

## Agenda Report for Decision

**Meeting Date: 15 February 2024**

<b>Item Name</b>	Amendment to the State Planning Policies	
<b>Presenters</b>	Tyler Johns, Tom Victory and Sarah Melin	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	Decision	
<b>Item Number</b>	4.2	
<b>Strategic Plan Reference</b>	4 Discharging Statutory Obligations	
<b>Work Plan Reference</b>	4.3. Ensure the Commission operates in a line with governance best practice	
<b>Confidentiality</b>	Not Confidential (Release Delayed) – to be released following commencement of the formal community engagement period for the draft amendment to the State Planning Policy.	
<b>Related Decisions</b>	N/A	
<b>Conflicts Declared</b>		
<b>Is the Report author aware of any potential undeclared conflicts?</b>	YES/NO	

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the State Planning Commission (the Commission) resolves to:

1. Approve the designation of this item as Not Confidential (Release Delayed) – to be released following commencement of the formal community engagement period for the draft amendment to the State Planning Policies.
2. Note the letter to State Planning Commission from the Minister for Planning at **Appendix A**.
3. Approve the *Proposal to Initiate an Amendment to a State Planning Policy* provided at **Attachment 1**.
4. Approve the proposed text in the marked-up version of *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning* provided at **Attachment 2** as the basis of the amendment to the State Planning Policy.
5. Authorise the Chair and Ex Officio to jointly approve the Community Engagement Plan which will guide community engagement on the amendment to the State Planning Policy.
6. Authorise the Chair to make any minor or editorial amendments to the draft amended State Planning Policy in preparation for the commencement of formal community engagement.
7. Authorise the Chair to sign and send the letter to the Minister for Planning at **Attachment 3**.
8. Authorise the Chair to sign and send the letter at **Attachment 4** to stakeholders identified by the Community Engagement Plan jointly approved by the Chair and Ex Officio.
9. Authorise the Ex Officio to approve any additional relevant stakeholders identified during the preparation of the Engagement Plan.

## Background

The shortage of urban and regional planners has become a growing concern, as emphasised in both the Planning Institute of Australia's [Planners in Australia: State of the Profession Report](#) and in the Federal Government's Skills Priority List.

This scarcity not only hinders our State's ability to tackle critical challenges such as housing affordability, population growth, and the transition to a net-zero emissions future but also jeopardizes the sustainability of our communities.

In response to this pressing issue, the Minister for Planning (the Minister) has taken proactive measures through the establishment of the Built Environment Education Liaison Group (BEELG) in February 2023. This collaborative effort has resulted in the following initiatives aimed at tackling the skills shortage and promoting planning as a viable and rewarding career choice:

- A newly created [Bachelor of Surveying degree](#) at Flinders University.
- A new [Diploma in Local Government \(Planning\)](#) with TAFE SA, recognised by the Accreditation Authority under pathway 1 for Planning Level 4 Accredited Professional status
- A [planning cadetship](#) from high school into state government, local government and firms from mid-2024.
- A new grant program for Master in Urban and Regional Planning students valued at \$10,000 for five students, developed by PLUS and UniSA.
- Partnering with the Department for Education to build curriculum resources, career pathways, access to data and resources, and high-quality learning environments.
- SurveyingSA raising awareness of surveying as a career opportunity to high school students and their influencers, including parents, school career counsellors and teachers.
- Planning Institute of SA working with UniSA to increase interest in the planning profession and help fill required quotas for an undergraduate degree.
- PLUS and industry bodies attending Adelaide Careers and Employment Expo to promote built environment professions and career pathways.

## Discussion

A key obstacle to increasing the number of planning professionals in South Australia is the absence of an undergraduate university degree in planning within South Australia.

BEELG, through Planning and Land Use Services, has been in discussions with the universities to reinstate the undergraduate degree. Flinders University (Flinders) is open to developing a new undergraduate planning program for the 2025 academic year.

However, the lack of education options for built environment professions has given rise to the need to recognise the skills shortage more appropriately, and to the importance and necessity of continuing to consider how the long-term vision for South Australia is to be delivered.

On this basis, on 12 January 2024, the Minister wrote to the Commission (**Appendix A**) requesting it initiate an amendment to the most appropriate existing State Planning Policy (SPP) to incorporate a principle regarding the long-term resourcing and provision of skills and expertise required to service the planning system in South Australia. The Minister advised he will take the Commission's advice as to which SPP this amendment is most appropriately suited.

### Initiation of SPPs Amendment

SPPs define the State's interests in land use planning and provide the policy framework for other planning instruments (such as the Planning and Design Code, Regional Plans and Design

Standards). They identify the planning priorities of South Australia and can respond to current and future challenges by including any matters that are relevant to planning or development.

Under section 73 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act), a proposal to amend the SPPs can be initiated by the Commission at the request of the Minister. In this instance, the Minister has requested the Commission amend the SPP it considers can most appropriately incorporate a policy related to resourcing the planning system.

It is recommended that the Commission agree to the Minister's Request. A *Proposal to Initiate an Amendment to a State Planning Policy* is provided in **Attachment 1** for the Commission's approval to formally commence the amendment process.

It is recommended that the Commission elect to amend *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning* (SPP1) to incorporate a new policy regarding the long-term resourcing and provision of skills and expertise required to service the planning system in South Australia. Within the existing suite of SPPs, SPP1 is the most appropriate to incorporate this policy.

A draft marked-up version of SPP1 is provided in **Attachment 2** which identifies the proposed new text to be inserted, including new Policy 1.12 which states:

*Provide an effective, efficient, and enabling planning system that is well resourced with qualified professionals to support development, investment, and good planning outcomes.*

As can be seen from **Attachment 2**, additional associated and complementary amendments are also proposed to be undertaken to the various parts of SPP1 to ensure the language and intent of the new policy is consistently applied throughout the SPP.

In identifying the appropriate wording to incorporate into SPP1, guidance was taken from the Objects of the Act in section 12 and the Principles of Good Planning in section 14 of the Act. An extract of the Act identifying the specific parts of the Act which informed the wording of the proposed new policy is **Appendix B**.

The marked-up version of SPP1 forms the basis of the proposed amendment to the SPPs. However, supporting communications will be prepared by Planning and Land Use Services (PLUS) to assist with the community engagement of this proposed amendment.

#### SPPs in Regional Plans

Section 58(2) of the Act provides:

*The state planning policies will collectively set out the State's overarching goals or requirements for the planning system (to be **given effect through the other instruments** under this Division).*

(emphasis added)

This means it is necessary for the policies, principles and objectives identified in SPPs to be able to be meaningfully applied and/or given effect through the other planning instruments.

In the Minister's letter to the Commission (Appendix A), he requested the Commission consider giving effect to the proposed SPP1 policy through the Regional Plans on the basis it would:

*provide appropriate recognition to the skills shortage, and to the importance and necessity of continuing to consider how the long-term vision for each region is to be delivered. Indeed, in the absence of qualified and skilled planning professionals, the effective implementation and delivery of the SPPs, Regional Plans and the planning system more broadly is at risk.*

In relation to the Regional Plans, section 64(3)(a) of the Act provides:

*(3) A regional plan must be **consistent with any state planning policy** (insofar as may be relevant to the relevant region or area) and include—*

*(a) **a long-term vision (over a 15 to 30 year period) for the relevant region or area**, including provisions about the integration of land use, transport infrastructure and the public realm...*

(emphasis added)

If SPP1 is amended as proposed, it would be appropriate for the new policy to be given effect through incorporation into the long-term vision of one or more of the Regional Plans.

Including recognition of the skills shortage in built environment professions in the long-term vision of Regional Plans will serve as a call to action for Government, local government, and planning professionals to continuously consider how to remedy this problem, and for it to form part of their decision making when planning for the future.

Subject to the Regional Plan schedule and when (or if) the SPP1 amendment is given effect, the new policy could be incorporated in the draft Regional Plans currently being prepared by the Commission, or via a future amendment to a Regional Plan/s.

#### Next steps

A letter should be sent to the Minister to advise that the Commission has initiated an amendment to SPP1 in accordance with his request. A draft letter to the Minister has been prepared for the Commission's consideration and approval at **Attachment 3**

PLUS will prepare an Engagement Plan on behalf of the Commission prior to commencing an engagement program in accordance with the Community Engagement Charter (Charter). Due to time constraints and the Minister's request this amendment be initiated as soon as possible, it is recommended that the Commission delegate its authority to approve the engagement plan jointly to the Chair and Ex Officio, to ensure there are no delays in commencing community engagement.

It is anticipated the engagement program will run for a period of 8 weeks. A letter to stakeholders has been drafted for the Commission's consideration and approval at **Attachment 4**. It is proposed the letter will be sent to relevant stakeholders identified in the engagement plan to advise them of the proposed amendment and seek their feedback.

Once engagement on the SPP1 amendment is complete, PLUS will prepare an Engagement Report for the Commission's endorsement, which will then be furnished to the Minister.

The Minister will then determine whether to adopt, alter or refuse the amendment.

If adopted, the SPP1 amendment will not have effect unless or until it has been approved by the Governor by notice published in the Gazette (per section 73(12)(a) of the Act).

The Commission will also be required to prepare a report for the Minister to furnish to the Environment, Resources and Development Committee of Parliament in accordance with section 74 of the Act.

The Commission's report will provide information about the reason for the SPP1 amendment, the consultation undertaken on the SPP1 amendment and any other information considered relevant by the Commission.

**Attachments:**

1. Proposal to Initiate an Amendment to a SPP (#21106915)
2. Marked up version of SPP1 with proposed amendments (#21128413)
3. Letter to Minister for Planning (#21133536)
4. Letter to key stakeholders (#21145131)

**Appendices**

- A. Letter to State Planning Commission from Minister for Planning (#21098667)
- B. Key text from the PDI Act which informed the proposed amendments (#21127460)

Prepared by: Tyler Johns, Tom Victory and Sarah Melin

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Endorsed by: Chelsea Lucas and Jane Trotter

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Date: 30 January 2024

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# PROPOSAL TO INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO A STATE PLANNING POLICY

By the State Planning Commission at the request of the  
Minister for Planning

Contact details

PlanSA

Email: [plansa@sa.gov.au](mailto:plansa@sa.gov.au)

Phone: 1800 752 664



(Signature)

CHAIR, STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

Date: 10/04/2024

This Proposal to Initiate document forms the basis for the preparation of a proposed amendment to a State Planning Policy for the purpose of section 73(2)(aa) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

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## 1. BACKGROUND

Section 73(2)(aa) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act) states that a proposal to amend a State Planning Policy (SPP) may be initiated by the Commission at the request of the Minister for Planning (the Minister).

On 12 January 2024 the Minister wrote to the State Planning Commission (the Commission) requesting that it initiate an amendment to one of the SPPs. A copy of the Minister's letter to the Commission is **Attachment 2**.

The Minister expressed concern regarding the national shortage of urban and regional planners, which hinders the state's ability to tackle critical challenges such as housing affordability, population growth, and the transition to a net-zero emissions future, whilst also placing the sustainability of our communities in jeopardy. On this basis he requested the Commission initiate an amendment to one of the existing SPPs to incorporate a principle regarding the long-term resourcing and provision of skills and expertise required to service the planning system in South Australia.

The Minister considered that this would provide appropriate recognition to the skills shortage, and to the importance and necessity of continuing to consider how the long-term vision for each region is to be delivered.

The Commission, acting on the request of the Minister, has agreed to initiate an amendment to the SPPs to address this matter.

## 2. PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The Minister advised he would take the Commission's advice as to which SPP the amendment would be most appropriately suited.

The Commission has determined *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning* (SPP1) is the most appropriate SPP to incorporate a new policy regarding the long-term resourcing and provision of skills and expertise required to service the planning system in South Australia.

The Commission is proposing to insert a new policy into SPP1 (Policy 1.12) which states:

*Provide an effective, efficient and enabling planning system that is well resourced with qualified professionals to support development, investment and good planning outcomes.*

Other associated and complementary amendments are also proposed to be undertaken to the various parts of SPP1 to ensure the language and intent of the new policy is consistently applied throughout the SPP.

In identifying the appropriate wording to amend SPP1, guidance was taken from the Objects of the Act in section 12 and the Principles of Good Planning in section 14 of the Act, in particular those parts highlighted in bold as follows:



## 12—Objects of Act

- (1) *The primary object of this Act is to **support and enhance the State's liveability and prosperity** in ways that are ecologically sustainable and meet the **needs and expectations**, and reflect the diversity, of the State's communities by **creating an effective, efficient and enabling planning system**, linked with other laws, that—*
- (a) ***promotes and facilitates development**, and the integrated delivery and management of infrastructure and public spaces and facilities, consistent with planning principles and policies; and ...*
  - (b) *...*
- (2) *In association with the object referred to subsection (1), the scheme established by this Act is intended to—*
- (a) *...*
  - (b) *...*
  - (c) ***promote certainty for people and bodies proposing to undertake development** while at the same time providing scope for innovation; and*
  - (d) *...*
  - (e) *...*
  - (f) ***provide financial mechanisms, incentives and value-capture schemes that support development and that can be used to capitalise on investment opportunities; and***
  - (g) *...*

## 14—Principles of good planning

*In seeking to further the objects of this Act, regard should be given to the following principles that relate to the planning system established by this Act (insofar as may be reasonably practicable and relevant in the circumstances):*

- (a) *long-term focus principles as follows:*
  - i. *...*
  - ii. *policy frameworks should be able to **respond to emerging challenges and cumulative impacts** identified by monitoring, benchmarking and evaluation programs;*
- (b) – (e)
- (c) *investment facilitation principles as follows:*
  - i. *planning and design should be undertaken with a view to **strengthening the economic prosperity of the State** and facilitating proposals that **foster employment growth**;*
  - ii. *the achievement of good planning outcomes should be facilitated by **coordinated approaches that promote public and private investment towards common goals**;*
- (d) *integrated delivery principles as follows:*
  - i. *policies, including those arising outside the planning system, should be coordinated to ensure the **efficient and effective achievement of planning outcomes***

The SPP1 Amendment is intended to be undertaken in line with the timeframe outlined **Attachment 1**.

### **3. ENGAGEMENT**

Part 2 of [Practice Direction #2 – Preparation and Amendment of Designated Instruments](#) sets out the requirements to undertake engagement for a proposed amendment to a Designated Instrument (in this case the SPPs). This includes the preparation of an Engagement Plan and an Engagement Report pre and post the engagement process.

#### **3.1. Engagement Plan**

The Commission will prepare an Engagement Plan prior to the commencement of engagement on the proposed SPP1 Amendment that accords with the Community Engagement Charter (Charter).

In preparing the Engagement Plan, due consideration will be given to the recommended amendments to the Charter from the Commission's inaugural five yearly Review of the Charter which was completed in late 2023.

Given the proposal is generally relevant to councils, the Local Government Association will be notified in writing and consulted on the proposal.

A range of other stakeholders and the overall approach to the engagement process will be identified in the Engagement Plan. The Engagement Plan will be published on the PlanSA website when prepared.

#### **3.2. Engagement Report and Decision**

Once engagement on the proposed SPP1 Amendment is complete, the Commission will prepare an Engagement Report pursuant to section 73(7) of the Act.

The Commission must ensure that a copy of the Engagement Report is furnished to the Minister and also published on the SA Planning Portal. This will occur in accordance with Practice Direction 2.

The Minister will then determine whether to adopt, alter or refuse the amendment.

If adopted, the SPP1 Amendment will not have effect unless or until it has been approved by the Governor by notice published in the Gazette.

The Commission will also prepare a report for the Minister to provide to the Environment, Resources and Development Committee of Parliament under section 74(3) of the Act. The Commission's report will provide information about the reason for the SPP1 Amendment, the consultation undertaken on the SPP1 Amendment and any other information considered relevant by the Commission.

## ATTACHMENT 1

## Timetable for SPP1 Amendment by the State Planning Commission

Step	Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>Preparation of the SPP1 Amendment</b>		
<b>Engagement Plan</b> prepared  Investigations conducted and <b>SPP1 Amendment</b> prepared	The Department on behalf of the Commission; to be endorsed by delegates of the Commission	6 weeks
Preparation of Materials for Engagement	The Department on behalf of the Commission	Informed by the Engagement Plan
<b>Engagement on the SPP1 Amendment</b>		
<b>SPP1 Amendment</b> released for engagement in accordance with the prepared <b>Engagement Plan</b>	The Department on behalf of the Commission	8 weeks
<b>Consideration of Engagement and Finalisation of Amendment</b>		
Submissions summarised  Updated drafting instructions to the <b>SPP1 Amendment</b> prepared  <b>Engagement Report</b> prepared	The Department on behalf of the Commission	8 weeks
Report to the Commission prepared	The Department	4 weeks
Commission considers final <b>SPP1 Amendment</b> and <b>Engagement Report</b> and provides to Minister	The Commission	2 weeks
<b>Decision Process</b>		
Minister considers the <b>SPP1 Amendment</b> and the <b>Engagement Report</b> and makes decision  If adopted, the <b>SPP1 Amendment</b> then forwarded to the Governor for approval and publishing of a notice in the Government Gazette  Final Decision and new version of the <b>SPPs</b> published on the PlanSA Portal	Minister	Unknown
<b>Parliamentary Scrutiny</b>		
Referral of adopted <b>SPP1 Amendment</b> to Environment, Resources and Development Committee of Parliament – referred by the Minister within 28 days of adoption.		

**ATTACHMENT 2**

**Letter from the Minister to the State Planning Commission**

Hon Nick Champion MP



Government  
of South Australia

Minister for Trade and  
Investment

Minister for Housing and  
Urban Development

Minister for Planning

GPO Box 11032  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

T: (08) 8235 5580

E: [ministerchampion@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerchampion@sa.gov.au)

23EXT0376

Mr Craig Holden  
Chair  
State Planning Commission

By email: [saplanningcommission@sa.gov.au](mailto:saplanningcommission@sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Holden

As you are aware, State Planning Policies (SPPs) are the highest order policy document in our state's planning system and play a critical role in guiding planning and development in South Australia.

SPPs define the state's interests, provide the policy framework for other planning instruments (such as the Planning and Design Code, Regional Plans and Design Standards) and can respond to current and future challenges by including any matters that are relevant to planning or development.

One such challenge you will be aware of is the national shortage of urban and regional planners, as emphasised in both the Planning Institute of Australia's *Planners in Australia: State of the Profession Report* and in the Federal Government's *Skills Priority List*.

This scarcity not only hinders our state's ability to tackle critical challenges such as housing affordability, population growth, and the transition to a net-zero emissions future, but also jeopardises the sustainability of our communities.

Whilst I am taking proactive measures in response to this issue, including by establishing the Built Environment Education Liaison Group, I consider the skills shortage to be of a critical concern and one we need to better plan for as a state.

It is on this basis I am now writing to request that the State Planning Commission (the Commission) initiate an amendment to one of the existing SPPs to incorporate a principle regarding the long-term resourcing and provision of skills and expertise required to service the planning system in South Australia. I will take the Commission's advice as to which SPP this amendment is most appropriately suited.

This amendment is particularly imperative at a time where the Commission is undertaking the preparation of the Regional Plans and it is my view that the principle, once incorporated into the appropriate SPP, should be given effect through the Regional Plans.



OFFICIAL

This would provide appropriate recognition to the skills shortage, and to the importance and necessity of continuing to consider how the long-term vision for each region is to be delivered. Indeed, in the absence of qualified and skilled planning professionals, the effective implementation and delivery of the SPPs, Regional Plans and the planning system more broadly is at risk.

I would appreciate the Commission initiating the amendment to the SPPs as soon as reasonably practicable, noting any such amendment must be subject to community consultation in accordance with the Community Engagement Charter under section 73 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

I appreciate the Commission's commitment to ensuring the continued effectiveness of our planning system and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to meet the current and future needs of South Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Champion', is positioned above the printed name.

**Hon Nick Champion MP**  
Minister for Planning

12/1 / 2024

**Draft Amendment to State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning**

**Instructions for reviewing the proposed amendments:**

xxxxxx

**= Proposed new text**

## PART 2 : STATE PLANNING POLICIES

This section includes the State Planning Policies (SPPs) that have been legislated under the Act as well as ones identified by the Minister for Planning.

The SPPs are to be read as individual policies which have been brought into a policy 'suite' for ease of reference. The SPPs have been prepared with the Principles of Good Planning in mind and align with the requirements set out within the Act (see below).

### State Planning Policies at a glance

An efficient and well- resourced planning system is essential to achieve these aspirations.





# 1

## STATE PLANNING POLICY 1: INTEGRATED PLANNING

An efficient and well- resourced planning system is essential to achieve these aspirations.

### Citation

This is a State Planning Policy made under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*. This policy may be cited as *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning*.

### Purpose

**Integrated planning coordinates the strategic use of land with the necessary services and infrastructure. It can influence how a city or region grows and evolves, which if done well, creates livable and sustainable places that contribute to our prosperity.**

The integration of land use, transport and infrastructure planning helps to enable us to address the longer term challenges and opportunities by working towards a common vision. This approach guides strategic decision making regarding where growth should occur, what needs to be conserved, the location of activity centres, strategic transport and other infrastructure. These shape how a place works and where employment housing and transport infrastructure will be located. It should include genuine participation of all stakeholders as part of the planning and decision-making process.

Clear planning rules derived from integrated planning provides certainty to investors, relevant stakeholders and the community alike. Integrated planning helps create a climate of certainty and contributes to making our state a place where people want to live, work and invest.

While some neighbourhoods will significantly transform, others will experience little change. In areas undergoing transition, good planning and the integration of design can help community infrastructure and services keep pace and enable development that complements the valued characteristics of these places.

At the metropolitan and regional levels, integrated planning aligns transport planning with land use policies, conservation and infrastructure requirements. At the local level, integrated planning aligns local services and facilities and can improve the efficiency of infrastructure provision.






The application of integrated planning will vary across the state. There are many diverse urban settlement patterns and land supply and demand characteristics from greater densities in the city and inner suburbs to the less dense and more natural landscapes of rural areas. As areas become more compact, integrated planning will become increasingly important as the expectations around service provision increase. Refer to Figure 1 for examples of the key types of settlement patterns in South Australia.

In places where space is highly contested, integrated planning can enable multiple benefits over a limited area, for example development over a railway station enabling a public plaza for passive recreation.

**Good integrated planning will also enable us to adapt to change. We face many challenges, for example, an ageing population, impacts of climate change, advances in technology, new business formats, and evolving community needs and expectations.**

At the heart of effective integrated planning lies a well-resourced planning system consisting of qualified planning professionals who can negotiate and ensure good planning outcomes in a timely manner. The shortage of urban and regional planners has become a growing concern. This scarcity could not only hinder our state's ability to tackle critical challenges such as housing affordability, population growth, and the transition to a net-zero emissions future but also jeopardizes the sustainability of our communities. Coordination is required between all levels of government and the private sector to address this challenge.

**Figure 1: Key Settlement Patterns in South Australia**

<b>Capital City</b> 	<b>Core Function</b> Provides state-wide functions and services, including a range of civic functions.  The core of the state's transport network.  Increasing permanent, temporary and tourist populations.	<b>Physical Form</b> The highest density, with the greatest variety of land uses.  A range of medium to high-rise building forms, set close to street frontages.	<b>Development Pattern</b> Increasing density, mixed use development.  A grid-like pattern of development, punctuated by city squares and bound by the Adelaide Parklands.  A high quality public realm, which integrates infrastructure into the city fabric.
<b>Urban Centres</b> 	<b>Core Function</b> Provides functions and services at a metropolitan, district and regional level.  Well connected to key transport networks, with a focus on public transport.	<b>Physical Form</b> Medium to high-density development with low to mid-rise building forms.	<b>Development Pattern</b> A core area of retail, commercial and community activities, which are supported by a residential population that access these services and facilities.
<b>Suburban Areas and Townships</b> 	<b>Core Function</b> Suburban areas within townships and the metropolitan area that provide liveable neighbourhoods for our community.	<b>Physical Form</b> Predominantly residential fabric with a range of low-rise building types.  Low to medium density residential development with supporting community uses.	<b>Development Pattern</b> A varied development pattern that supports a range of lifestyle choices. A strong focus on walking and cycling to local destinations and community uses, such as schools, local shopping, recreation and services.  Infill and renewal is anticipated that is sensitive to the local context, and which protects the important attributes of neighbourhoods.
<b>Rural Areas</b> 	<b>Core Function</b> Supports primary production and value adding. A key driver of the state's economy.	<b>Physical Form</b> Very low density.	<b>Development Pattern</b> Intensive agriculture, food production, horticulture and mining.  Limited infrastructure provision.
<b>Natural Areas</b> 	<b>Core Function</b> Conservation Landscape protection.  Conservation, landscape protection.	<b>Physical Form</b> Very low density.	<b>Development Pattern</b> Mostly undeveloped.









1.12 Provide an effective, efficient and enabling planning system that is well resourced with qualified professionals to support development, investment and good planning outcomes.

### Objective

To apply the principles of integrated planning (Figure 2) to shape cities and regions in a way that enhances our livability, economic prosperity and sustainable future.

### Policies

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1.1 An adequate supply of land (well serviced by infrastructure) is available that can accommodate housing and employment growth over the relevant forecast period.</p> <p>1.2 Provide an orderly sequence of land development that enables the cost-effective and timely delivery of infrastructure investment commensurate with the rate of future population growth.</p> <p>1.3 Plan growth in areas of the state that is connected to and integrated with, existing and proposed public transport routes, infrastructure, services and employment lands.</p> <p>1.4 Protect areas of rural, landscape character, environmental importance, mining or food production significance from the expansion of urban areas, towns and settlements.</p> | <p>1.5 Protect land corridors for expansion or augmentation of infrastructure.</p> <p>1.6 Plan for strategic infrastructure that helps to shape the pattern of settlement in a way that enhances quality of life and supports long-term sustainability.</p> <p>1.7 Regenerate neighbourhoods to improve the quality and diversity of housing in appropriate locations supported by infrastructure, services and facilities.</p> <p>1.8 Mixed-use development around activity centres, public transport nodes and strategic transit corridors to encourage greater use of active transport options such as walking, cycling and public transport.</p> <p>1.9 Plan neighbourhoods to support walking and cycling, particularly in Greater Adelaide and regional townships.</p> <p>1.10 Include performance targets around land supply and demand in regional plans.</p> <p>1.11 Include performance targets in regional plans for the creation of walkable neighbourhoods and increasing the number of dwellings close to public transport.</p> |
|--|---|

## Figure 2: Principles of Integrated Planning

### Balanced decision-making

Professional and balanced decision-making that considers multiple perspectives.

### Intergenerational

Plan for the aspirations and needs of current and future generations

via a well-resourced and effective planning system.

### City shaping

City shaping infrastructure investment that supports sustainability, prosperity and livability.

### Support for infrastructure investment

A pattern of development that maximises the use of existing and planned infrastructure investment.

### Certainty of land supply

A well-planned land supply pipeline supported by infrastructure and services.

### Adaptability

Plans for future adaptation to changing conditions.

### Supporting population growth

Plan for a growing population attracted by liveable, vibrant places with employment and lifestyle choices.

## Principles for Statutory Instruments

**Regional Plans** should ensure that future growth is identified in a way that can be supported by infrastructure

and an effective and well-resourced planning system with timely and professional decision making.

The logical sequencing of development is important to the cost-effective delivery of infrastructure and in maximising positive social and environmental outcomes. Infrastructure agencies must be involved in this initial planning work to ensure these impacts are well understood.

The mapping of infrastructure, existing patterns of growth and areas that need careful management or protection will be required in Regional Plans.

Regional Plans affecting urban areas will therefore need to demonstrate how integrated planning principles can be achieved and identify areas for intensification of development. Regional areas will need to consider future growth against ongoing servicing costs to communities.

Regional Plans will also set performance targets in the application of SPPs (as appropriate).

**The Planning and Design Code** should provide suitable zones that support mixed-use development where they can be strategically applied. Appropriate policy controls will need to be included for those areas affected by the Environment and Food Production Areas legislation to protect these areas from urban encroachment.

10 April 2024

Hon Nick Champion MP  
Minister for Planning

Via email: [MinisterChampion@sa.gov.au](mailto:MinisterChampion@sa.gov.au)

Dear Minister

**Initiation of an Amendment to *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning***

I refer to your correspondence dated 12 January 2024 in which you highlighted the challenges presented by the national shortage of urban and regional planners and requested the State Planning Commission (the Commission) initiate an amendment to one of the existing State Planning Policies (SPPs) to incorporate a principle regarding the long-term resourcing and provision of skills and expertise required to service the planning system in South Australia.

I now write to advise that the Commission has initiated an amendment to *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning* (SPP1), pursuant to section 73(2)(aa) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act).

In your letter, you advised you would take the Commission's advice as to which SPP the amendment would be most appropriately suited. The Commission determined SPP1 was the most appropriate of the existing SPPs in which to incorporate this policy. Copies of the Proposal to Initiate and the Proposed Amendment are **enclosed** for your reference.

The Commission is proposing to insert a new policy into SPP1 (Policy 1.12) which states:

*Provide an effective, efficient and enabling planning system that is well resourced with qualified professionals to support development, investment and good planning outcomes.*

Other associated and complementary amendments are also proposed to be undertaken to the various parts of SPP1 to ensure the language and intent of the new policy is consistently applied throughout the SPP.

In identifying the appropriate wording to amend SPP1, guidance was taken from the Objects of the Act in sections 12 and 13 and the Principles of Good Planning in section 14 of the Act.

The Commission will now undertake community engagement on the proposed amendment to SPP1 in accordance with the Community Engagement Charter. Engagement will commence on Thursday 11 April 2024 and run for a period of 8 weeks before closing on Thursday 6 June 2024. Once engagement on the SPP1 amendment is complete, an engagement report and final draft amendment will be furnished to you, for your approval.

If adopted, the SPP1 amendment will not have effect unless or until it has been approved by the Governor by notice published in the Gazette.

## OFFICIAL

On a final note, the Commission is supportive of State Government initiatives to improve tertiary education opportunities to increase planning industry professionals. This should however involve a thorough consideration of all potential available options to support the tertiary education sector whilst appropriately balancing community expectations.

Should you require further information, please contact Ms Tyler Johns from Planning and Land Use Services within the Department for Trade and Investment on 08 7133 2765 or via email at:

[tyler.johns@sa.gov.au](mailto:tyler.johns@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Craig Holden**  
Chair

Att:     1. Proposal to Initiate  
          2. Proposed Amendment

15 April 2024



83 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000 **OFFICIAL**

GPO Box 1815  
Adelaide SA 5001

08 7109 7466  
saplanningcommission@sa.gov.au

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Initiation of an amendment to *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning***

On 12 January 2024, the Minister for Planning (the Minister) wrote to the State Planning Commission (the Commission) highlighting the challenges presented by the national shortage of urban and regional planners, as emphasised in both the Planning Institute of Australia's [Planners in Australia: State of the Profession Report](#) and in the Federal Government's [Skills Priority List](#).

The Minister considers the skills shortage to be of a critical concern and one we need to better plan for as a State.

On this basis, pursuant to section 73(2)(aa) of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (the Act), the Minister has requested the Commission initiate an amendment to one of the existing State Planning Policies to incorporate a policy regarding the long-term resourcing and provision of skills and expertise required to service the planning system in South Australia.

The intent of requesting this amendment is to provide appropriate recognition to the skills shortage, and to the importance and necessity of continuing to consider how the long-term vision for each region is to be delivered.

As you may be aware, State Planning Policies (SPPs) are the highest order policy document in our planning system and play a critical role in guiding planning and development in South Australia. They define the State's interests, provide the policy framework for other planning instruments (such as the Planning and Design Code, Regional Plans and Design Standards) and can respond to current and future challenges by including any matters that are relevant to planning or development.

The Minister considers this amendment is imperative at a time where the Commission is undertaking the preparation of the Regional Plans and it was his view that the policy, once incorporated into the appropriate SPP, should be given effect through the Regional Plans.

#### **Proposed amendment**

I now write to advise that the Commission has initiated an amendment to *State Planning Policy 1: Integrated Planning* (SPP1). Copies of the Proposal to Initiate and the Proposed Amendment are **enclosed** for your reference.

The Commission is proposing to insert a new policy into SPP1 (Policy 1.12) which states:



*Provide an effective, efficient and enabling planning system that is well resourced with qualified professionals to support development, investment and good planning outcomes.*

Other associated and complementary amendments are also proposed to be undertaken to the various parts of SPP1 to ensure the language and intent of the new policy is consistently applied throughout the SPP.

In identifying the appropriate wording to amend SPP1, guidance was taken from the Objects of the Act in sections 12 and 13 and the Principles of Good Planning in section 14 of the Act.

### Community engagement

Pursuant to section 73 of the Act, the Commission must undertake public consultation on the proposed amendment to SPP1 in accordance with the Community Engagement Charter.

Public consultation is now open, and you are invited to make a submission on the proposed amendment to SPP1 to the Commission by:

- Email: [planSASubmissions@sa.gov.au](mailto:planSASubmissions@sa.gov.au)
- Post:  
Submission: State Planning Policy 1 amendment  
State Planning Commission  
Department for Trade and Investment  
GPO Box 1815, ADELAIDE SA 5001 or
- YourSay: <http://www.yoursay.sa.gov.au/spp1-amendment>.

The Commission is also hosting online information sessions through Planning and Land Use Services. Details about the information sessions are available at <https://plansaevents.eventbrite.com/>.

Public consultation on the Commission's proposed amendment to SPP1 is open from today until close of business on Thursday 6 June 2024.

Following the conclusion of public consultation, an engagement report and final draft amendment to SPP1 will be furnished to the Minister for his consideration and approval.

If adopted, the SPP1 amendment will not have effect unless or until it has been approved by the Governor by notice published in the Gazette.

Should you require further information, please contact [REDACTED] from Planning and Land Use Services within the Department for Trade and Investment on [REDACTED] or via email at: [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



**Craig Holden**  
Chair

Att: 1. Proposal to Initiate  
2. Proposed Amendment

Hon Nick Champion MP



Government  
of South Australia

Minister for Trade and  
Investment

Minister for Housing and  
Urban Development

Minister for Planning

GPO Box 11032  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

T: (08) 8235 5580

E: [ministerchampion@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerchampion@sa.gov.au)

23EXT0376

Mr Craig Holden  
Chair  
State Planning Commission

By email: [saplanningcommission@sa.gov.au](mailto:saplanningcommission@sa.gov.au)

Dear Mr Holden

*Craig*

As you are aware, State Planning Policies (SPPs) are the highest order policy document in our state's planning system and play a critical role in guiding planning and development in South Australia.

SPPs define the state's interests, provide the policy framework for other planning instruments (such as the Planning and Design Code, Regional Plans and Design Standards) and can respond to current and future challenges by including any matters that are relevant to planning or development.

One such challenge you will be aware of is the national shortage of urban and regional planners, as emphasised in both the Planning Institute of Australia's *Planners in Australia: State of the Profession Report* and in the Federal Government's *Skills Priority List*.

This scarcity not only hinders our state's ability to tackle critical challenges such as housing affordability, population growth, and the transition to a net-zero emissions future, but also jeopardises the sustainability of our communities.

Whilst I am taking proactive measures in response to this issue, including by establishing the Built Environment Education Liaison Group, I consider the skills shortage to be of a critical concern and one we need to better plan for as a state.

It is on this basis I am now writing to request that the State Planning Commission (the Commission) initiate an amendment to one of the existing SPPs to incorporate a principle regarding the long-term resourcing and provision of skills and expertise required to service the planning system in South Australia. I will take the Commission's advice as to which SPP this amendment is most appropriately suited.

This amendment is particularly imperative at a time where the Commission is undertaking the preparation of the Regional Plans and it is my view that the principle, once incorporated into the appropriate SPP, should be given effect through the Regional Plans.



OFFICIAL

This would provide appropriate recognition to the skills shortage, and to the importance and necessity of continuing to consider how the long-term vision for each region is to be delivered. Indeed, in the absence of qualified and skilled planning professionals, the effective implementation and delivery of the SPPs, Regional Plans and the planning system more broadly is at risk.

I would appreciate the Commission initiating the amendment to the SPPs as soon as reasonably practicable, noting any such amendment must be subject to community consultation in accordance with the Community Engagement Charter under section 73 of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

I appreciate the Commission's commitment to ensuring the continued effectiveness of our planning system and look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to meet the current and future needs of South Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nick Champion', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Hon Nick Champion MP**  
Minister for Planning

12/1 / 2024

## Appendix B

Key text from the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*

Refer words highlighted in **bold**

### 12—Objects of Act

(1) **The primary object of this Act is to support and enhance the State's liveability and prosperity** in ways that are ecologically sustainable **and meet the needs and expectations**, and reflect the diversity, **of the State's communities by creating an effective, efficient and enabling planning system**, linked with other laws, that—

(a) **promotes and facilitates development**, .....

(c) **promote certainty for people and bodies proposing to undertake development** .....

(f) **provide financial mechanisms, incentives and value-capture schemes that support development and that can be used to capitalise on investment opportunities; and.....**

### 13—Promotion of objects

**A person or body involved in the administration of this Act must have regard to, and seek to further, the objects established by this section.**

### 14—Principles of good planning

(a) long-term focus principles as follows:

(ii) **policy frameworks should be able to respond to emerging challenges and cumulative impacts** identified by monitoring, benchmarking and evaluation programs;

(f) investment facilitation principles as follows:

(i) **planning and design should be undertaken with a view to strengthening the economic prosperity of the State and facilitating proposals that foster employment growth;**

(ii) **the achievement of good planning outcomes should be facilitated by coordinated approaches that promote public and private investment towards common goals;**

(g) integrated delivery principles as follows:

(i) **policies, including those arising outside the planning system, should be coordinated to ensure the efficient and effective achievement of planning outcomes;**