

# PROGRESSING PLANNING REFORM A SNAPSHOT

*Building Confidence through Better  
Planning for the Northern Territory*

# PROGRESSING PLANNING REFORM



## What is Planning Reform?

Government is responding to calls from industry and the community to deliver better planning outcomes, restore community confidence, and to encourage new investment, by improving the Planning System.

## Initial consultation

Initial consultation sought suggestions on improvements needed and reached more than 1000 community and industry members.

This consultation found that planning reform needed to:

1. **strengthen and clarify the planning framework** to deliver better planning and development outcomes
2. **make the planning system more open and accountable** to improve public understanding and confidence in planning decisions
3. **improve connections with the public** to better value, encourage and support community contributions to planning processes.

## Stage 2 consultation

Stage 2 consultation sought feedback on the overall directions of the reform program and a set of initiatives to be progressed as priority reforms.

Stage 2 feedback helped to build on the detail of these priority reforms to ensure that planning reform will:

- embrace best-practice for coordinated and place-based planning
- make application requirements and processes easier to understand
- provide more information about how decisions are made
- enhance opportunities for community involvement
- strengthen enforcement and compliance
- provide more opportunities to review decisions.



Direct contact and meetings with key stakeholders and groups



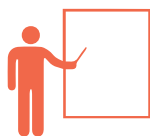
Dedicated telephone number for queries



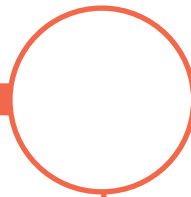
Online survey submission



Written submissions



Workshops sessions in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine



## What now?

To continue the conversation we're releasing:

- This **Snapshot** explaining the Government's overall strategy to progress priority planning system reforms; and
- An **Overview** presenting a summary of reforms with links to:
  - the **Consultation Draft Bill for Amendments to the Planning Act 1999**; and
  - a **Draft Examples of Possible Changes to the Northern Territory Planning Scheme**.

This **Snapshot** provides a high level summary of the priority planning system reforms being progressed. More detailed information on the themes presented here can be found in the **Overview**.

# Coordinated and place-based planning



*Want to know more?  
Refer to Overview  
Topics 1, 2 and 12.*

A planning system that is based on a comprehensive understanding of the environment, people and the economy will benefit all Territorians.

Planning reform is:

- putting more focus on local matters by strengthening the role of area plans
- better coordinating development across different areas by strengthening the role of subregional and regional plans
- making the NT Planning Scheme easier to use and navigate.

# Clear application processes and requirements

Want to know more?  
Refer to Overview  
Topics 3, 5 and 6.

Clear application requirements and timeframes will make planning processes and decisions easier.

Planning reform is:

- making it easier to apply for and get decisions on simple developments
- setting out clear requirements for all types of applications
- clearly identifying all the matters that have to be considered when making a planning decision (by the DCA or the Minister)
- introducing time limits for:
  - o service authorities to make comments
  - o the Minister to make a rezoning decision
  - o how long an application can be deferred.



# Informing and engaging the community



*Want to know more?  
Refer to Overview  
Topics 4 and 9.*

**Better developments happen when the community understand the planning system and contribute to the decision making process.**

Planning reform is:

- introducing a clear and easy to use website with 'plain English' planning information
- introducing better and more targeted notification for small-scale developments
- improving signs and notification requirements
- giving the community more time to comment on more complex applications
- making it easier to understand NT Planning Commission consultation processes through a published engagement policy.

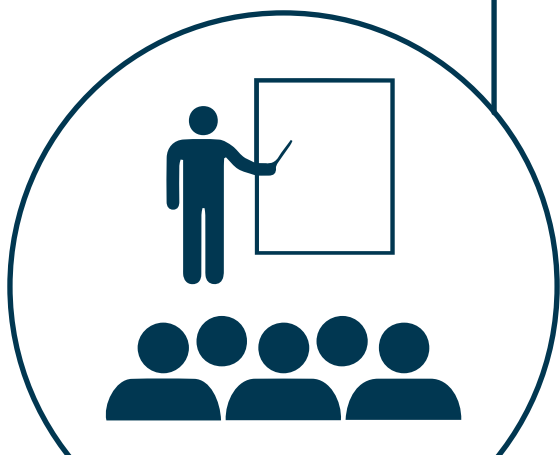
# Informed and transparent decisions

*Want to know more?  
Refer to Overview  
Topics 8 and 9.*

Confidence in the planning system is underpinned by a clear understanding of how decisions are made and advice that is openly available.

Planning reform is:

- supporting planning expertise in the DCA by:
  - introducing new qualification and training requirements for DCA members
  - giving DCA members easier access to subject matter experts
- increasing information about DCA decisions and processes by:
  - requiring a Code of Conduct for the DCA
  - requiring an annual report
  - publishing DCA voting on decisions
- increasing transparency around changes to the Planning Scheme by:
  - introducing criteria for the Minister's decision on Planning Scheme amendments
  - releasing Planning Commission reports to the Minister about Planning Scheme amendments.



# Effective enforcement and compliance



*Want to know more?  
Refer to Overview  
Topics 7 and 11.*

A fairer system for those that do the right thing, and a strong and flexible toolset for enforcement that protects the environment and amenity of all Territorians.

Planning reform is:

- improving certainty for uses that can prove they were legally established
- giving enforcement officers more powers to gather evidence
- introducing stronger powers to discourage and stop illegal development
- increasing maximum penalties
- introducing on the spot fines



# More opportunities for appeal

*Want to know more?  
Refer to Overview  
Topic 10.*

## **A robust planning system provides opportunities for review of decisions.**

Planning reform is:

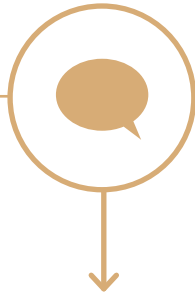
- introducing third party rights of review for Zone RL (Rural Living)
- introducing a right to review DCA decisions not to take enforcement action.



# Want to know more?

*Progressing Planning Reform: An Overview* provides more detailed information on the ideas presented in this Snapshot. It will guide you through the proposed reforms to the planning system, especially the changes to the *Planning Act 1999* and how these will be reflected in a 'new look' Northern Territory Planning Scheme.

- 1 → Strengthen the role of strategic planning
- 2 → Make the Planning Scheme more user-friendly
- 3 → Simplify development application processes
- 4 → Revise notification requirements
- 5 → Introduce criteria for planning scheme amendments
- 6 → Streamline application timeframes
- 7 → Introduce more effective enforcement tools
- 8 → Introduce new Development Consent Authority membership and reporting requirements
- 9 → Improve planning information and public engagement
- 10 → Extend third party rights of review to Zone RL (Rural Living)
- 11 → Create more certainty for legal existing uses
- 12 → Support infrastructure contributions
- 13 → Miscellaneous minor changes to the Act



## How to be involved

To access more information, provide a submission, or to find out about consultation activities, get in touch with us at:



[www.haveyoursay.nt.gov.au](http://www.haveyoursay.nt.gov.au)

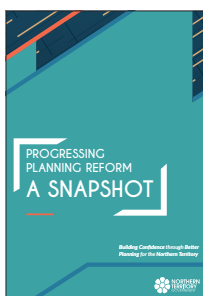


[planningreform@nt.gov.au](mailto:planningreform@nt.gov.au)

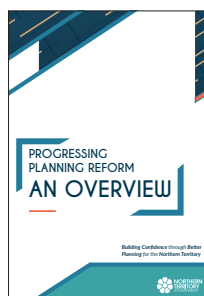


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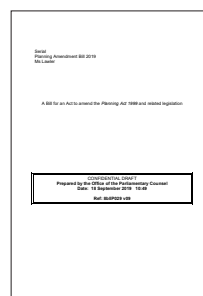
## Related documents



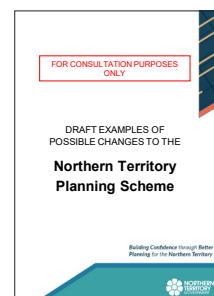
Planning Reform: a Snapshot



Progressing Planning Reform: an Overview



Consultation Draft of a Bill for Amendments to the *Planning Act 1999*



Draft Examples of Possible Changes to the NT Planning Scheme

