

National Planning Reform Blueprint

Summary of progress as at March 2024

In August 2023, all States, Territories and the Commonwealth, as part of National Cabinet, agreed to 10 measures and 17 associated actions that form the National Planning Reform Blueprint (Blueprint). These measures were intended to drive improvements to planning, zoning and land release systems, to support accelerated delivery of new housing supply and increase affordability.

Below is a summary of progress as at March 2024. All jurisdictions full March 2024 reports can be found at <https://treasury.gov.au/policy-topics/housing/increasing-housing-supply>.

The March 2024 reports show that significant progress has been made by all jurisdictions in delivering on the Blueprint but given the ambition of national housing supply targets, on-going work is needed. Further reforms to address non-planning constraints such as labour and material shortages and access to finance are likely needed if governments are to meet their ambitious national housing targets.

Measures	Actions <i>Planning Ministers will:</i>	Status	
Measure 1 Collaborate on a national vision for urban and regional planning policy, including identifying common policy approaches, definitions and data sources.	Action 1.1 Work with the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council (HHMC) toward an agreed set of national definitions for key housing terms which can be incorporated into relevant legislation and instruments.	The Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council is considering the definition of affordable housing. Once this is settled, Planning Ministers will write to the HHMC seeking their advice on other housing term definitions that require national consistency.	In progress
	Action 1.2 Work with relevant Ministerial Councils and agencies to deliver a national data sharing agreement for population, housing and planning data.	There are some existing data sharing agreements in place (a National Housing and Homelessness Data Sharing Protocol with all states except WA). Planning Ministers will write to the HHMC for advice on how data can be shared more effectively. The Commonwealth will investigate how data can be better shared from non-housing Commonwealth agencies.	
	Action 1.3 Participate in the development of the National Urban Policy (NUP).	Planning Ministers are actively participating in the development of the NUP, including through discussion at Planning Ministers' meetings.	
Measure 2 Report on state, regional and local strategic plans that reflect their share of housing targets.	Action 2 Report to National Cabinet twice-yearly on to demonstrate how these plans reflect housing supply targets.	All jurisdictions have taken action on this measure, but further work is required to ensure strategic plans and local strategic plans are updated to reflect housing supply targets.	Partially delivered but more to do
Measure 3 Undertake planning, zoning, and land release adaptations to meet their share of housing targets.	Action 3 Report to National Cabinet twice-yearly.	All jurisdictions have undertaken, or are undertaking planning, zoning, and land release adaptations to increase density. However, further adaptations are likely to be required for jurisdictions to meet their share of housing targets.	
Measure 4 All levels of government will identify well-located development ready land.	Action 4 Undertake a stocktake of 'development ready' land and report to National Cabinet twice-yearly	All jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, have undertaken, or are undertaking, processes to identify 'development ready' land. Further work is needed to identify the number of homes the land will support.	
Measure 5 Streamline approval pathways and prioritise planning amendments to support diverse housing, including promoting medium- and high-density housing in well-located areas.	Action 5 Report to national cabinet twice-yearly on planning amendments to support high and medium density housing, housing density planning controls and non-planning barriers preventing diverse housing.	All jurisdictions have progressed this action, but further work will be needed to determine the impact on housing supply targets in some jurisdictions. Similarly, further adaptations of approval pathways are likely to be required for jurisdictions to meet their share of housing targets.	
Measure 6 Create accelerated development pathways and streamline approval processes for eligible development types, particularly in well-located areas, including to support the rapid delivery of social and affordable housing.	Action 6.1 Report on adaptations to development pathways and streamlined approval processes.	All jurisdictions have progressed this action. However, further adaptations are likely to be required for jurisdictions to meet their share of housing targets.	
	Action 6.2 Report on key barriers to the timely issuing of development approvals and identify jurisdiction-led adaptations that address barriers.	Jurisdictions have identified key barriers, namely the shortage of planners, poor quality submissions, the time taken from government agencies to complete referrals and community opposition. Jurisdictions have also implemented responses, namely filling skill shortages, standardising and automating government agency referrals and using artificial intelligence to support development approvals where feasible and safe. While no further work is required to identify barriers, ongoing work will be needed to address these barriers.	
	Action 6.3 Sharing planning data across jurisdictions.	Jurisdictions are supportive of data sharing and are exploring opportunities to share planning data and analysis with other states.	



Measures	Actions <i>Planning Ministers will:</i>	Status		
	<p>Action 6.4 Report on existing development approvals (DAs) which have not been acted upon and identify barriers to the delivery of approved housing.</p> <hr/> <p>Action 6.5 Report on adaptations to social and affordable housing approval pathways.</p> <hr/> <p>Action 6.6 Report on the introduction of inclusionary zoning and planning to support affordable, social and other specialist housing.</p>	<p>Most (but not all) jurisdictions have reported on development approvals which have not been acted upon, identifying key barriers to delivery of approved housing.</p> <p>The key barriers identified were capacity constraints, competition for labour and materials from large infrastructure projects, increasing costs affecting the commercial viability of projects, land banking and a shortage of planners.</p> <p>All jurisdictions have undertaken, or are undertaking, adaptations to make it easier for social and affordable homes to be approved.</p> <p>However, further adaptations are likely to be required for jurisdictions to meet their share of housing targets.</p> <p>Most (but not all) jurisdictions have announced measures to progress inclusionary zoning.</p> <p>Further work is likely to be required to deliver the quantity of affordable and other specialist housing required to meet demand.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">On track</p>	
<p>Measure 7 Identify and rectify gaps in housing design guidance and building certification processes.</p>	<p>Action 7 National Cabinet referred housing design guidance and building certification to Building Ministers.</p>	<p>Building Ministers have commenced a stocktake of issues in the housing design guidance and building certification processes, which will include feedback from a variety of stakeholders.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">In progress</p>
<p>Measure 8 Ensure adequate resourcing of built environment professionals.</p>	<p>Action 8 National Cabinet referred built environment skills shortages to the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council.</p>	<p>In March 2024, the Skills and Workforce Ministerial Council agreed that <i>delivering housing supply</i> would be added to the national priorities identified in the National Skills Agreement.</p> <p>Planning Ministers will consult with local governments and peak industry bodies on addressing barriers to address built environment labour shortages.</p>		
<p>Measure 9 All levels of government will work towards community consultation processes which are clear, transparent and predictable.</p>	<p>Action 9 Western Australia will provide an issues paper for consideration.</p>	<p>Planning Ministers have reviewed the community consultation principles developed by Western Australia. Some jurisdictions already have best practice consultation guidance in place. Others will use the Western Australian guidance to help inform best practice approaches in their jurisdictions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Delivered</p>	
<p>Measure 10 All levels of government will ensure the efficient use of government land and the delivery of best practice projects to support housing supply, diversity and affordability.</p>	<p>Action 10 Jurisdictions will share best practice examples for the redevelopment of Government land.</p>	<p>Planning Ministers have shared and reviewed best practice government land release examples to provide guidance to assist jurisdictional approaches.</p>		