

Engagement Plan: proposed amendment to State Planning Policy 1

Background information

Australia is currently experiencing a shortage of urban and regional planners. The shortage hinders South Australia's ability to tackle critical challenges including housing affordability, population growth, and the transition to a net-zero emissions future, whilst also placing the sustainability of our communities in jeopardy.

In response to this shortage, in January 2024 the Minister for Planning requested that the State Planning Commission initiate an amendment to the State Planning Policies (SPPs).

SPPs are the highest order policy document in South Australia's planning system. They guide planning and development in South Australia.

The aim of the amendment is to recognise the skills shortage and the importance of considering how the long-term vision for the state will be delivered and resourced.

The Commission determined that *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning* (SPP1) is the most appropriate policy in which to incorporate the amendment. The Commission proposes to insert the following policy into SPP1 (Policy 1.12):

Provide an effective, efficient and enabling planning system that is well resourced with qualified professionals to support development, investment and good planning outcomes.

Other associated and complementary amendments are also proposed to ensure the language and intent of the new policy is consistently applied throughout SPP1.

The State Planning Policies introduced to the SA Planning system in January 2019 have held us in good stead through the preparation of the Planning and Design Code, driving much of the content for the overlays. The SPPs are also playing a critical leading role as we prepare the 7 new regional plans across the State.

Implementation of the SPPs, through both the preparation of the Code and the Regional Planning Program have found the SPPs to be comprehensive and robust and no further changes are proposed at this time, beyond changes proposed to SPP1.

Previous engagement

To date, no public engagement has been undertaken in relation to this policy amendment.

As part of preparing the proposed amendment, advice and input was sought from internal stakeholders in the Department for Trade and Investment's Planning and Land Use Services Division. Staff contributed their significant experience and knowledge of the State Planning Policies and the preparation and amendment of designated instruments.

Engagement purpose

The purpose of the engagement is to:

- ensure the proposed amendment to SPP1 considers and reflects the expectations of stakeholders and community
- educate and inform key stakeholders and the community about the policy amendment
- provide opportunities for stakeholders and the community to review the proposal, seek clarification and offer feedback on the proposal
- ensure compliance with the statutory obligations under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act) and the Community Engagement Charter.

Engagement objectives

The engagement objectives are to:

- raise awareness across stakeholders and interested community regarding:
 - the proposed policy amendment
 - the opportunity to give feedback on the proposed changes
- provide appropriate and timely information and opportunities for stakeholders and community to give feedback on the proposed amendment
- respond to stakeholder questions and concerns during the consultation
- gather informed and relevant feedback from stakeholders and community that contributes meaningfully to the proposed amendment
- define the scope of consultation so that stakeholders know why feedback is being sought and how it will be used
- meet statutory engagement requirements
- 'close the loop' and inform stakeholders of the outcome of the consultation.

Scope of influence

Aspects of the project which stakeholders and the community *can* influence are:

- the inclusion of the proposed amendment in State Planning Policy 1.
- the language used in the proposed amendment to the State Planning Policy.

Aspects of the project which stakeholders and the community *cannot* influence are:

- which State Planning Policy the amendment will be applied to

- any of the other State Planning Policies (theses are not set forward for amendment at this time)
- any other content in State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning, unless it is related to or complimentary to the proposed amendment.

Key messages

State Planning Policies – general

- South Australia’s 16 SPPs are the highest order policy documents in the state’s planning system.
- SPPs guide the strategic direction of planning and how the planning system is used in SA.
- SPPs provide the policy framework for other planning instruments such as the Planning and Design Code, regional plans and design standards.
- The government can ensure that SPPs respond to modern challenges by updating them to include matters that are relevant to planning or development.

Current shortage of planning professionals

- Good planning is essential to South Australia's future, and the planners who shape our communities perform a vital role.
- There is currently a national shortage of urban and regional planners, highlighted in the Planning Institute of Australia’s [Planners in Australia: State of the Profession Report](#) and in the Federal Government’s [Skills Priority List](#).
- The planning skills shortage is a critical concern for the state.
- South Australia needs qualified planning professionals so that we can deal with challenges like housing affordability, population growth, and the transition to a net-zero emissions future.
- A lack of planning professionals threatens the sustainability of our communities.
- Without enough skilled planning professionals, the delivery of SPPs, regional plans, and the broader planning system is at risk.
- The Minister for Planning’s Built Environment Education Taskforce is creating new education opportunities to help address the skills shortage, but there is still more work to be done.

Proposed amendment to SPP1

- In response to the skills shortage, the State Planning Commission has initiated an amendment to the existing *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning* at the request of the Minister for Planning.
- *SPP 1: Integrated Planning* coordinates the strategic use of land with necessary services and infrastructure. It influences how a city or region grows and creates livable and sustainable places that contribute to its prosperity.

- The proposed new policy (Policy 1.12) states:

Provide an effective, efficient and enabling planning system that is well resourced with qualified professionals to support development, investment and good planning outcomes.
- The proposed amendment addresses the long-term resourcing and provision of skills required to service SA's planning system.
- The proposed amendment aims to support and enhance SA's future planning capabilities.
- Increasing SA's planning capabilities will assist in delivering National Cabinet's new national target to build 1.2 million new well-located homes over 5 years. It will also lead to better and faster decision making on development proposals or implementing critical initiatives such as rezoning land for housing or employment.
- Other associated minor amendments are proposed to ensure the language of the new policy is consistently applied throughout the SPP.
- The wording of the amendments was guided by the Objects of the Act in section 12 and the Principles of Good Planning in section 14 of the Act.
- No other State Planning Policies will be changed as part of this proposed amendment.

The public consultation process

- Public consultation is now open, and you are invited to provide your feedback on the proposed amendment by:
 - email
planSAsubmissions@sa.gov.au
 - post
Submission: State Planning Policy 1 amendment
State Planning Commission
Department for Trade and Investment
GPO Box 1815, ADELAIDE SA 5001
 - YourSay
www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/spp1-amendment.
- The Department for Trade and Investment, on behalf of the Commission, is hosting two online information sessions through Planning and Land Use Services. Details about the information sessions are available at plansaevents.eventbrite.com.
- Public consultation on the Commission's proposed amendment to SPP1 is open for 8 weeks until close of business on 6 June 2024.
- Following the conclusion of public consultation, an engagement report and final draft amendment to SPP1 will be furnished to the Minister for consideration and final decision.
- If adopted, the SPP1 amendment will not have effect unless or until it has been approved by the Governor by notice published in the Gazette.

Stakeholder and community mapping

Target Audience	Level of engagement (i.e. inform, consult, involve, collaborate)	Engagement need or technique
Local Government		
Councils – CEs	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct letter • Planning Ahead • PlanSA website • YourSAy website
Councils – planning staff	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly planning forum • Planning Ahead • PlanSA website • YourSAy website • Social media • Via letter to council CE • Online information sessions
Councils – Mayors	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct letter • Planning Ahead • PlanSA website • YourSAy website • Via council planning staff
LGA of SA	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct letter to CE • Planning Ahead • PlanSA website • YourSAy website • Online information sessions
Regional LGAs	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct letter to CE • Planning Ahead • PlanSA website • YourSAy website • Online information sessions
Building/planning industry		
UDIA, SA	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct letter to CE • Planning Ahead • Social media • YourSAy website • PlanSA website • Online information sessions
Master Builders Association SA		
Planning Institute of Australia, SA		
Property Council		
Housing Industry Association, SA		

Target Audience	Level of engagement (i.e. inform, consult, involve, collaborate)	Engagement need or technique
Consultancies	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct letter to CE • Planning Ahead • Social media • YourSAy website • PlanSA website • Online information sessions
Other interested planning and building professionals	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Ahead • Social media • YourSAy website • PlanSA website • Via industry bodies • Online information sessions
State Government		
MPs	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct letters • YourSAy website • PlanSA website
Broader community		
South Australians with an interest in planning and development CASA	Consult	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct letter to CASA • Media release (at the discretion of the Minister's office) • Planning Ahead • Social media • YourSAy website • PlanSA website • Information via councils, industry, government

Engagement approach

Tactic	Purpose	Timing
Media release (at the discretion of the Minister's office)	Raise awareness of the proposed changes and the consultation for stakeholders and all interested South Australians	11 April
Letter (via email) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA council and LGA CEs • SA council mayors • Planning/building industry bodies • Planning consultancies • MPs 	Notify key stakeholders of proposed changes to SPP1 and opportunity to provide feedback	11 April
PlanSA website, including online feedback form	Provide information on the proposed amendment and opportunity to give feedback Gather stakeholder feedback (directing to YourSAy as primary way of making a submission)	11 April
YourSAy website, including survey	Provide easy-to-understand information explaining the proposed changes Gather community and stakeholder feedback	11 April
Social media: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PlanSA Facebook • PlanSA Twitter • SPC LinkedIn • YourSAy Facebook • YourSAy Twitter 	Notify interested people of the proposed changes and opportunity to give feedback	From 11 April to 6 June, ahead of online information sessions and ahead of closing date
Planning Ahead article	Notify stakeholders, planning professionals and people interested in SA planning of proposed changes to SPP1 and opportunity to provide feedback	April edition
Monthly planning forums	Notify planning and related industry professionals of proposed changes to SPP1 and opportunity to provide feedback	Next forum after 11 April (being the 17 May meeting)

Tactic	Purpose	Timing
Online information sessions	Provide information for stakeholders to hear directly from the team regarding the proposed changes and ask questions	Tues 23 April, 1 – 1 45pm Tues 14 May, 1 – 1 45pm
Collateral including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequently asked questions • Summary of changes document 	Provide additional detail for stakeholders and interested community regarding the proposed changes to SPP1 and how to give feedback – to be available on PlanSA and YourSAy websites and hard copy from PLUS building, Level 9	11 April
plansasubmissions@sa.gov.au email address	For emailed submissions	11 April
PlanSA email and phone	Enable stakeholders and community to email questions directly or speak with someone in person to gain further information	Ongoing from 11 April

Applying the Charter principles in practice

Charter principle	How does your engagement approach/activities reflect this principle in action?
Engagement is genuine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement sought input early to help shape the proposal • Key stakeholders will be directly consulted on the amendment • A wide range of stakeholders are consulted, using a range of methods to facilitate participation and easy access to information • Provide sufficient timelines for people to fully participate in the engagement process and provide their input • Provide clear and easy to follow information to help audiences understand how the amendment is relevant to them • An engagement report will be prepared and published in accordance with section 73(7) of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (PDI Act) outlining what was heard and the how the feedback was considered as part of the amendment • Staff are available to respond to enquiries and provide clarity during the engagement process via the PlanSA Service Desk
Engagement is inclusive and respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement sought input early to help shape the proposal • A wide range of stakeholders are consulted, using a range of methods to facilitate participation and easy access to information • All reasonable effort is made to ensure those most affected and/or interested are made aware of the proposed amendment and engaged (e.g. information sessions and advertising (online and print)) • Provide sufficient timelines for people to fully participate in the engagement process and provide their input • Provide clear and easy to follow information to help audiences understand how the amendment is relevant to them • Comments, feedback and views are captured and considered • Staff are available to respond to enquiries and provide clarity during the engagement process via the PlanSA Service Desk • All stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback through multiple formats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PlanSA Service Desk - Feedback/online submission form - Post-consultation feedback survey - Email feedback - Letters to submitters - YourSAy website
Engagement is fit for purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders directly impacted by the amendment will be targeted directly by the engagement process (letters, online information sessions) • Community advocacy groups will be encouraged to provide information and encourage their communities to provide feedback in a way that meets their community's needs to reach a broader target audience • A range of targeted and broad tactics will be used to provide information and enable affected and interested communities to provide feedback, including online, hard copies and in person tactics • Communication material will be easy to understand and be clear about the proposed changes • Use of technology to enable access to information across the state in a way that meets the audiences' needs including written materials and online information sessions
Engagement is informed and transparent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information will clearly articulate key areas of interest, what we are gathering feedback on, explain how participants can get involved/participate and how feedback will be used • All relevant information and resources will be made available online for anyone to access easily • Information resources/materials will be easily accessible with all efforts taken to ensure it is easy to understand (language and format) • The information will clearly outline what the public can and cannot influence • Submissions will be acknowledged and will include an explanation of the next steps in the process • An engagement report summarising the feedback received during consultation will be made publicly available on the PlanSA Portal at the conclusion of the consultation period
Engagement is reviewed and improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement and opportunities for improvement will be summarised in the engagement report to the Minister • Feedback from this consultation may inform the amendment to SPP1 • If any issues are raised about engagement during the process, it will be considered and appropriate action will be taken where appropriate/necessary • As the Engagement Plan is implemented, debriefs will occur after key engagement activities to determine if any changes are required

Measuring success

At the completion of the engagement, all participants will be invited to assess the success of the engagement against performance criteria one to four, below. The project manager, with assistance from communications and engagement specialists, will assess the success of the engagement against criteria five to nine. This evaluation will be included in the Engagement Report that is sent to the State Planning Commission and the Minister for Planning and which details all engagement activities undertaken. It will also be referenced in the Commission that is issued to the Governor of South Australia and the Environment Resources and Development Committee of Parliament. Any issues raised about the engagement during the engagement process will be considered and action will be taken if considered appropriate.

#	Charter criteria	Charter performance outcomes	Respondent	Indicator ²	Evaluation tool ³ Exit survey / follow-up survey	Measuring success of project engagement
1	Principle 1: Engagement is genuine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People had faith and confidence in the engagement process. 	Community	I feel the engagement genuinely sought my input to help shape the proposal	Likert scale - strongly disagree to strongly agree	Per cent from each response.
2	Principle 2: Engagement is inclusive and respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected and interested people had the opportunity to participate and be heard. 	Community	I am confident my views were heard during the engagement	Likert scale - strongly disagree to strongly agree	Per cent from each response.
			Project Lead	The engagement reached those identified as community of interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives from most community groups participated in the engagement Representatives from some community groups participated in the engagement There was little representation of the community groups in engagement. 	Per cent from each response.
3	Principle 3: Engagement is fit for purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People were effectively engaged and satisfied with the process. People were clear about the proposed change and how it would affect them. 	Community	I was given sufficient information so that I could take an informed view.	Likert scale - strongly disagree to strongly agree	Per cent from each response.
				I was given an adequate opportunity to be heard	Likert scale - strongly disagree to strongly agree	Per cent from each response.
4	Principle 4: Engagement is informed and transparent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All relevant information was made available and people could access it. People understood how their views were considered, the reasons for the outcomes and the final decision that was made. 	Community	I felt informed about why I was being asked for my view, and the way it would be considered.	Likert scale - strongly disagree to strongly agree	Per cent from each response.
5	Principle 5: Engagement processes are reviewed and improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The engagement was reviewed and improvements recommended. 	Project Lead	Engagement was reviewed throughout the process and improvements put in place, or recommended for future engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed and recommendations made Reviewed but no system for making recommendations Not reviewed 	Per cent from each response.
6	Engagement occurs early	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement occurred before or during the drafting of the planning policy, strategy or scheme when there was an opportunity for influence. 	Project Lead	Engagement occurred early enough for feedback to genuinely influence the planning policy, strategy or scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged when there was opportunity for input into scoping Engaged when there was opportunity for input into first draft Engaged when there was opportunity for minor edits to final draft Engaged when there was no real opportunity for input to be considered 	Per cent from each response.
7	Engagement feedback was considered in the development of planning policy, strategy or scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement contributed to the substance of a plan or resulted in changes to a draft. 	Project Lead	Engagement contributed to the substance of the final plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a significant way In a moderate way In a minor way Not at all 	Per cent from each response.
8	Engagement includes 'closing the loop'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement included activities that 'closed the loop' by providing feedback to participants/ community about outcomes of engagement 	Project Lead	Engagement provided feedback to community about outcomes of engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formally (report or public forum) Informally (closing summaries) No feedback provided 	Per cent from each response.

Closing the loop and reporting back

How will you respond to participants?	When will you report back?
A 'what we heard' report will be sent to all who provide feedback during consultation, providing a high-level summary of feedback received and next steps, along with the evaluation survey	Following consultation and initial review of feedback
Engagement report outlining details of feedback received, what action was taken and why, and an evaluation of the engagement process against the Engagement Charter principles	When the final decision is made
Email/letter to key stakeholders and consultation participants notifying them of the final decision, linking to engagement report and further details on the PlanSA/YourSAy websites	When the final decision is made
PlanSA and YourSAy website updates providing information on the final decision	When final decision is made
Social media posts (PlanSA and SPC channels)	When final decision is made
Planning Ahead article	When final decision is made
Information will be provided at the monthly Planning Forum	When the final decision is made
A briefing for councils, key state agencies, industry bodies will be considered following the final decision	Following final decision