

What is good planning?

PIA POLICY POSITION STATEMENT

PIA POSITION

Planning for the future is critical to Australia's productivity and livability. Our cities and regions are a vital part of Australia's economy, and are essential to our success as a nation.

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) declares that good planning is the best way to:

1. Manage urban growth;
2. Secure necessary infrastructure investment; determine appropriate settlement patterns for our cities and towns; and
3. Generate economic development that contributes positively to the well-being of individuals and communities and the natural and built environments on which we rely.

Planning is an important tool in effectively managing the numerous and rapid changes facing our communities.

GOOD PLANNING PRINCIPLES

PIA has adopted the following set of Planning Systems Principles to guide the planning activities of the planning profession that address the purpose of planning:

1. Improve urban form, legibility and coherence to balance and achieve social, economic and environmental outcomes;
2. Foster efficient and effective settlement patterns to promote prosperity, equitable distribution of resources and opportunities;
3. Predict, avoid and ameliorate the adverse economic, social and environmental consequences of human activities, promote intergenerational equity, prudent use of non-renewable resources, the sustainable use of renewable resources, and the precautionary principle; and
4. Reflect our distinctive national character, nurture vibrant

communities and contribute to our knowledge of ourselves and our built and natural environments.

THE CORE ELEMENTS OF GOOD PLANNING

Good planning requires high quality, transparent and efficient planning practices and systems. To achieve the outcomes that advance the public interest requires the following core elements:

1. Opportunities for the community and key stakeholders to actively contribute to the planning process in a manner that is effective, inclusive, respectful of community values and genuine;
2. Strong leadership from both the industry and elected members that values and respects the need and benefits of effective planning;
3. A planning profession and workplace culture that delivers and embraces the value of planning;
4. Legislation and governance structures that facilitate integration of national, state, regional and local policies in a clear hierarchy, including spatial plans at both regional and local scales;
5. Evidence-based strategic planning at all levels of government, and a demonstrated commitment to implement plans aligned with infrastructure funding and delivery;
6. Planning instruments that are performance-based, responsive, equitable, legible and provide certainty around planned outcomes and milestones;
7. Advice and support from a range of disciplines such as urban design, engineering, transport planning, social planning, ecology, and/or a range of others, that inform and add value to the planning efforts; and
8. Planning rules and approval conditions that deliver positive environmental and social outcomes.

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GOOD PLANNING DELIVERS OUTCOMES

PIA believes that good planning delivers outcomes that can be measured against performance indicators that include the following:

1. Stronger communities and choices available for where and how people live and work – such as, shorter travel times to work; safe and walkable neighbourhoods; a range of choices and opportunities of places to live; and better education, healthcare and recreation opportunities that are respectful of cultural diversity;
2. Confidence in the return on both public and private sector investment in infrastructure, construction and property development, including improvement in Australia's GDP and infrastructure delivered in a timely manner;
3. Places of inherent value and opportunities for current and future generations, such as a reduction of health-related illnesses and providing interesting streets and places to visit;
4. Considered decisions that achieve balance between new development, essential services, protection of the environment and heritage, and which encourage innovation in terms of, for example, environmental sustainability and quality urban design outcomes; and
5. Resilient communities able to mitigate and adapt to the impact of climate change and natural hazards, including reduced recovery and reconstruction costs, and reduced loss of life, property and essential infrastructure.

GOOD PLANNING INVOLVES THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Good planning is guided by community values, driven at all levels of government, and delivered through the experience of the planning profession through the investment of the private sector and government. Key stakeholders include:

1. Residents and communities - contributing knowledge and local context to shape the planning and design responses;
2. Federal Government - providing direction and guidance on the provision of infrastructure and protection of values of national significance, monitoring the performance of our cities, and delivering microeconomic reform to enable planning systems and processes to work effectively;
3. State government - delivering legislation and systems that support local governments and foster social, environmental, economic and cultural wellbeing;
4. Local government - empowered to implement planning solutions that are in the best interest of the broader community, and founded on policy and strategy that is informed by evidence and broad stakeholder consultation; and
5. Property development and construction industry - investing in our cities, towns, communities and infrastructure that supports liveable communities.

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