Towards digital plan making

Frequently Asked Questions

Can a council continue to maintain their own cadastre if they choose?

Yes, the transition to digital plan making will allow councils to continue to manage their own local cadastral databases if they wish. The Department will continue to provide services to align planning data with the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation's (DFSI) Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB) for the foreseeable future, enabling councils to maintain their local cadastral databases.

It is anticipated that over time, DFSI's cadastral upgrade program will enable more councils to adopt the DCDB.

Who will be the custodian of the geospatial planning data?

The Secretary of the Department of Planning will be the custodian of the geospatial data which will continue to be made available as open data under Creative Commons Attribution licensing.

Will the geospatial planning data be published as 'open data'?

The geospatial planning data will continue to be published as 'open data' for viewing, download or access through live data feeds (web-service APIs). This means that users can not only analyse and view planning data through the NSW Planning Portal but can also integrate it with their existing business systems such as council's GIS tools.

Will the transition improve the turnaround times of cadastral and planning data updates?

Yes, it will. By moving away from PDF maps, the time needed for quality assurance will be drastically reduced. DFSI's 'cadastre as a service' and 'proposed layer' programs will do the same for cadastral data.

How can councils edit boundaries that are stored in the planning database?

Live editing by councils of the authoritative, legally binding planning data is not intended. The Department will be the custodian of the authoritative datasets, which will have the same rigorous update process as currently in use for PDF maps.

How much can I rely on the mapping information in the NSW Planning Portal?

The NSW Planning Portal will display the best available and most current geospatial information from a variety of sources. For legally certified, geospatial planning data, the NSW Planning Portal is the authoritative single source of truth.

After the transition to digital mapping, will there still be a 'cover sheet', which currently lists the PDFs relevant to a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), or amendments to these?

The cover sheet will reference the replaced and/or new geospatial data layers instead of referring to physical maps. It will still require sign-off by the relevant plan-making authority.

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Is the Standard Technical Requirements for Spatial Datasets and Maps still relevant in transitioning to digital?

Yes. Any updates to the standards found necessary in transitioning to digital mapping will be published through the NSW Planning Portal.

Can councils and the public only access the planning data through the NSW Planning Portal?

No, geospatial planning data will also be published as 'open data' for viewing, download or access through live data feeds (web-service APIs). This means that users can not only analyse and view planning data through the portal but can also integrate it with their existing business systems such as council's GIS tools.

Will councils still be able to generate section 10.7 certificates?

Councils will remain responsible for production of section 10.7 (previously s149) planning information certificates, using their system of choice. The Department provides the authoritative planning database that councils can choose to use for generating certificates but does not mandate its use. Councils are free to choose another source such as Pathway.

What will be the cost to councils?

Costs incurred as part of a transition from PDF-based environmental planning instrument (EPI) mapping to digital mapping will vary across councils, dependent on their existing systems. The Department will work with councils, providing GIS support to align mapping with the State cadastre, and provisioning of the completed geospatial data sets back to councils.

After the transition to digital mapping, how can I access the EPI mapping?

The default view of ePlanning's Spatial Viewer will display the current/in-force planning controls. In addition, provisions will be made in the Spatial Viewer for viewing the historical versions of EPI mappings.

Where can I find out more?

- Call on 1300 305 695.
- If English isn't your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- Email **eplanning@planning.nsw.gov.au**