



Setting the scene for the future planning and development of the State

South Australia's population continues to experience fundamental shifts in age profiles, housing preferences and employment types. The new planning system requires the necessary policy tools in place to deliver a greater variety of housing and transport options; generate improved design outcomes in our built environment; and create greater economic opportunities.

The State Planning Policies 31 January 2019 (SPPs) seek to improve how, what and where we develop land, enable greater adaptability to change, maximise infrastructure efficiency, protect our valuable assets and conserve our unique environment.

What role do State Planning Policies play?

State Planning Policies define the state's interests and will provide the policy framework for other planning instruments. SPPs are to be taken into account when preparing other planning instruments such as Regional Plans and the Planning and Design Code. They will also influence an agency's referral role by setting out state interests up front.

What are the State Planning Policies and what can they include?

State Planning Policies identify the planning priorities of the State and can respond to current and future challenges.

SPPs may include any matters that are relevant to planning or development and any matter considered appropriate by the State Planning Commission (the Commission).

While the Act legislates a number of SPPs are considered necessary for the sustainable development of the state, an additional 11 SPPs have been identified by the Minister for Planning as being integral to the long term livability, sustainability and prosperity of the state.

How are State Planning Policies prepared and amended?

State Planning Policies can be prepared by the Commission on behalf of the Minister. The Minister can request that the Commission initiate an amendment to an SPP.

To prepare a new or amend an SPP it is necessary to:

- prepare a draft proposal
- comply with the Community Engagement Charter
- consult with person(s) or body(s) specified by the Commission
- carry out investigations & obtain information as specified by the Commission
- comply with the requirements of the regulations
- prepare a report for the Minister in accordance with any relevant practice direction
- publish the report on the SA Planning Portal in accordance with any relevant Practice Direction.

SPPs come into effect after the Minister has adopted them (with or without changes) and when they are:

- published in the Government Gazette
- published on the SA Planning Portal.

Parliamentary scrutiny of the SPPs also takes place with a referral to the Environment Resource Development Committee of Parliament.

Are State Planning Policies used in development assessment?

The role of State Planning Policies varies depending on the assessment pathway.

- **Code Assessed Development** – these applications are assessed against the Planning and Design Code policy, that is **informed** by the SPPs.
- **Environment Impact Statement** – State Planning Policies have a role in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS must include a statement of the extent to which the impacts of development would be consistent with relevant SPPs, and must provide any commitments regarding avoidance, mitigation or management consistent with the provisions of any special legislative scheme.

Establishment of Infrastructure Schemes

In providing advice to the Minister regarding the establishment of any Infrastructure Scheme, the Commission must take into consideration any relevant SPP.

Performance targets and monitoring

The Minister, may, on the advice of the Commission, set performance targets on any goal, policy or objective under an SPP. These enable the monitoring of progress towards achieving the goals and the extent to which the goal is achieved. Targets may be monitored, reviewed, withdrawn and may be periodically published.

Implementation of the State Planning Policies

Action	Timing
Commence inter-agency secondment	Last quarter 2016
Call for nominations for State Agency Reference Group	Last quarter 2016
Test guiding principles / format options	Last quarter 2016
Sign off on SPP Framework	First quarter 2017
Prepare draft SPPs	Third and Fourth quarter 2017
Public and Agency Consultation*	16 July – 21 September 2018
Adopted by Minister for Planning	15 January 2019
Approved by His Excellency, the Governor	31 January 2019

For more information on the State Planning Policies and the planning reform program please visit the SA Planning Portal www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au