

State Planning Policy July 2017

Overview – Application and operation

This fact sheet outlines how to use and apply the SPP July 2017.

Summary

On 3 July 2017, the State Planning Policy (SPP) July 2017 replaced the previous SPP April 2016.

The SPP is Queensland's pre-eminent state planning instrument. It expresses the state interests in land-use planning and development. Promoting these state interests through plan-making and development assessment decisions will help to secure a liveable, sustainable and prosperous Queensland.

The SPP July 2017 contains a number of changes to align with the *Planning Act 2016* and improve clarity regarding how to apply and use the SPP.

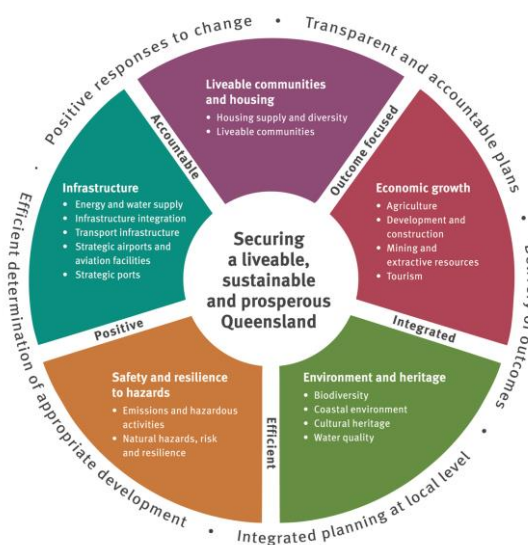
What does the SPP do?

The SPP has effect throughout Queensland and sits above regional plans and local planning instruments in the hierarchy of planning instruments under the *Planning Act 2016* (Planning Act). This means that the SPP prevails over these instruments, to the extent that they are inconsistent with the SPP.

The SPP July 2017 outlines the guiding principles that should underpin plan-making processes and development decisions in Queensland to achieve a planning system that is:

- outcome focused
- integrated
- efficient
- positive
- accountable.

The SPP July 2017 also identifies 17 state interests in land-use planning and development. These state interests are grouped into five broad themes, illustrated in the figure below:



The SPP expresses state interests through:

- **state interest statements**, which identify the overall outcome for each state interest
- **state interest policies**, which detail the specific policies that must be considered and appropriately integrated in planning and development outcomes, to achieve the state interest
- **assessment benchmarks**, where applicable, which set out the matters that an assessment manager must assess a development application against. Assessment benchmarks apply only if the state interest has not been appropriately integrated in a local planning instrument (i.e. to the extent of any inconsistency), and if an assessment manager considers the benchmarks to be relevant to the development application.

Who uses the SPP?

The SPP July 2017 applies primarily to state and local governments. Rather than mandate prescriptive processes, the SPP has a strong emphasis on finding solutions that are regionally, locally and site appropriate.

State government uses the SPP, to the extent relevant, when:

- making a new regional plan or amending an existing regional plan
- designating premises for infrastructure (such as community facilities, busway transport infrastructure, communication network facilities and emergency services facilities)
- assessing certain development applications as an assessment manager or referral agency. In these cases, the SPP may apply either as an assessment benchmark or a matter to have regard to, in accordance with the Planning Regulation 2017.

The Planning Minister may also consider the state interests in the SPP July 2017 for the purposes of a Minister's call in or a Minister's direction under the *Planning Act 2016*.

Local governments use the SPP, to the extent relevant, when:

- making a new local planning instrument or amending an existing local planning instrument
- designating premises for infrastructure (such as community facilities, busway transport infrastructure, communication network facilities and emergency services facilities)
- assessing certain development applications, if the SPP has not yet been appropriately integrated into the relevant planning scheme and only to the extent of any inconsistency. In these cases, the SPP may apply either as an assessment benchmark or a matter to have regard to, in accordance with the Planning Regulation 2017.

Given the role of the SPP in development assessment, the SPP July 2017 may also need to be used by **applicants** when preparing a development application if the SPP July 2017 has not yet been appropriately integrated into the relevant local planning instrument. The **community** may use the SPP to better understand the state interests in planning and development.

Figure 3 on page 9 of the SPP July 2017 outlines the roles and responsibilities in applying the SPP and the parts of the SPP July 2017 that may be applicable, to the extent relevant.

Applying the SPP in development assessment

For the purposes of development assessment, the SPP July 2017 may apply as either an assessment benchmark or as a matter to have regard to.

Examples of state interests with assessment benchmarks are:

- Liveable communities

- Mining and extractive resources
- Water quality
- Natural hazards, risk and resilience
- Strategic airports and aviation facilities.

Under the Planning Regulation 2017 the assessment benchmarks apply if a state interest has not been appropriately integrated in a planning scheme. In this instance a development application must be assessed against the assessment benchmarks to the extent of any inconsistency of the planning scheme with the assessment benchmarks and where the assessment manager considers these assessment benchmarks are relevant to the proposed development.

In addition, the assessment manager must have regard to the SPP (including the relevant state interest statement and policies), where the planning scheme has not appropriately integrated the state interest. The SPP only applies as a matter to have regard to where the assessment manager considers these matters are relevant to the proposed development and only to the extent of any inconsistency with the planning scheme.

More information

For guidance material to support each of the 17 state interests and the SPP guiding principles; and further information about the key policy changes in the SPP July 2017, the SPP Interactive Mapping System (IMS) and a change log of all mapping updates to the SPP IMS, refer to the SPP page on the department's website or contact:

Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
PO Box 15009
City East Qld 4002
tel 13 QGOV (13 74 68)
email SPP@dilgp.qld.gov.au
www.dilgp.qld.gov.au