

Department update

- Three Directions have been in preparation. Further information on two of these directions is available [here](#), in particular how local contributions are pooled by councils and investment planned. A third direction on deferred contribution payments is currently being discussed with councils and Local Government NSW.
- DPIE continues to work towards increasing the amount of public space and improve local streets and paths as shared spaces for people, including temporary bike lanes.
- All projects within Tranche 1 of the Planning System Acceleration Program have been determined. Tranche 2 was announced on 22 May 2020 with a deadline of 18 June 2020. DPIE continues to focus its attention on the short-term responses and medium and long-term economic recovery. While not all applications meet the priority project fast-track assessment criteria, we continue to resolve post-approval issues and progress applications and concept plans to maintain a strong development pipeline. Further information on the program can be found on our website www.planning.nsw.gov.au/fast-tracked-assessments.
- The Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (AIF), announced on 3 April 2020, provides \$70 million to support the delivery of community infrastructure in the high growth areas of Blacktown and The Hills Council areas. The program provides joint funding for infrastructure with councils. DPIE worked with councils to identify around 7 local infrastructure projects that council will deliver to support future housing development in North West Sydney. Additional benefits are being sought before the projects are announced – including reduction in contributions rates.
- To answer queries regarding submissions to the Planning System Acceleration Program, we will provide a webinar to give further information on the Program, outline the process, discuss the criteria and answer your questions. You will be able to submit your questions in advance. The webinar details are as follows:
 - Date: Friday 29th May
 - Time: 9-10am
 - [Click here](#) to register

Group discussion

- The Group noted that discussions with councils should not dilute the intent of the Direction to defer contributions payments.
RESPONSE – The direction relating to deferred contribution payments will be applied consistently across all councils. DPIE is consulting with councils as part of the due diligence process and to ensure the appropriate regulatory processes are in place.
- The Group requested an update on the Housing Acceleration Fund (HAF).
RESPONSE – The HAF provides grants for critical infrastructure projects which help accelerate the delivery of housing. HAF 1 and 2 are complete. HAF 3, 4 and 5 are underway with a major tranche of construction scheduled to commence later this year and into next year.
- The Group requested clarity on how the Federal Government's \$500m funding for local roads and community infrastructure will work.
ACTION – DPIE will provide members with a fact sheet on the Federal Government's policy announcement.
- The Group made recommendations that DPIE provide proponents with feedback on projects they nominated for fast tracked assessment under the priority projects program, including whether they were successful and what further action will be taken.
RESPONSE – DPIE is exploring appropriate options to keep proponents informed about the application process and individual nominations.
- Further to the above, the Group sought clarity on the process of council-led projects with long assessment timeframes and how the Department will assist with these projects.

RESPONSE – The One Stop Shop has already begun assisting with council-led projects. DPIE is also working to support councils develop their own acceleration programs, as well as broader planning reform programs to improve planning outcomes.

- DPIE should note the work undertaken in the Hunter on development currently held up with RMS.

RESPONSE – DPIE has met with local councils in the area as well RMS to discuss concurrence and referral processes.

- A central mailbox has been set up to receive ongoing issues in the current climate planning.covidresponse@planning.nsw.gov.au. It is encouraged that any issues/suggestions are provided to DPIE using this mailbox. DPIE staff will continue to monitor this mailbox for that require attention in the short/medium/long term.