

# Expert Panel Implementation Program

---

## Planning and Building



PlanSA



Government of South Australia  
Department for Housing  
and Urban Development

# Table 1

## Completed Recommendations

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
6	The Government, through Planning and Land Use Services, works with Assessment Managers to identify, and develop guidelines for minor variations which may be implemented by the State Planning Commission.	Support	Practice Direction 19 (Minor Variations) was published 23 May 2025.	Practice Direction
7	The ePlanning system should require a Relevant Authority to record when a minor variation has occurred.	Support	ePlanning system was updated to implement this recommendation on 1 August 2024. A future (phase 2) enhancement will collect more specific information on the minor variation/s).	
8	There should be automatic mutual recognition for related professional bodies.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	The APS Review saw the addition of a "planning related qualification" pathway for Planning accreditation (see Qualifications, skills and experience requirements for Accredited Professionals), and registration with the Architectural Practice Board of SA accepted as an equivalent scheme pathway for Planning Level 2 accreditation.	Accredited Professionals Scheme
11	A Government business unit should be established to manage and implement infrastructure schemes.	Support	Completed – Housing Infrastructure Planning Development Unit established in February 2023.	
15	Deemed consent provisions should apply to land divisions	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Land Division Assessment Panel (LDAP) has been established that will become authority to assess land division applications where councils have not met statutory timeframes.	

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
24	Demolition of all dwellings should be recorded on the ePlanning portal.	Support	Advice from Parliamentary Counsel is regulation can not be drafted. Refer to SafeWork SA database.	Regulations
26	The State Planning Commission investigate implementing a land supply and demand monitoring program.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Completed – Land Supply Dashboard launched March 2024.	
27	The State Planning Support Commission should review and amend the Community Engagement Charter to provide guidance on First Nations engagement.	Support	The amended Community Engagement Charter went live on 10 February 2025.	Community Engagement Charter
28	The State Government should investigate and consider how planning is dealt with in out of council areas.	Support	Closed – Commission reviewed policy, making inspections more flexible.	
29	The State Government, through Planning and Land Use Services, should aid and guide those Relevant Authorities struggling to verify and assess development applications within the prescribed timeframes.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Ongoing monitoring and support provided where resources permit.	
40	The Urban Tree Canopy Off-set Scheme fees are increased.	Support	Completed – commenced on 16 May 2024.	Urban Tree Off-set Scheme
43	Apply the tree regulations to all state government projects.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Unlikely to occur as exemptions are to be extended (from applying to Commissioner of Highways) to also apply to SA Water.	
56	The State Planning Commission prepare guidance material which indicates the role of planning in managing climate change and identifying how climate change is already included in Planning and Design Code policy.	Support	Completed – Climate Change and the Planning System Brochure released in July 2023.	Non statutory guidelines

# Table 1

## Completed Recommendations

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
62	Enable elective concurrent verification and assessment for Deemed to Satisfy development applications	Support	Achieved through other Expert Panel recommendations and proposed amendments to the PDI (General) Regulations to encourage faster verification and assessment.	PDI Act
69	Increase the file upload capacity of the ePlanning portal.	Support in principle	Completed 19 June 2025.	
71	The ePlanning system be reviewed to ensure fees are being consistently applied and appropriately distributed.	Support	Completed.	
72.10	The State Government undertake and fund LiDAR tree mapping at appropriate intervals.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Department for Environment and Water to coordinate LiDAR recapture in January 2026 for Government and Local Government Partners.	
72.13	Outline consents should be commenced as soon as reasonably practicable.	Support	Completed – commenced February 2024.	Practice Direction
72.20	There should be a bi-annual Code Amendment which deals with minor matters.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	In principle support is for an amendment to section 76 of the PDI Act as suggested by the Panel. The Govt does not support a bi-annual CA as it would be too administratively burdensome. Will be dealt with in Assessment Improvements CA. Ongoing minor updates through section 76.	PDI Act
72.21	A list of restricted development types applicable to a site must appear when you search a property address on the PlanSA website.	Support	Completed.	



No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
72.22	Relevant Authorities should be required to upload evidence of applicant agreement prior to making an additional Request for Information.	Support	Completed.	
72.23	A Development Approval should not be issued in the absence of the provision and assessment of wastewater systems and should be recorded on the ePlanning portal.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation.	Completed.	
72.24	The ePlanning portal should enable duplication of information.		To be delivered through ePlanning early recommendation 4.	
72.7	Ensure all future design guidelines reference matters related to disability inclusion and access	Support	This is an agreed ongoing obligation, where relevant to the P and D Code, Design Standards, ODASA Design Guidelines, SA implementation of NCC updates or other relevant initiatives.	
72.8	Preliminary Site Investigations for land contamination should be able to be a Reserve Matter.	Support	Completed – commenced October 2023.	Practice Direction
Character and Heritage E1	Elevate Character Areas to Historic Areas.	Support	Ongoing work with individual councils.	Code
Character and Heritage E2	Character Area Statement Updates.	Support	Ongoing work with individual councils.	Code
ePlanning E1	Subscription Service Improvements.	Support	Completed – commenced Q1 2024.	
ePlanning E2	Development Application Map.	Support	Completed – commenced Q1 2024.	
ePlanning E5	Conditions and Notes by Element Type.	Support	Completed – commenced Q1 2024.	
ePlanning E6	Code Rules as a Checklist.	Support	Completed – commenced Q1 2024.	

# Table 1

## Completed Recommendations

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
<b>Trees E1</b>	The prescribed circumference of a regulated and significant tree be reduced with the intent of offering protection to a broader range of mature trees.	Support	<i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Regulated and Significant Trees) Amendment Regulations 2024</i> commenced 16 May 2024.	Regulations
<b>Trees E2</b>	The Government investigate the use of tree canopy as a measure of tree protection.	Support	<i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Regulated and Significant Trees) Amendment Regulations 2024</i> commenced 16 May 2024.	Regulations
<b>Trees E3</b>	The existing proximity exemption of ten (10) metres to a dwelling or swimming pool be significantly reduced.	Support	<i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Regulated and Significant Trees) Amendment Regulations 2024</i> commenced 16 May 2024.	Regulations
<b>Trees E4</b>	Pruning of protected trees only be permitted to occur at a rate of 30% once in every five (5) years.	Support	<i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Regulated and Significant Trees) Amendment Regulations 2024</i> commenced 16 May 2024.	Regulations
<b>Trees E5</b>	The Government investigate and re-consider the need for the inclusion of an exempt species list in the Regulations.	Support	<i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Regulated and Significant Trees) Amendment Regulations 2024</i> commenced 16 May 2024.	Regulations – species list now in Ministerial Notice.
<b>Trees E6</b>	The off-set fees for the removal of regulated and significant trees are significantly increased, with that increase acknowledging the cost to local government of planting and maintaining replacement trees.	Support	<i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Regulated and Significant Trees) Amendment Regulations 2024</i> commenced 16 May 2024.	Regulations
<b>Trees E7</b>	The Government consider whether there are any interim measures able to be implemented to prevent a rush on tree removals.	Support	<i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) (Regulated and Significant Trees) Amendment Regulations 2024</i> commenced 16 May 2024.	Regulations





# Table 2

## Recommendations Underway

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
5 (Phase 1)	The Accredited Professionals Scheme and associated Regulations should be amended to remove the ability for building professionals to issue planning consents.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations
9	Accredited Professionals must be audited more frequently than once in every five (5) years.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations
14	Increase the assessment timeframe associated with Performance Assessed development applications to 30 business days for complex applications, thus increasing the time available before a Deemed Consent may be issued.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations
16	The State Planning Commission should prepare a Practice Direction regarding verification.	Support	Preparation of draft practice direction in progress.	Practice Direction
18	Increase the verification timeframe to align with development application complexity.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations



No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
19.1	If an application is verified in less time than the legislated verification timeframe allows, any additional time available to verify the application should be added to the associated development assessment timeframe.	Support	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations
19.2	If the legislated verification timeframe is exceeded, any additional time taken to verify the application should be deducted from the associated development assessment timeframe.	Support	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations
22	Minor variations to a planning consent once Development Approval has been issued should only be assessed by the relevant council.	Support in principle	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations
25	Local government and State government collaborate to review and redevelop the Local Design Review Scheme.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	In December 2024, the Office for Design and Architecture SA (ODASA) partnered with several councils to commence the Local Design Review Pilot Program. ODASA will continue to collaborate with these partner councils and other interested councils until the completion of the pilot.	Local Design Review Scheme
30	The State Government, through Planning and Land Use Services, prepare a template set of design guidelines for character and historic areas.	Support in principle	Progressing – Draft guidelines currently being prepared.	Non statutory guidelines

# Table 2

## Recommendations Underway

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
37	The Planning and Design Code policy should support design innovation to enable the retention of trees.	Support	Tree Protection and Planting Code Amendment investigations underway, also considering interaction with Native Vegetation Act 1991 (to be repealed through the Biodiversity Bill 2025).	P&D Code
38	Extend the application of the Urban Tree Canopy Overlay to all new allotments in the Master Planned Neighbourhood Zone.	Support	Tree Protection and Planting Code Amendment investigations underway, also considering interaction with Native Vegetation Act 1991 (to be repealed through the Biodiversity Bill 2025).	P&D Code
39	Extend the Urban Tree Canopy Overlay and the Regulated and Significant Tree Overlay to townships and address any anomalies in current township mapping for this purpose.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Tree Protection and Planting Code Amendment investigations underway, also considering interaction with Native Vegetation Act 1991 (to be repealed through the Biodiversity Bill 2025).	P&D Code
50	The minimum garage dimensions should be increased.	Support	To be considered in Car Parking Bill. Consultation complete. Being presented to Cabinet shortly.	PDI Act
51	The requirement to provide undercover car parking should be removed from the Planning and Design Code, but provision of space for a covered car park should still be made available behind the face of the dwelling.	Support	Proposed through Assessment Improvements Code Amendment. Consultation complete. Being presented to Cabinet shortly.	P&D Code
52	The State Planning Commission consider producing Local Road Design Standards for local roads.	Support	<i>Refer to Premier's Housing roadmap.</i>	Design Standards
53	Electric Vehicle charging stations should generally be an exempt form of development, but investigations should be undertaken to determine in which locations they will be considered development.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
54	Car Parking Offset Funds should be permitted to be used to build active travel infrastructure.	Support	To be considered in Car Parking Bill. Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	PDI Act and Car Parking off-set Scheme
55	The Affordable Housing Overlay should apply to all residential, neighbourhood and activity centre zones.	Support	The Housing Diversity and Affordability Code Amendment may be a more appropriate vehicle for progressing this policy. <i>Refer to Premier's Housing roadmap.</i>	P&D Code
57	An independent user experience review of the PlanSA website is undertaken, following which the website interface is updated to be more user friendly and intuitive, acknowledging the various capabilities of users.	Support	Project underway, launch of new site proposed for 2026.	
66	The online version of the Planning and Design Code should be reviewed by an editor and graphic designer.	Support in principle	Development commenced Q2 2024, proposed for completion in 2025.	
68	Document management capabilities should be introduced into the ePlanning portal.	Support in principle	Currently under analysis.	
ePlanning E3	Builders Database	Support	Development commenced Q1 2025. Currently testing.	
ePlanning E4	Refined Submission Process.	Support	Development commenced Q3 2024. Currently testing.	
ePlanning E7	Development Application processing.	Support	Development commenced Q2 2023. Currently testing.	



# Table 3

## Recommendations to commence in 2025 (post Greater Adelaide Regional Plan)

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
1	Proposed developments which exceed the maximum height identified in the Planning and Design Code (including any affordable housing incentive) should attract third-party appeal rights	Support	The Greater Adelaide Regional Plan identifies a review and Code Amendment related to Urban Corridors which includes reviewing public notification and third-party appeal rights.	P&D Code
2	Greater education needs to be provided on public notification and how to make a submission on a development application.	Support	Draft factsheet prepared and currently under final review.	Non statutory guidance
3	Extend the public notification zone in rural areas outside of townships to align with separation zones identified by the Environment Protection Authority, based on proposed land use	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	To be considered in 2025.	PDI Act
4	An additional 'on boundary' category of public notification should be created such that only directly affected neighbours are notified of on boundary developments by the Relevant Authority	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	To be considered in 2025.	PDI Act
5 (phase 2)	The Accredited Professionals Scheme and associated Regulations should be amended to remove the ability for building professionals to issue planning consents.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Await outcomes of reforms in relation to recommendation 5 (Phase 1).	Regulations
12	Local heritage to be removed from PDI Act and incorporated into the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> and aligning state and local heritage listing processes	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Dependent on reforms to the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> .	Heritage Places Act / PDI Act

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
13	Section 67(4) and 67(5) of the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> should be repealed, or otherwise never turned on.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Dependent on reforms to the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> .	Heritage Places Act/ PDI Act
17	The requirements of Schedule 8 of the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017</i> should be reviewed to ensure that a Relevant Authority is provided with sufficient information to assess the nature of the application and assessment pathway, at the time of verification.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Under consideration.	Regulations
20	Land division verification should be recentralised.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	<i>This could be investigated as part of land division reforms from Premier's Roadmap.</i>	
21	The State Planning Commission investigate the cumulative impact of multiple minor variations and provide further guidance as to when a minor variation should and should not occur.	Support	To be considered following implementation of recommendation 6.	
23	The State Planning Commission should review the size and purpose of catalyst sites.	Support	To be progressed with work on Strategic Infill Improvements Code Amendment.	P&D Code

# Table 3

## Recommendations to commence in 2025 (post Greater Adelaide Regional Plan)

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
31	The Expert Panel supports the State Planning Commission's proposal to require a replacement building to be approved prior to demolition being able to occur in Character Areas.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Subject to implementation and effectiveness of Character and Heritage Early Recommendations 1 and 2.	P&D Code Regulations
32	The role of Representative Buildings should be reviewed.	Support in principle	Practice Guideline drafted and being considered.	P&D Code/ Practice Guideline
33	To facilitate greater adaptive reuse of heritage places, the Planning and Design Code should include a broader range of possible land uses for heritage places than those listed in the relevant zone or subzone.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Discussions with Department for Environment and Water underway.	P&D Code
34	The State Government resource the identification and assessment of heritage that is not within a council area.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Department for Environment and Water to lead.	
35	On the basis that local heritage is transitioned to the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> , the places currently identified as local heritage should be reviewed to ensure they meet all relevant criteria.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Dependent on reforms to the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> .	
36	The State Government review and refine the intersection between the <i>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</i> and <i>Native Vegetation Act 1991</i> to remove confusion within the community and development sector, to ensure native vegetation is retained.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	To be considered alongside Tree Protection and Planting Code Amendment and the Biodiversity Bill 2025 (see related recommendations 37, 38 and 39).	Native Vegetation Act/PDI Act



No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
41	The Government investigate what additional and/or alternative penalties are available for tree damaging activity to disincentivise poor behaviour.	Support	Under consideration.	PDI Act/ Regulations
42	Investigations be undertaken to establish an independent arboriculture advisory body to provide advice on applications pertaining to significant trees.	Support	Department for Environment and Water to lead.	
44	The Government investigate what opportunities and mechanisms are available to encourage tree retention and planting on private land.	Support	Department for Environment and Water to lead.	
45	General infill design guidelines should be prepared in conjunction with industry to demonstrate and promote different styles and types of infill development.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Relates to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan action "Missing Middle Housing".	
46	The Planning and Design Code policy pertaining to strategic sites should be reviewed, and non-planning mechanisms should be investigated to assist with creating strategic sites.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Relates to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan action "Strategic Site Incentives".	
47	The Planning and Design Code provisions pertaining to Private Open Space should be revised.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Relates to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan action "Housing Diversity and Affordability".	P&D Code
48	The storage policy identified for apartments should apply to all forms of residential development.	Support	Relates to the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan action "Housing Diversity and Affordability".	P&D Code
49	A basic landscaping plan should be provided for all infill developments to document how the soft landscaping requirements of the Planning and Design Code are to be adhered to.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Under consideration.	

# Table 3

## Recommendations to commence in 2025 (post Greater Adelaide Regional Plan)

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
58	Create a simplified online submission form which does not require an applicant to have a PlanSA account and login.	Support	Analysis completed. Scheduling for deployment being considered.	
59	Increase relevant authority data management within the Development Application Processing system.	Support	To be scheduled for analysis.	
60	Build Inspection Clocks into the Development Application Processing system.	Support	Under consideration.	
61	A non-refundable lodgement fee should be paid at submission of a development application to 'lock in' the version of the Planning and Design Code to be used for assessment.	Support in principle	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	PDI Act
63	Investigate the implementation of automatic assessment Deemed-to-Satisfy development applications	Support	Program to be delivered 2025. Refer to Premier's Roadmap for further information.	ePlanning System
64	Investigate the development of a mobile application to improve the mobile accessibility of the ePlanning system and PlanSA website	Support	Under consideration.	
65	Build into the ePlanning system an option for an assessing officer to record why a development moved from Deemed-to-Satisfy into Performance Assessed	Support	Under consideration, likely will not proceed as data will be collected by minor variation data.	

---

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
67	PlanSA undertake further engagement with Relevant Authorities to develop a more flexible workflow within the ePlanning portal	Support	Under consideration.	
70	Referral agency advice should only be published on the public register following a decision being made on a development application for non-publicly notifiable development.	Support in principle	Under consideration.	PDI Act





# Table 4

## Minor and Operational Recommendations

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
72.1	Definitions within the PDI Act and Code should be reviewed and additional definitions included.	Support in principle	Currently under consideration.	P&D Code
72.2	Development to State Heritage Places should not attract a referral in certain circumstances.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Currently under consideration.	P&D Code
72.3	Consideration should be given to aligning the definition of 'contiguous land' in both the PDI Regulations and the <i>Real Property Act 1886</i> .	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Currently under consideration.	Regulations
72.4	Schedule 4 should be reviewed.	Support in principle	To be considered in 2026.	Regulations
72.5	A sliding scale for development application fees pertaining to heritage places should be introduced, together with an ability to waive application fees for State Heritage Places in certain circumstances.	Support in principle	Currently under consideration. Discussions with Department for environment and Water underway.	Fees Notice
72.6	Investigate, consult and determine whether reform is required to encompass civil design within the regulatory framework for land divisions.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Currently under consideration.	
72.9	The interface between the PDI Act and the <i>Fences Act 1975</i> should be reviewed to resolve the duplication of consultation requirements.	Support	Currently under consideration.	PDI Act

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
72.11	Payments made to local and State government in accordance with the PDI Act and/or PDI Regulations should be recognised and annually reported through Treasury management processes.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Currently under consideration.	PDI Act
72.12	The State Government investigate what mechanisms are available to it to provide copyright protection to local government, and in what circumstances those protections would be available.	Support	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations
72.14	The referral timeframes prescribed in the PDI Regulations should be reviewed to ensure they appropriately align.	Support	PDI Draft Regulations – Consultation closed. Package being prepared for Cabinet.	Regulations
72.15	Refine Performance Outcome 6.1 in the Local Heritage Place Overlay to exclude deterioration due to neglect as a supporting factor for demolition, as in State Heritage Place Overlay.	Support	Proposed through Assessment Improvements Code Amendment. Determination pack under review.	P&D Code
72.16	PLUS undertake a language and consistency check of the Code to ensure the same terms and expressions are used throughout.	Support	Proposed through Assessment Improvements Code Amendment. Determination pack under review.	P&D Code
72.17	The Hills Face Zone be reviewed to consider minor boundary anomalies.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Currently being considered.	

# Table 4

## Minor and Operational Recommendations

No	Recommendation	Government's Response	Status	Instrument
72.18	Investigate the application of specified car parking rates for major open spaces.	Support	Proposed through Assessment Improvements Code Amendment. Determination pack under review.	
72.19	The Code should be reviewed to ensure requirements are reasonable and practical.	Support	Proposed through Assessment Improvements Code Amendment. Determination pack under review.	P&D Code
72.25	Go-Zones should be mapped on the South Australian Property and Planning Atlas.	Support in principle and will undertake further investigation	Currently under consideration.	