

Seasonal and Temporary Workers Accommodation Toolkit

This document answers frequently asked questions about accommodation for seasonal and temporary workers.

What is the Seasonal and Temporary Workers Accommodation Toolkit?

The NSW Government is refining a Seasonal and Temporary Workers Accommodation Toolkit to provide clear and practical guidance to build on work already undertaken by many councils to manage spikes in housing demand caused by influxes of seasonal and temporary workers into regional areas.

While some councils already have provisions in place, feedback to the Regional Housing Taskforce indicated further guidance would help councils forward plan to manage this issue in their local areas.

Based on feedback received through targeted consultation, the toolkit will include new policy initiatives to address:

- A Standard Instrument definition for temporary workers' accommodation
- Model clauses for rural workers dwellings and temporary workers accommodation
- Guidance on locational and zoning considerations
- Guidance on complying development provisions for LEPs.

What type of housing does the toolkit provide support for?

The toolkit focuses on policy initiatives that can enable the provision of workers' accommodation including:

Rural Workers Dwellings: Housing (usually permanent) that is provided on farm on a year-round or seasonal basis for workers involved in agriculture or rural industries on that land. Rural workers' dwellings is a defined land use under the Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan

This type of housing can accommodate seasonal workers such as fruit pickers or farmhands.

Temporary Workers Dwellings: Housing provided on a temporary basis for workers that need accommodation for the life of a project. Temporary workers' dwellings can be either close to the project or located near a town centre.

This type of housing can accommodate fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers for mines, construction workers for large-scale infrastructure projects, or temporary accommodation for seasonal workers such as those in the tourism or agricultural sectors.

How were the proposed policy initiatives in the toolkit developed and who did the department consult with?

During October and November 2022, the department conducted targeted consultation with key local councils, agencies and industry to test the toolkit contents and potential policy solutions as set out in an Options Paper: Seasonal and Temporary Workers Accommodation.

The department sought feedback from 28 councils, 2 joint organisations, 10 government agencies and 2 industry groups by distributing an options paper, feedback survey and one-on-one meetings. The consultation elicited 20 responses.

Feedback received during the targeted consultation process will help to refine the policy initiatives in the toolkit. The toolkit will be publicly exhibited in 2023.

What type of feedback did the department receive during targeted consultation?

The feedback received highlighted that the challenges facing councils are dependent on local context with significant variations across the State. There was strong support for councils to set the appropriate zones and for model provisions to be provided as guidance. Respondents acknowledged that issues affecting regions differed significantly and indicated a preference for a tailored local approach, rather than any state-wide mandates, to ensure that local issues can be appropriately addressed and differences between regions can be accommodated.

However, there was strong support for a standardised definition for temporary accommodation for workers to provide greater certainty and consistency throughout the State.

When will the contents of the toolkit be released?

The proposed initiatives in the toolkit will be publicly exhibited during the first half of 2023. The department will release the contents of the toolkit later in 2023.

Why can't the contents of the toolkit be released sooner?

Targeted consultation provided preliminary insight into issues and direction about the policy initiatives the toolkit should address. The department will refine the toolkit by seeking broader feedback through public consultation to ensure its contents are robust and meets the varying needs of councils, industry, and communities across the State.

How can councils help facilitate temporary and seasonal workers accommodation prior to contents of the toolkit being released?

The department is committed to supporting councils wishing to manage the issue of temporary and seasonal workers accommodation through local provisions. This can be done through the existing planning proposal process.

Contact your PLUS team contact for more information or email the [stakeholder engagement team](#) to find out who to talk to.

Does the toolkit cover temporary workers accommodation for SSD/SSIs?

The planning toolkit supports councils to facilitate temporary workers accommodation at a local level. The department will seek feedback on broader issues associated with temporary workers' accommodation, to provide guidance on addressing temporary workers' accommodation needs upfront, for large-scale projects and improving considerations around the cumulative impacts of projects.

Who do I contact for more information about seasonal and temporary workers?

Contact the [stakeholder engagement team](#) for more information.