

"I'm delighted to be working in partnership with stakeholders to ensure our planning system focuses on things that really matter ..."

Elaine Carbines
Parliamentary Secretary for Environment

For information in another language please call 136 186 and ask for the language service that you require.

More Information

The **Cutting Red Tape in Planning** report can be downloaded from www.dse.vic.gov.au/planning.

A hardcopy is available at:
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Cutting red tape in planning

15 recommended actions for a better Victorian planning system

A Victorian
Government
initiative



What was the review process?

The Minister for Planning announced the *Streamlining Planning Processes - Cutting Red Tape Review* in November 2005 and asked Elaine Carbines MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, to lead it.

Councils and stakeholder groups helped identify what needed to change and how to make the changes.

Ms Carbines presented fifteen recommended actions to the Minister for Planning in August 2006.

Key findings

Ms Carbines concluded:

Although we have a good and inclusive planning system, continuous improvement is essential to maintain its focus and efficiency.

Key findings were that:

- Efficient and streamlined processes are a central desire of all stakeholders and partners in the planning system.
- Reducing the number of matters that unnecessarily require planning approval or simplifying the assessment currently required will save scarce planning resources.
- These resources can be better used to make State and local policy more effective.
- An innovative response is needed to the shortage of planners. Councils already use a variety of ways to manage scarce resources and this is worth promoting.

- Users of the system have identified new challenges and opportunities such as adjustments to processes, fee structures and new technological opportunities.

What are the recommendations?

The recommended actions are:

Theme	Recommended actions
Faster decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bring in a quick approval process when clear standards are met (code assess) ▪ Set performance timelines for steps in the planning scheme amendment process ▪ Improve electronic systems
Simpler processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use agreements with referral authorities to reduce the number of referrals ▪ Make it easier to remove controls that are no longer relevant ▪ Make who should be notified about planning applications clearer
Targeted requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove the need for planning approval for agreed things ▪ Improve the heritage, car parking and signage provisions and definitions ▪ Create a fast amendment process for improving local policy ▪ Update planning fees

Theme	Recommended actions
More resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Set up a Planning Bank to recruit planners for provincial Victoria ▪ Share resources between councils ▪ Add to enforcement capacity
Ongoing improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examine the Planning and Environment Act to see whether it needs updating ▪ Set up a continuous improvement process

Opportunities to be involved

Some of the actions proposed can happen almost immediately. Others, however, will take longer involving testing and consultation with stakeholders.

Opportunities to contribute to these actions are available. If you would like to be involved please register your interest with:

Planning Systems, DSE
Tel. (03) 9637 9590 or (03) 9637 9585 or
e-mail: planning.systems@dse.vic.gov.au