

Local contribution practice notes

This document answers frequently asked questions regarding the practice notes being exhibited as part of the infrastructure contributions reforms.

The NSW Government is reforming the infrastructure contributions system. The NSW Productivity Commissioner's 29 recommendations will deliver a certain, transparent, simple, efficient, and consistent system.

The local infrastructure contributions practice notes are being reviewed to deliver modern policy advice in a simple, user focused way.

Why are the practice notes being reviewed?

The practice notes are old and not consistent in their approach, application, or design. Some have not been updated since 2005. Practitioners have reported they are hard to navigate, only available in PDF form, use significant levels of jargon, and do not always provide policy advice in a way that is relevant. Importantly, they do not reflect current policy and best practice. The Department is updating the practice notes to ensure they reflect the current policy and best practice, and to communicate this in a clear, plain English way.

Who are the practice notes for?

The local infrastructure contributions practice notes help councils, developers and the community understand and interact with the NSW infrastructure contributions system. The practice notes are mainly used by councils when they are preparing local infrastructure contributions plans and planning agreements. They give guidance and explain the rules surrounding these complex systems.

When will the new practice notes come into effect?

The practice notes will come into effect from 1 July 2022, at the same time as the reforms to the system. Councils will start to use them as they transition over to the new system and start making contributions plans and negotiating planning agreements.

The old practice notes will be replaced but archived on the Department's website for reference.

How will the practice notes be delivered?

The practice notes consist of individual modules each focusing on a specific policy issue and area of guidance. Each practice module will have a simple and consistent structure. The practice notes will be published as interlinked webpages, linear PDFs, and linked into the architecture of the digital tools. Practitioners can access them in the way that best suits their needs.

Why are there only nine modules on exhibition?

The main focus during this exhibition is on the nine practice note modules that deliver a new policy settings or updated advice. They also provide the opportunity for discussion on the approach being adopted in reviewing the practice notes.

More modules will be developed as the reform progresses. Some are dependent on how the digital tool develops and will need to be updated based on its design and functionality. Others are dependent on [IPART's review of benchmarked costs, efficient design, and the essential works list](#).

What are the next steps?

The department is exhibiting nine draft practice note modules. These are available as [interlinked webpages](#) and as [a PDF](#).

We are very interested in receiving feedback on whether the module approach improves practitioners' access and understanding of the policy advice and settings. We're particularly interested in knowing if and how the content helps improve how you do your jobs.

We will consider all feedback received and seek to improve the exhibited practice note modules based on this feedback. We will also take these learnings and apply them to the development of the future modules.

We anticipate that the future modules will be developed in early 2022. These modules, the currently exhibited modules, plus the modules that reflect current policy setting, will be combined to form the fully reviewed practice notes ready system launch in July 2022.

We will then look to work with practitioners to develop worked examples of how the new system operates. This will allow us to share best practice infrastructure contributions planning and foster improved practitioner knowledge and capabilities.