can be approved by meeting specified predetermined development standards.

Connectivity

Creating an interconnected network of people, places, spaces and open spaces.

Conservation area

Lands reserved to protect and conserve significant or representation ecosystems, landforms, natural phenomena or places of cultural significance. They provide opportunities for sustainable visitation, public enjoyment, and research.

Development Control Plan (or DCP)

DCP is a detailed guideline that illustrated the controls that apply to a particular type of development or in a particular area and is made under the EP&A Act.

District strategic plan

Plans for the district's growth and change including infrastructure, liveability, productivity, and sustainability. They inform LEPs, CSPs and the assessment of planning proposals.

Engagement

A consultation process, for example, community engagement whereby a particular group is engaged to gather their input in relation to a particular proposal, challenge, or outcome.

Fabric

The physical material of a place including elements, fixtures, contents, and objects.

Future character

Refers to an agreed vision of how an area will change over time, including an identification of characteristics to be retained or enhanced. Desire future character is often articulated through a character statement or integrated into development controls.

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Green Infrastructure

Describes the network of green spaces and water systems that deliver multiple environmental, economic and social values and benefits to urban communities. This network includes parks and reserves, backyards and gardens, waterways and wetlands, streets and transport corridors, pathways and greenways, squares and plazas, roof gardens and living walls, sports fields and cemeteries. Green infrastructure is the web of interrelated natural systems that underpin and are integrated into our urban fabric.

Knowledge economy

A system of services and production based on knowledge-intensive activities and intellectual capital, where knowledge is the main engine of economic growth. The knowledge economy contributes to the accelerated rate of technical and scientific advancement, as well as obsolescence.

Liveability

How suitable a place is to live in; where the built environment supports and responds to the way in which people live, promoting safety, comfort, enjoyment, environmental quality and access to services. Where a place contributes to the overall quality of life experienced by its residents and the broader community.

Local Character Overlays

A map layer and associated clause that could be introduced into a council's Local Environmental Plan which would identify character areas. This would provide a legal mechanism for requiring additional character assessments to be undertaken as part of a development application, provide alternative requirements, or could exclude certain areas from complying development.

Local Environmental Plan (LEP)

This Plan is a form of EPI made under the EP&A Act. It is the principal legal document for controlling development at the council level. LEPs contain zoning provisions that establish permissibility of uses and specify standards that regulate development. They are prepared by councils and approved by the Minister or, in the Greater Sydney Region, the Greater Sydney Commission or their delegates.

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Local exclusion

An existing mechanism within the Codes SEPP where a council can seek an exemption from individual codes in the Codes SEPP in the circumstance that a character area may require a substantial variation to complying development standards beyond the scope of a local variation. This is for the purpose of allowing better management of the desired future character of that area.

Local Housing Strategy (LHS)

A strategy developed by a Local Council to outline how they will deliver housing in their local area; responding to targets and objectives included in district and regional strategic plans, and their community strategic plan. An LHS will consider the existing and desired future character of an area, and the Local Character Statement.

Local strategic planning statements (LSPS)

A document prepared by each council, setting out the 20-year vision for land-use in their local area, the special character and values that are to be preserved and how change will be managed into the future. They will include actions in the regional and district plans, Council priorities from the Community Strategic Plan, and will ultimately shape how the development controls in the LEP evolve over time.

Local variation

An existing mechanism within the Codes SEPP that enables the potential to introduce alternative development standards for certain Department endorsed character areas for key attributes that would strong influence the character of the area.

Passive frontages

A frontage that does not activate street life. It generally relates to private uses, where the frontage is not open to the public, and therefore does not allow for pedestrian activity or movement through the space.

Place

Place is the layout, division and built form of built environments – its patterns, landscape, density, development, land use and mix. It is a social and physical concept that can be described at different scales of the built environment (e.g. both a building and a town can be a place).

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Placemaking

Proposes a multi-faceted approach to the planning, design and management of spaces. It is striving to create places where people want to be, through understanding the needs of the local community and creating spaces that promote health and wellbeing.

Planning proposal

A planning proposal is a document that explains the intended effect of a proposed amendment to the local environmental plan (LEP) and sets out the justification for making that plan. It will be used and read by a wide audience including those who are responsible for deciding whether the proposal should proceed, as well as the general community.

Private realm

A place that is exclusively used by one or more individuals for gathering and personal purposes; somewhere where the public cannot freely access.

Public realm

The collective, communal part of cities and towns that provide shared access for all. It is often a space of movement, gathering, recreation, events and relaxation; including the streets, pathways, parks, accessible open space, plazas and any other natural area or waterway that is physically and visually accessible.

Regional strategic plan

A document that plans for our future population's needs for housing, jobs, infrastructure and a healthy environment for a broader region (e.g. the Central Coast).

Smart city

Smart cities use technology and information to enhance the quality of services, such as energy, transportation and infrastructure, to improve the liveability and sustainability of a city or region for its citizens. Smart Cities is an opportunity for the planning sector to use technology and real-time monitoring to improve planning decisions which will enhance efficiency, environmental sustainability and citizen engagement.

Social Capital

Refers to the network of connections amongst individuals, drawn from the relationships, institutions, traditions and values that facilitate cohesion and cooperation throughout society.

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Social Value

Social value relates to how scarce resources are allocated and used for social, economic, environmental wellbeing and collective benefit – when they are of value to people in society.

State Environment Planning Policy

Are a form of EPI under the EP&A Act Environmental Planning & Assessment Act to make provision with respect to any matter that, in the opinion of the Minister, is of State or regional environmental planning significance, or is of environmental planning significance to a district in the Greater Sydney Region.

Streetscape

Refers to the view from the public domain, usually the street (and possibly a laneway or public reserve).

Sustainable

Relates to the endurance of systems, buildings, spaces, and processes – their ability to be maintained at a certain rate or level, which contributes positively to environmental, economic, and social outcomes.

Urban canopy

The layer of leaves, branches, and stems of trees that cover the ground when viewed from above.

Urban design

An interdisciplinary practice that draws together elements of many built-environment professions, including landscape architecture, urban planning, architecture, civil and municipal engineering.

Urban Heat Island effect

Urban Heat Island effect represents higher air temperature in localised urban areas than those in surrounding non-urban areas, caused by large amounts and concentration of paved, dark and hard surfaces.

Urban renewal

Building on the strengths of each place, transforming underused or dilapidated areas, boosting local economies and providing a mix of uses and activities to meet the needs of communities.

Resilient

A building, place, or space that can withstand or recover from difficult conditions.

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Wayfinding

How people navigate throughout a journey to a particular destination. Wayfinding can include signage, audible and graphic communication or other information to assist in reaching a destination.

Zoning

The system of categorising land uses as requiring consent, not requiring consent or prohibited within particular areas. Zones (such as Residential or Commercial) are generally shown in map form and their objects and permissible uses are set out in an EPI.