DESIGN WA IS LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A BETTER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- Places that are valued by the community
- Places that are functional, are easy to maintain and will last a long time
- Places that are easy to get around, even as a first time visitor
- Places that relate to the local neighbourhood
- Places that are attractive and inviting
- Places that are bright, airy and easy to live in
- Places that work with the environment
- Places that are a comfortable scale for people
- Places that feel safe, day and night
- Places that include room for trees and gardens
**WHAT IS GOOD DESIGN?**

Well designed cities and towns are in everyone’s best interest, especially as our urban areas grow. Almost every part of our cities and towns is designed; the buildings, roads, parks, playgrounds and public spaces that make up our neighbourhoods have all been designed for a purpose.

Design WA has distilled these factors into 10 principles of good design, so that we can better define and benchmark places and spaces that improve our built environment. These principles underpin all policy from Design WA.

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### 10 PRINCIPLES OF GOOD DESIGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Context and character</td>
<td>Responds to and enhances the unique characteristics of a local area, contributing to a sense of place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape quality</td>
<td>Operates as an integrated and sustainable system, within a broader ecological context</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>Optimises sustainability to deliver positive environmental, social and economic outcomes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Functionality and build quality</td>
<td>Meets the needs of users while efficiently and effectively balancing functional requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Responds to community needs as well as the wider social context, supporting diversity and social interaction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amenity</td>
<td>Contributes to comfortable and productive environments through internal and external amenity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legibility</td>
<td>Contains clear connections and memorable elements to help people find their way around</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>Optimises safety and security, minimising the risk of personal harm and supporting safe behaviour and use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aesthetics</td>
<td>Creates attractive and inviting spaces and places that engage the senses</td>
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WHAT IS DESIGN WA?

Design WA is a State Government initiative to ensure good design is at the centre of all development, from the early stages right through to delivery.

Stage One improves the consistency of design policy across the State. It includes: State Planning Policy 7 – Design of the Built Environment, an updated Apartment Design policy, a Design Review Guide and a Design Skills Discussion Paper. Future stages will focus on neighbourhood, precinct and house design.

These draft documents are out for public comment. Have your say at planning.wa.gov.au/DesignWA

A FRAMEWORK FOR A BETTER BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Design principles, expert review and skilled designers working together to improve built-form design outcomes.

When urban environments increase in density there are more factors to consider when designing them. Good design outcomes are achieved when three fundamentals work together. Design WA promotes:

- A universal set of design principles that can be used to prepare plans and write new policy
- An integrated design review process for complex development types to streamline early stages of design, before proposals become too difficult to change
- The use of skilled design practitioners who understand how to make their project respond to established and emerging neighbourhoods.

When these fundamentals are executed well, the design, approval and development processes work smoothly to achieve a better built environment for everyone.
ELEVATING THE IMPORTANCE OF DESIGN IN PLANNING

SPP 7 — DESIGN OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

State Planning Policy 7 is the lead policy of Design WA that applies to the whole built environment.

This details the 10 principles of good design that can be used by planners, designers and developers to prepare plans and write new policy. It is a framework to modify design-related policies as our urban areas change, as well as promote better design skills and an integrated design review.

APARTMENT DESIGN

This is a policy for apartments and mixed-use developments, to replace Residential Design Codes (R-Codes) for multiple-dwellings.

This policy will prepare our urban areas for apartments that are well designed, for residents and neighbours. It improves guidance for siting and orienting buildings into existing and emerging neighbourhoods. It also offers support to design practitioners and decision makers who propose alternative and better design solutions. Simple checklists for design practitioners, reviewers and decision-makers will help facilitate a better apartment design process.

INTEGRATING EARLY DESIGN REVIEW

This is a guide to improve the way expert design review operates across the State. It helps local governments set up and operate design review processes that are consistent, transparent and focussed.

It contains information on when a design review is recommended and supports early design discussions with local government. This reduces time and costs at the development application and building licence stages.

Simple checklists help design reviewers to exercise judgment with more consistency. Information on the new State Design Review Panel, and how it can assist local governments is also detailed.

Improvements to design review processes will include updates to the Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2005.

ENCOURAGING STRONGER DESIGN SKILLS

This discussion paper seeks your views on whether the State should apply requirements for skilled design practitioners to design complex developments.

It outlines why skilled design practitioners are important to achieving good design outcomes, particularly for complex developments such as apartments. It also details the role of formal qualifications, regulation and industry associations.

Find out more: planning.wa.gov.au/DesignWA
The draft documents have been developed through a thorough practitioner working group program including expert input and advice from local governments, practitioners and industry representatives. The documents have also been informed by design review panel observations and interviews, apartment resident focus groups, and site visits to research local development examples.

Further stakeholder briefings and refinement of the draft Apartment Design policy settings will be carried out in the advertising period. Contents of the other documents released will also be considered in detail at this stage. All public submissions will be considered before the final documents and changes are approved.

State Planning Policy 7 and Design Review Guide will be effective, and the Apartment Design policy will replace Part 6 of the Residential Design Codes (R-Codes). Training programs for relevant planners, design reviewers and practitioners will be rolled out, to help practitioners understand how the new policies and processes work. Local governments are encouraged to set site-specific primary controls in areas zoned for apartments, to improve design outcomes and certainty for developers and neighbours. Part 2 of the Apartment Design policy can assist with this planning. Operational review of stage one documents will occur to consider improvements.
We appreciate your feedback:

Your suggestions and ideas are important to us, they help us improve our draft policies before we finalise them.

Provide your feedback online through: planning.wa.gov.au/DesignWA

Or, in writing to:
Attention: Design WA
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