PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2025–26 OVERVIEW

PlanSA

Government of South Australia
Department for Housing and Urban Development

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2025–26



Insights into South Australia's planning system

The Performance Indicators Scheme supports transparent, accountable and evidence-based monitoring of South Australia's planning system.

This overview highlights key trends, outcomes and opportunities identified through the 2025–26 Performance Indicators Scheme Annual Report, now available through a new digital reporting platform. The platform provides greater visibility of planning system performance and enables comparisons across reporting years.

A NEW DIGITAL REPORTING EXPERIENCE



Better access to planning system insights

The Performance Indicators Scheme Annual Report is now supported by a new digital reporting platform, making performance data more accessible and easier to explore. The online format allows users to compare results across reporting years and gain deeper insights into how South Australia's planning system is performing over time.

The digital platform is part of the Department for Housing and Urban Development's digital-first approach to planning and builds on the capabilities of Australia's first integrated ePlanning system, PlanSA.

NEW INSIGHTS TO SUPPORT CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

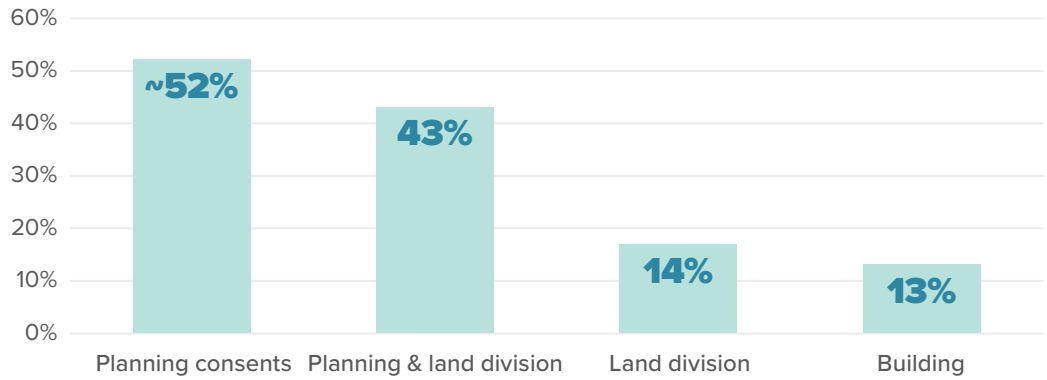
Understanding requests for mandatory documentation

A new performance indicator was introduced in 2025–26 to provide greater visibility of requests for mandatory documentation during the verification process. This information helps identify where applicants may be experiencing challenges and where improvements can be made to support a more efficient assessment process.

The data shows requests for mandatory documentation are significantly more common for planning consents than other consent types. During 2025–26, around 52% of planning consents received at least one request for mandatory documentation, compared with 43% of planning and land division consents, 14% of land division consents and 13% of building consents.

By introducing new indicators and improving reporting capability, the Performance Indicators Scheme continues to strengthen transparency, support informed decision-making and identify opportunities for ongoing improvement across South Australia's planning system.

Mandatory documentation requests, 2025–26



HIGHLIGHTS



Increased development activity across South Australia

Development activity remained strong throughout 2025–26, with more applications lodged and more planning consents determined compared with the previous financial year. Planning consents determined increased by 3.3% to 32,294, reflecting continued development activity across South Australia's residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Development value also increased significantly, rising from $7.9 billion to $9.1 billion during the year.

32,264 **planning consents determined** **UP 3.3%**



A more targeted assessment process

Despite an increase in development activity, the number of referrals for planning consents decreased during 2025–26. There were 2,499 referrals compared with 2,617 in the previous year, despite 844 additional planning consents being determined. Fewer referrals were required despite increased development activity, indicating that specialist assessment resources continued to be focused on applications that required additional expert input.

2,499 referrals **despite 844 additional planning consents being determined.**

HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)



More building activity and oversight

Building activity continued to grow across South Australia, with 16,609 building inspections undertaken during 2025–26, an increase from 15,353 in the previous year. The number of building consents determined also increased, alongside a substantial rise in Certificates of Occupancy following the introduction of new requirements for Class 1A buildings. These outcomes highlight continued building activity across South Australia and increased oversight through inspection and occupancy certification processes.

16,609 inspections

UP 1,256 more inspections than the previous year

+8.2% increase in building inspection



Supporting future housing supply

Land division activity increased during the year, with 3,243 land division certificates issued and 10,460 additional allotments identified through those certificates. This growth supports future housing supply and development opportunities across metropolitan and regional South Australia.

3,243 Land division certificates issued

10,460 Additional allotments identified



Identifying opportunities for improvement

New performance measures introduced in 2025–26 provide greater visibility of requests for mandatory documentation and requests for further information during the assessment process. These insights help identify opportunities for improvement and inform ongoing work to streamline processes, improve application quality and support more efficient assessment pathways across the planning system.

DRIVING FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS



Using data to strengthen the planning system

The Performance Indicators Scheme is designed to support continuous improvement by providing greater visibility of how South Australia's planning system is performing. The 2025–26 report introduces new measures and enhanced reporting capability that help identify opportunities to improve processes, support decision-making and strengthen the user experience.

Insights from the 2025–26 report are helping to focus improvement efforts across the planning system, particularly in areas relating to application quality, information requirements and assessment efficiency.

The report also identified requests for further information associated with performance assessed applications, providing additional insight into where applicants may require greater support and where assessment processes can be refined.

These insights are helping to inform ongoing work being led by the Department for Housing and Urban Development, including proposed improvements to verification and information requirements and Assessment Improvements Code Amendment 2. Together, these initiatives aim to simplify processes, improve application quality and support more efficient planning outcomes.



Looking ahead

By expanding the range of performance measures and improving access to data through the new digital reporting platform, the Performance Indicators Scheme provides a stronger evidence base to support future planning system improvements. As reporting capabilities continue to evolve, the scheme will help identify emerging trends, monitor performance and support informed decision-making across South Australia's planning system.

For more information visit
plan.sa.gov.au

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