



Fact sheet: Infrastructure designation

This fact sheet explains the concept *infrastructure designation* (formerly known as ‘community infrastructure designation’) under the *Planning Act 2016*, and the role of state and local government. It outlines how the process has changed from the previous system to the current system.

Infrastructure designation continues to play a critical role in Queensland’s new planning system. A request for infrastructure designation (an ID) can be made by a public sector entity, a non-public sector entity or a local government, and can be made, amended, extended or repealed by the Planning Minister (for ministerial IDs) or by a local government (for local government IDs).

Three statutory instruments support the ID functions, namely:

1. **Planning Act 2016**, which includes provisions for making, amending, extending or repealing IDs.
2. **Planning Regulation 2017**, which identifies the types of infrastructure that may be designated.
3. **Minister’s Guidelines and Rules (MGR)**, which includes processes for making or amending both ministerial and local government designations.

An approved designation does not sterilise land for the purpose of the designation only, or prevent other forms of approved development from taking place instead. The ID process gives infrastructure entities a streamlined, considered whole-of-government response on a request for community-supporting infrastructure and avoids later approvals that would otherwise be required under the *Planning Act 2016*. There are no appeal rights applicable to infrastructure designation decisions.

An example of an ID

Imagine a situation where there is a need to establish a school in an area zoned ‘residential’ in the local government planning scheme. In these circumstances, the Planning Minister, or the local government concerned, may designate the land as accepted development for education purposes (meaning that a school may be built). Community consultation and assessment of environmental impacts for the proposed school are still required, but the process does not become bogged down in the development assessment process.

What has changed

The table below makes it clear what has changed from the previous system to the current system.

Change	Description
Name	The change from community infrastructure designation to infrastructure designation aims to align and better describe the infrastructure that may be designated as outlined in the Planning Regulation 2017.
Ministerial power	Only the Planning Minister can now make, amend or repeal a ministerial ID.
Designation by local governments	The local government must consider the same criteria and process for making, amending, extending or repealing an ID as the Minister, with all local government ID requests subject to a state interest review stage.

Infrastructure designation is accepted development	Development in relation to infrastructure under a designation is accepted development, with no further development approvals required under the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> . This reflects the decision to streamline assessment of IDs as well as the designation function of the Planning Minister and local government. This change does not exempt any approvals required under other legislation and does not exempt building work under the <i>Building Act 1975</i> .
Public consultation requirement	Consultation is targeted and fit for purpose under the new ID process. The minimum 15 business day public consultation requirement remains and can be increased to take into account the type and scale and impacts of infrastructure on the community.
New process for amending IDs	Provisions for amending an ID are included in the <i>Planning Act 2016</i> and in the Minister's Guidelines and Rules.