

6 February 2019

Public consultation now open on Planning and Design Code for outback South Australia

The State Planning Commission has marked an important milestone with the release for public consultation of the draft Planning and Design Code covering outback regions in South Australia.

The new Code will be introduced across the state in phases over the next 18 months, as part of the biggest modernisation of South Australia's planning system in more than 20 years.

The release of the draft Code for outback regions that do not fall within a designated council area is the first stage in the process.

The Planning and Design Code will be the cornerstone of South Australia's new planning and development system. It will eventually replace the 72 Development Plans that are currently in use across the state and offer a single, consolidated set of planning 'rules' for assessing development applications.

"The Code will greatly help everyday South Australians to navigate the planning system when building a house, developing a business, or progressing large commercial developments," said Michael Lennon, Chair of the State Planning Commission.

"The new Code will make the development application process for residents living in remote regions simpler and faster than ever before.

"It will also address planning issues that are specific to the outback in a way that has not been achieved previously," he said.

Feedback received from the community during the public consultation period in February and March will be used to inform the way in which the Code is officially implemented in the outback from mid-2019.

Specifically, the new Planning and Design Code will deliver the following significant benefits for South Australians living in remote regions:

- It will remove outdated planning policy, consolidate policy that is working well and make the planning 'rules' more consistent, equitable and transparent.

- It will include the mapping of buffers around an increased number of airfields, including those airfields that are used by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.
- It will implement safety measures that have not previously been applied in the outback, including new and updated policy to mitigate the risk of flooding, bushfire and the impact of acid sulphate soils.
- It will improve the interface between different and/or incompatible land uses to ensure that key types of infrastructure do not impinge on one another, e.g. industry kept at a safe distance from townships, phone towers not located near airfields etc.

The State Planning Commission will consult on the draft Code for regional council areas in mid-2019 and metropolitan South Australia in late 2019.

By July 2020, the full Code will be in effect across the entire state and made available to all South Australians via a 24-hour ePlanning platform.

Consultation on the draft Code for outback South Australia follows the recent release of the inaugural State Planning Policies and draft Development Assessment regulations.

“This first iteration of the Planning and Design Code demonstrates that we are delivering on our bold planning reform agenda and are on track to create a better planning system for all South Australians,” said Mr Lennon.

To have your say on the Planning and Design Code for outback South Australia visit www.yoursay.gov.au. Consultation is now open until 29 March 2019.

More information on the Planning and Design Code is available on the SA Planning Portal at www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/planning_reforms.

Contact: Emma Williams, 0413 985 291, emma.williams3@sa.gov.au.