

The Government has consulted the community about changes proposed for the ACT planning system. These changes are intended to make the system simpler, faster and more effective. The main areas that are being addressed in the reform package are:

- development assessment and building approvals;
- leasehold administration;
- the Territory Plan; and
- environmental impact assessments,
- concessional leases

The Government has considered the community's comments in deciding what policies it wants implemented. Some further consultation will be undertaken before the policies take effect.

What has the Government decided to do after considering submissions made in relation to leasehold administration reforms?

- Leases will continue to provide a clear statement of rights and obligations.
- The Government will continue to be able to provide land by direct grant and for a specific use.
- Contemporary information about the operation of the leasehold system will be made broadly available.
- Enhanced training for ACT Planning and Land Authority staff and interested professionals in the administration of the leasehold system will be an ongoing commitment.
- Commercial and industrial leases will be issued with a broader range of uses.
- The Territory Plan and the development assessment process will become the main way to regulate use and development for new, varied and renewed leases.
- The Government's response to recommendations of the concessional lease review will be implemented as an integral part of the planning system reform project.
- Custodianship responsibilities and land management arrangements for unleased Territory Land will be clarified and refined.
- Further investigation of options for infrastructure charging is being undertaken.
- Options for a codified change of use system are continuing to be investigated.
- A new complaint-handling system will be developed requiring the Authority to investigate and inform the complainant of the outcomes of the investigation.

What do the changes mean for the community and for industry?

- Generally, residential leases will remain unchanged.
- Crown leases remain the form of land tenure used in the ACT.
- Clearer rules and processes for the regulation of use and development.
- Greater flexibility for commercial and industrial leases.
- Clearer, more streamlined processes for the granting of leases.

- Clearer, more transparent processes for the granting and administration of concessional leases.
- Clearer, more accessible complaints handling process.

What further consultation is planned?

The next stage of consultation will occur early in 2006, with the scheduled release of an exposure draft of new legislation. A draft structure of the new Territory Plan will also be exhibited together with a sample development assessment code.

When will the changes take effect?

The changes will be implemented with the commencement of the new legislation in 2007. Shorter-term reforms that do not require legislative change are being introduced earlier.

Where do I get more information?

These proposed changes are detailed in the Government Response to Community Comment on the Planning System Reform Project and the Government Response to the Report on the granting and administration of concessional leases in the ACT.

Copies of these papers are available at all ACT Government and ACT Planning and Land Authority customer service centres. Copies are also available from the Authority's website www.actpla.act.gov.au or by phoning (02) 6207 1923.

Inquiries can be made to the ACT Planning and Land Authority. You can:

- email planning.systemreform@act.gov.au
- write to The Planning System Reform Project, GPO Box 1908, Canberra, ACT, 2601
- visit 16 Challis Street, Dickson, ACT, or
- phone (02) 6207 1923.

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