Planning and Local Decision Making
Position Statement

Policy Principles

This Position Statement relates to the following Policy Principles of LGNSW:

(4) Local government is best placed to lead and influence local and regional planning processes according to the needs and expectations of local communities.

(9) Local government is democratically elected to shape, serve and support communities.

Our Position

LGNSW advocates for:

- The planning system to ensure the voice of local communities is heard through the well understood and accepted councillor representation system, which provides transparency and accessibility to communities.
- Local government to retain control over the determination of locally appropriate development - local planning powers must not be overridden by State plans and policies.
- The establishment and role of Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels (IHAPs) to remain a decision of the council – adoption of such independent panels by councils should be voluntary not mandatory.
- Local government to be treated as a partner (not just another stakeholder) in metropolitan, regional and district planning processes - the role and voice of local government is vital in delivering productivity, liveability and sustainability.
- Strategic (local, district and regional) plans that reflect the agreed planning outcomes from community engagement at local, regional/district and metropolitan levels – residents have a right to be active participants in the planning process and this should be respected and maintained.