

Barton Deakin Brief: Education Infrastructure NSW

27 April 2017

Today the NSW Minister for Education, the Hon Rob Stokes MP announced the creation of Education Infrastructure NSW to oversee the planning, delivery and maintenance of New South Wales schools. This comes after the New South Wales Government released the draft State Environmental Planning policy (SEPP) Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities for community consultation in early February.

This Barton Deakin Brief outlines the Minister's announcement on Education Infrastructure NSW.

Education Infrastructure NSW

Education Infrastructure NSW is a delivery unit designed to oversee the planning, delivery and maintenance of NSW schools. It aims to ensure there is sufficient supply of permanent and temporary learning spaces in Government schools to meet projected growth of 21 per cent, an additional 164,000 students by 2031.

Education Infrastructure NSW will be expected to deliver capital works infrastructure to supply learning spaces that support modern teaching pedagogy, provide sufficient extra-curricular space, and incorporate sustainable design principles.

The new delivery unit will also be responsible for managing the Department of Education's maintenance backlog. The Government aims to implement joint community use and partnership models to provide cost effective and community-focussed solutions.

Draft State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities

On February 4, 2017 the Minister for Education, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, the Minister for Planning, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP and the Minister for Early Childhood Education, the Hon Sarah Mitchell MP released the [draft State Environmental Planning Policy \(SEPP\) Educational Establishments and Childcare Facilities](#) for community consultation.

The draft SEPP aimed to streamline approvals processes to assist with delivery of new schools, childcare facilities, universities and TAFEs. The draft planning reforms package included a draft design guide for schools and a draft planning guideline for childcare facilities.



The proposed Education and Child Care SEPP aims to:

- Align child care planning requirements with national requirements under the child care [National Quality Framework](#);
- Expand the scope of activities that can be carried out at schools, universities and TAFEs through streamlining the planning system including changes to exempt and complying development;
- Level the planning field by ensuring a consistent planning approach for government and non-government schools;
- Improve regulatory certainty and efficiency through a consistent planning regime for education and infrastructure and the provision of services; and,
- Establish a set of design and planning principles to assist with the development of schools and childcare facilities.

Submissions closed 7 April 2017.

Further Information

Minister's media release dated 27 April 2017, [here](#).

Minister's media release dated 4 February 2017, [here](#).

Public Consultation Draft of SEPP (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017 NSW under the [Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#) available [here](#).

Attachment and resources relating to the draft SEPP (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) are available [here](#).

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