

## PLANNING SYSTEM

ePlanning

<b>Circular</b>	PS15-001
<b>Issued</b>	19 June 2015
<b>Related</b>	PS06-016, PS 10-011, PS 09-008

# Establishment of the NSW Planning Portal

The purpose of this circular is to advise councils, industry and the community on the establishment of the NSW Planning Portal and to provide guidance to councils on where development control plans and contributions plans can be sent.

## Introduction

Certain amendments relating to ePlanning in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the EP&A Act) in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment Act 2014* (the Amendment Act) will start on 30 November 2015.

## NSW Planning Portal and NSW Planning Database

The amendments relate to establishing the NSW Planning Portal and the NSW Planning Database. The Planning Portal is a website to provide public access to the planning services and information in the NSW Planning Database. The NSW Planning Database is an electronic repository of documents, environmental planning instruments, spatial datasets and maps accessible through the NSW Planning Portal.

The provisions also enable the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) to determine standard technical requirements for:

- environmental planning instruments
- plans, or documents
- spatial datasets
- maps
- the form of applications for consent, approvals or certificates that must be implemented by councils and other planning authorities.

This will help to facilitate the exchange of information in the planning system.

## The Planning Reform Fund fee can be used for ePlanning

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (ePlanning) Regulation 2015* (Amending Regulation) amends the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* to make it clear that from 1 July 2015 the Planning Reform Fund fee can be used to facilitate the online delivery of planning services and information. This includes:

- compiling and maintaining the NSW Planning Database
- operating the NSW Planning Portal
- enhancing the NSW Planning Database and the NSW Planning Portal.

## Requirement to maintain historical versions and provide alert facility deferred

The Amending Regulation will exempt the NSW Planning Database from a requirement to maintain historical versions of documents and other material.

It will also defer the requirement for the Secretary of the Department to establish an alert facility for the electronic notification of new planning decisions and matters until 1 March 2016. This is the anticipated date for the release of additional functionality on the NSW Planning Portal.

## Where to send development control plans and contributions plans

From 30 November 2015, the NSW Planning Portal will provide a central point of access to development control plans and contributions plans across New South Wales.

Councils are already required to provide development control plans to the Secretary of the Department within 28 days after making the plan (cl.25AB of the EP&A Regulation).

Councils are also required to provide copies of contributions plans to the Minister as soon as practicable after approving a plan (s.94EA(4) of the EP&A Act).

Councils are asked to email copies of the plans to [LEP@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:LEP@planning.nsw.gov.au). The subject heading should contain the name of the development control plan or contributions plan.

Where the file size is greater than 10MB the council is asked to send the data using the same FTP site used for sending local environmental plans to the Department and to also send an email in the same manner as described above, notifying the Department that an upload to the FTP site is intended and requesting site and login details.

### **Further Information**

A copy of this circular is available at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au>

A copy of the Amendment Act is available at <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>

A copy of the Amending Regulation is available at <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>

ePlanning tools can be accessed at <http://www.hub.planning.nsw.gov.au>

For further information, please contact the Department of Planning and Environment's information centre on 1300 305 695.

Department of Planning and Environment circulars are available at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/circulars>

### **Authorised by:**

**Carolyn McNally**  
**Secretary**

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**Important note:** This circular does not constitute legal advice. Users are advised to seek professional advice and refer to the relevant legislation, as necessary, before taking action in relation to any matters covered by this circular.

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