

Guidance on maximum Benchmark Timeframes for planning proposals

The NSW Government is committed to reducing the time taken to assess planning proposals. The Department's categorisation of planning proposals in the Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023) is supported by category specific timeframes for satisfaction of conditions and authority and Government agency referrals, consultation, and responses.

Compliance with milestones will be monitored by the Department to ensure planning proposals are progressing as required. The Minister may appoint an alternate planning proposal authority if Council does not meet these timeframes.

Stage	Maximum Benchmark Timeframes (working days)			
	Basic	Standard	Complex	Principal
Stage 1 – Pre-lodgement	30 days	50 days	60 days	20-30 days
Stage 2 – Planning Proposal	80 days	95 days	120 days	40 days
Stage 3 – Gateway determination	25 days	25 days	45 days	45 days
Stage 4 – Post-Gateway	20 days	50 days	70 days	160 days
Stage 5 – Public Exhibition & Assessment	70 days	95 days	115 days	95 days
Stage 6 – Finalisation	25 days	55 days	70 days	80 days
Sub-total (Department target)	140 working days	225 working days	300 working days	380 working days
Total (end to end)	220 days	320 days	420 days	420 days

Note: Department target of 380 working days is measured from Stage 3 – Stage 6 (inclusive).

Planning proposal PP-2024-2057 is categorised as a Complex proposal as described in the Local Environmental Plan Making Guidelines (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023).

To ensure your planning proposal is finalised by 13/03/2026 and meets the benchmarks timeframes for a Complex proposal we recommend the following milestones:

Community consultation should start:	23 May 2025
Post exhibition report back to Council:	4 November 2025
Submit for GIS and legal drafting:	16 December 2025
LEP completion:	13 March 2026

Please contact the Department as soon as possible in the event that unexpected delays occur that may impact timing, so that assistance to meet these timeframes can be discussed.