

**ITEM 6. EXPOSURE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT
(PLANNING AND REPORTING) BILL 2009 AND THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) AMENDMENT (PLANNING AND
REPORTING) REGULATION 2009**

Report by David Backhouse, General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the report on the Exposure Draft Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Bill 2009 and the Local Government (General) Amendment (Planning and Reporting) regulation 2009 be noted.**
- 2. That Council endorse that a submission on the draft Legislation and Guidelines be forwarded to the Department of Local Government.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Councillors of the draft legislation and that Councillors forward any comments to the General Manager in consideration for submission to the Department of Local Government.

REPORT

The Government has now released the Exposure Draft Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Bill 2009 and the Local Government (General) Amendment (Planning and Reporting) regulation 2009 for public consultation.

The draft legislation provides for the proposed new framework, which has been developed in consultation with the local government sector. It aims to:

- improve integration of various statutory planning and reporting processes undertaken by councils as required by the Local Government Act 1993 and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- strengthen councils' strategic focus
- streamline reporting processes
- ensure that the Local Government Act 1993 and the Department of Local Government's guidelines support a strategic and integrated approach to planning and reporting by local councils.

The draft legislation is supported by draft Planning and Reporting Guidelines (compliance is mandatory), and a draft Planning and Reporting Manual (supporting information to assist councils). A set of frequently asked questions has also been prepared.

All documents are available on the Department's website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au under Integrated Planning and Reporting.

Councils are invited to make submissions to the Department on the draft legislation, the guidelines and manual.

The Department intends to introduce the new framework in three groups of councils over a three year period. The councils in each group will be determined by councils themselves.

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Councils will be asked to formally nominate the group they will be in following the legislation being passed by Parliament. It is anticipated this will happen in the Spring session later this year.

The groups are as follows:

Group 1: Community Strategic Plan adopted by 31 March 2010 and Delivery Program adopted by 30 June 2010

Group 2: Community Strategic Plan adopted by 31 March 2011 and Delivery program adopted by 30 June 2011

Group 3: Community Strategic Plan adopted by 31 March 2012 and Delivery program adopted by 30 June 2012.

It is expected that all councils will be operating under the new system from the commencement of the new local government electoral term in September 2012.

REFERRAL FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

Report approved by:

David Backhouse	
General Manager	