



For the  
*community*  
*creators*



# UDIA ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

Planning Framework Processes – What is a Local Planning Strategy?



# Overview

**A Local Planning Strategy (the Strategy) is a key guiding document that identifies short (0-5 years), medium (5-10 years), and long term (10-15 years) planning and development priorities for a Local Government.**

The development of a local planning strategy is important, because this should be an opportunity for the local community to have a say in the overall vision, goals and objectives for growth in the local area.

A local planning strategy is a document that outlines a local government's strategic intention for future planning and development in the area and provides the strategic basis for a local planning scheme. A Strategy also provides a way to interpret State and regional strategies and policies at the local level. It establishes key principles and objectives that will be used in considering land use and development in response to changes in population, housing, business, employment, transport, community facilities and infrastructure. It also establishes key actions to be undertaken by the local government and others to ensure that further detailed planning is undertaken collaboratively and is consistent with agreed principles and objectives.

Importantly the Strategy will provide a basis for any changes to zoning and development standards set out in the City's Local Planning Scheme.



# Local Planning Strategy Preparation and Process

Local planning strategies are prepared under the Planning and Development Act 2005 and are guided by the State Planning Framework and other relevant state planning policies. The process for preparing a local planning strategy in Western Australia involves several stages, including research, consultation, drafting, and approval. The timeframes can vary depending on the complexity of the area, community involvement, and regulatory requirements, but generally, the process can take between 1 to 2 years. The procedure generally involves the following steps:

## 1. Initiation and Preliminary Planning (3-6 months)

- **Project Scoping:** Define the scope, objectives, and resources required for the planning strategy.
- **Engagement Plan:** Develop a plan for engaging with stakeholders, including the community, businesses, and government agencies.
- **Background Research:** Collect and analyse data on demographics, land use, environmental conditions, infrastructure, and economic trends.

## 2. Community and Stakeholder Consultation (3-6 months)

- **Initial Consultation:** Engage with the community and stakeholders through workshops, surveys, public meetings, and online platforms to gather input on issues and aspirations.
- **Key Issues Identification:** Identify key issues, opportunities, and constraints based on consultation feedback and research findings.

## 3. Drafting the Strategy (4-6 months)

- **Vision and Objectives:** Develop a vision statement and strategic objectives for the local area.
- **Spatial Framework:** Create maps and diagrams illustrating proposed land use patterns, growth areas, and infrastructure projects.
- **Policy Framework:** Formulate specific policies and actions to achieve the strategic objectives.
- **Draft Strategy Preparation:** Compile all components into a draft local planning strategy document.

## 4. Public Exhibition and Feedback (2-3 months)

- **Public Exhibition:** Release the draft strategy for public comment.
- **Consultation Events:** Hold public meetings, workshops, and information sessions to present the draft strategy and gather feedback.
- **Submission Review:** Collect and analyse public and stakeholder submissions to identify any necessary changes or adjustments to the draft strategy.

## 5. Finalization and Adoption (3-6 months)

- **Strategy Revision:** Revise the draft strategy based on feedback received during the public exhibition.
- **Local Government Endorsement:** Present the revised strategy to the local council for endorsement.
- **WAPC Approval:** Submit the endorsed strategy to the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) for review and approval.
- **Minister for Planning:** Obtain final approval from the Minister for Planning if required.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why are local planning strategies important?

Local planning strategies are important because they:

- Ensure orderly and sustainable development.
- Align land use planning with community needs and aspirations.
- Integrate various aspects of planning such as housing, transport, economic development and environmental protection.
- Provide a basis for preparing and amending local planning schemes.

## What is the difference between a local planning strategy and a local planning scheme?

Local governments are responsible for planning their local communities by ensuring appropriate planning controls exist for land use and development. They do this by preparing local planning schemes and strategies.

The Strategy is a strategic document that sets out the **long-term land use planning direction** outlining the vision, goals, and strategic direction of a local area whilst the Scheme is a statutory document that sets out the **rules and regulations for land use and development**, based on the framework set by the Strategy.

## How often are local planning strategies updated?

Local planning strategies should be reviewed and updated periodically, typically every 5 to 10 years, to reflect changes in community needs, state policies, and development trends. Amendments can also be made as needed to address specific issues or opportunities.

## Where can I find my local planning strategy and scheme?

Local planning strategies should be available on the relevant local government website. You can also obtain information and copies by contacting the local council's planning department.

## What is the difference between a target and a forecast?

A 'target' in the context of the State Government's planning framework (Perth and Peel@3.5million), is a guide for the minimum amount of additional dwellings the State Government expects each local government to provide. The purpose is to guide further detailed planning, which should include detailed analysis of the best available population and demographic information.

A 'forecast' is an estimate of the likely future population based on a wide range of the most robust, up to date information available including:

- the number and type of dwellings anticipated for the area
- assumptions about supply
- age-specific migration rates and local birth and death rates.

This is generally more sophisticated than a target because it considers the most up to date and locally specific information available.

A forecast provides a highly robust model for predicting growth and the demographic profile of that growth at a local level. The forecast prepared for the Local Planning Strategy should provide the clearest, most locally specific data set for the local government to analyse in its future planning. The forecast also includes projections to 2041, with data at each 5-year interval between 2016 and 2041.

# Consultation

## Community Consultation

Pre-liminary community engagement and consultation must be held in relation to the development of a local planning strategy, as this offers an opportunity for community input into the Strategy.

A local government will receive a wide range of responses during the consultative process and should use the responses to inform the community values for the future growth of the area through the development of its local planning strategy. The results of the consultation period are intended to be incorporated into the Strategy where practicable, having regard to other factors such as demographic trends and State government policy directions. The preliminary consultation is typically structured around a series of discussion topics (supported by a series of fact sheets), as follows:

- Population and Housing;
- Activity Centres, Employment, Tourism and Entertainment;
- Sustainability and Public Open Spaces;
- Community Facilities and Heritage; and
- Transport and Access.

## Timeframe for consultation

A local planning strategy must be advertised for 21 days unless a longer period is required. The purpose of public advertising is to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to comment on the draft local planning strategy to help improve and refine it.

# Useful Links and Resources

## Planning and development act 2025

[https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc\\_46440.pdf/\\$FILE/Planning%20and%20Development%20Act%202005%20-%20%5B04-v0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_46440.pdf/$FILE/Planning%20and%20Development%20Act%202005%20-%20%5B04-v0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement)

## Local Planning Strategy Guidelines

<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2023-06/local-planning-strategy-guidelines.pdf>

## Local Planning Strategies, Schemes, and Structure Plans

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-planning-lands-and-heritage/local-planning-strategies-schemes-and-structure-plans>





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