



PLANNING SYSTEM

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Related	

Performance monitoring of the planning system

This circular advises of the new system of data collection on planning and development matters to enable performance monitoring of the planning system by the Department of Planning.

Introduction

The Department is introducing a new system for regular performance reporting on the planning system which will be based on data collected by councils.

Regular data collection from councils on planning and development matters has been undertaken by the Department of Local Government and reported in their annual publication *Comparative Information on NSW Local Government Councils*.

The Department of Planning's expanded performance-monitoring system will replace the Department of Local Government's collection of planning and development information.

Benefits

This expanded monitoring system will have significant long-term benefits for State and local government, the development industry and the community. The information will be used to improve policy and practice advice and inform stakeholders on development activity in NSW.

It is intended that this information together with other data collected through the department's tracking of local environmental plans will provide a foundation for overall monitoring of the planning system.

Specifically, the new system will:

- monitor key aspects of the planning and development assessment system and identify areas where further streamlining of current procedures and practices could occur

- assist in early identification of emerging trends and provide a lead for ongoing system improvement and management
- assist in improving the public accountability of the system by establishing performance measures and benchmarks based on comparable data available
- monitor the performance of State agency referrals and integrated approvals
- monitor the performance of councils in planning and development matters.

A summary of the data will be published towards the end of the year.

Introducing the system

The new process will come into effect immediately and all councils will be requested to supply the department with the required data for 2005–06. Councils will be required to provide initial returns to the department by **31 August 2006** for review and verification.

Most of the information collected in the initial establishment of the system will relate to development assessment. Information will be collected on:

- types and nature of development applications (DAs)
- extent of public notification
- extent of referrals and 'stopping-the-clock' processes
- number of council staff employed in assessing applications
- value of DAs
- nature of determinations

- modification and review processes
- legal action
- certificates issued post-development consent.

Councils will also be able to provide comments on qualitative factors that affect DA-processing such as sub-standard applications and compliance with plans and policies.

There is a range of existing electronic and manual DA data-tracking systems in place in local councils and, consequently, it will be necessary to build up the performance-monitoring program over time.

Review

An operational review of the data collection and reporting process will be undertaken towards the end of 2006 to ensure that it is working effectively and that the information received is accurate and comprehensively evaluated. Councils will be invited to provide feedback on the process.

Authorised by:

Kim Cull
Executive Director
Corporate Governance and Support Services

Important note

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