

# Planning and Local Decision Making Position Statement

## Policy Principles

This Position Statement relates to the following Policy Principles of LGNSW:

*(4) Local government is best placed to lead and influence local and regional planning processes according to the needs and expectations of local communities.*

*(9) Local government is democratically elected to shape, serve and support communities.*

## Our Position

LGNSW advocates for:

- The planning system to ensure the voice of local communities is heard through the well understood and accepted councillor representation system, which provides transparency and accessibility to communities.
- Local government to retain control over the determination of locally appropriate development - local planning powers must not be overridden by State plans and policies.
- The establishment and role of Independent Hearing and Assessment Panels (IHAPs) to remain a decision of the council – adoption of such independent panels by councils should be **voluntary** not mandatory.
- Local government to be treated as a **partner** (not just another stakeholder) in metropolitan, regional and district planning processes - the role and voice of local government is vital in delivering productivity, liveability and sustainability.
- Strategic (local, district and regional) plans that reflect the **agreed** planning outcomes from community engagement at local, regional/district and metropolitan levels – residents have a right to be active participants in the planning process and this should be respected and maintained.

Date Created: August 2017

Date reviewed: