OUR
NEW
SYSTEM

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S NEW PLANNING SYSTEM

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS: WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW WILL THEY WORK?

SUMMARY

August 2018

South Australia's planning system shapes land use and the physical development of the state. *The Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act)* sets out the new framework to modernise our planning system. With a stated intention to promote quality design, the new system is being created with input from planners, developers, industry professionals and the community. This summary document synthesises key themes from the *Performance Indicators Discussion Paper* about how a scheme for monitoring and reporting in a new development assessment system could be developed.

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Government
of South Australia

Department of Planning,
Transport and Infrastructure

WHAT ARE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS?

Performance Indicators refers to the monitoring, analysing and reporting on development assessment processes in the state's planning system. It can also relate to the monitoring of strategic planning targets or performance targets of Joint Planning Boards. This summary focuses on monitoring the development assessment process, which relates to things such as decision outcomes and timeframes, or the numbers of applications being processed to enable reporting across the planning sector.

The processing of development applications is linked to the Planning and Design Code (the Code), which will guide the state's new planning system. Feedback is now being sought on how the system's planning performance data will be collated and reported on.

Discussion paper at a glance

The Performance Indicators discussion paper outlines proposals and raises questions about measuring development assessment, and how to determine the most appropriate procedures for data collection and reporting in the state's new planning system. The paper also covers similar activities occurring interstate and recommendations for what could occur in South Australia.

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Current system monitoring

The performance of the state's planning system is currently governed under the Development Act, 1993 and the Development Regulations 2008, which sets out:

- the requirement for the Minister for Planning to prepare annual reports on the administration of the Act and the implementation of the Planning Strategy for South Australia, both of which are required to be presented to Parliament

- the ability for the Minister to establish a process requiring retention of data and reporting on the performance of the planning system in development assessment matters – this process is known as the 'System Indicators Program'.

Why system monitoring is changing

The Development Act 1993 is being phased out and replaced by the PDI Act.

The PDI Act outlines measures which may be adopted by the Minister (on recommendation of the State Planning Commission) to establish a scheme for evaluating the performance of the planning system as a whole and the decision-making bodies within it.
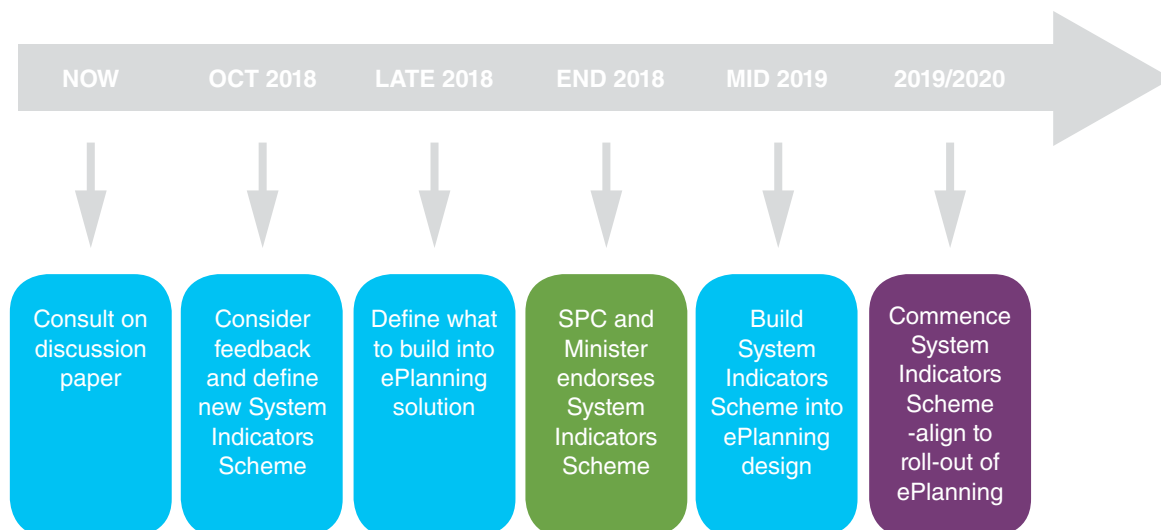
Benefits of a new scheme to monitor the planning system

There are significant benefits in monitoring the planning system including:

√ **Better information** to make informed decisions about what is and isn't working well

√ **Improved transparency** around the effectiveness of the planning system to deliver community, industry and government expectations

√ **Promotes a culture of ongoing improvement** by understanding what is and isn't working well, and facilitating improvements to make a more efficient and effective system

√ **Monitoring development trends** to identify areas where policy can be improved in response to changes in development activity

√ **More efficient and accurate information collection** through an ePlanning solution that offers an automated mechanism for collecting information instead of the current manual processes.
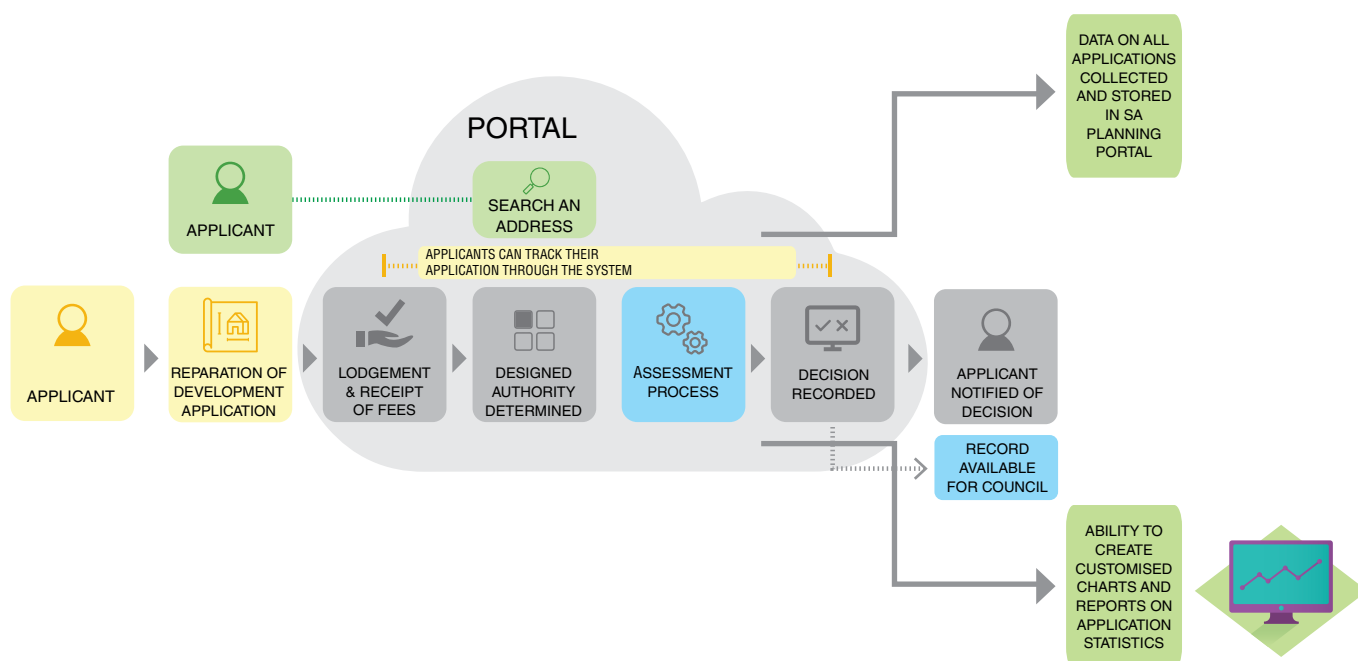
HOW WILL THE NEW SCHEME BE DEVELOPED?

NOW	OCT 2018	LATE 2018	END 2018	MID 2019	2019/2020
Consult on discussion paper	Consider feedback and define new System Indicators Scheme	Define what to build into ePlanning solution	SPC and Minister endorses System Indicators Scheme	Build System Indicators Scheme into ePlanning design	Commence System Indicators Scheme -align to roll-out of ePlanning

New tools

The ePlanning solution being developed by the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) will capture planning system data online through the SA Planning Portal. Due to legislative changes and the ability to collect data via technology, a new System Indicators Scheme offers improved opportunities for online data capture. Monitoring of the new planning system will be aligned with the commencement of the Code across the state in July 2020.

PORTAL

APPLICANT

SEARCH AN ADDRESS

APPLICANTS CAN TRACK THEIR APPLICATION THROUGH THE SYSTEM

APPLICANT

REPARATION OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

LODGEMENT & RECEIPT OF FEES

DESIGNED AUTHORITY DETERMINED

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

DECISION RECORDED

APPLICANT NOTIFIED OF DECISION

DATA ON ALL APPLICATIONS COLLECTED AND STORED IN SA PLANNING PORTAL

RECORD AVAILABLE FOR COUNCIL

ABILITY TO CREATE CUSTOMISED CHARTS AND REPORTS ON APPLICATION STATISTICS

Collecting, reporting and presenting information

There are a myriad of different data combinations which could be collected and analysed. Part of the work ahead is to establish which combinations will be most useful to address issues in the planning system.

Unlike the current process, which requires statistics to be collected from councils and other authorities manually, this could be done centrally by DPTI via reporting mechanisms within the ePlanning solution, which all decision making authorities will use to process development applications. The collection of current 'standard' data will continue, such as:

- number of applications
- timeframes in decision-making and referral responses
- number of applications being processed via different assessment pathways
- decision outcomes (i.e. approvals versus refusals)
- number of approvals of different development types
- proportion of applications subject to public notification
- numbers, types and outcomes of court appeals.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Interested parties are invited to provide feedback on the Performance Indicators Discussion Paper. Submissions can be lodged via any of the following methods:

- Visit the SA Planning Portal at **www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/have_your_say**
- or YourSAy website at **www.yoursay.sa.gov.au** to complete a short survey or lodge an individual submission.
- Email: **DPTI.PlanningEngagement@sa.gov.au** or post: PO Box 1815, Adelaide SA 5000
- Council planners may comment or send submissions via the 'Measuring the New Planning System' forum on Council Connect at: **councilconnect.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/**

What other information could be useful?

Feedback from industry professionals is being sought on what other useful types of data and statistics could be collected. Any proposed new data field will need to be assessed to ensure there is a clear purpose for its collection and that it does not create unrealistic resourcing and maintenance issues.

What can interstate examples of planning tools offer?

In other regions of Australia, planning professionals and the public have the ability to create their own customised reports about development. They can also access additional useful online data features that can be presented in downloadable maps, charts or other spatial formats. This ability to compare and assess the performance of different planning authorities or regions can help gauge the 'health' of a planning system.

These examples have merit in ease of use and accessibility. The discussion paper suggests consideration be given to introducing similar capacity in the South Australian planning system. Feedback on these interstate planning tools is sought from councils, industry and other stakeholders.

Summary

The Performance Indicators Discussion Paper recommends that a new scheme for monitoring development data be established to replace the existing program. Ideas gathered from key stakeholders across the planning sector will inform the development of a new scheme, with new data collection implemented in stages over time.

The paper also recommends that the online interface for planning includes a user-friendly interactive capability, where data is accessed to create customisable reports, graphs and maps. While this is beyond the legislative requirement for the State Planning Commission's annual report to provide information on the planning system, access to this data would be invaluable for industry professionals and the public.