

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## What makes up the Natural Hazards package?

The Natural Hazards package includes:

- a Strategic Guide to Planning for Natural Hazards in NSW (the guide) - sets out key concepts and guiding principles to identify and consider the natural hazards relevant to NSW in strategic planning.
- a Resource Kit - helps plan making authorities find information and data they need.

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## Where does the Natural Hazard package apply?

The Natural Hazard Package applies to NSW.

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## Who should use the Natural Hazards package?

Planning authorities including councils.

The guide helps with the preparation of:

- regional and district plans
- local strategic plans and community strategic plans
- planning proposals
- other strategic planning activities that relate to land-use planning.

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## When should the Natural Hazards package be considered?

Planning authorities preparing regional and district plans must consider government policies in force as that time under section 3.3 and 3.4 of the NSW *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, which requires government policies in force at the time and draft plans to be considered during their preparation.

The Department will examine ways to support the consideration of natural hazards in planning proposals in the future.

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## Why was the Natural Hazard package developed?

The Natural Hazards package is a commitment under the State Infrastructure Strategy 2018 – 2038 and supported by the 2017 State Level Risk Assessment. This also addresses recommendations made under the 2020 NSW Bush Fire Inquiry and the 2020 Royal Commission in Natural Disaster Arrangements.

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## Will community consultation continue to occur?

Yes, community consultation will continue to occur for district plans, regional plans, local planning statements and future planning proposals. Regional and district plans must be exhibited for at least 45 days. Local strategic planning statements must be exhibited for at least 28 days. A planning proposal must outline the community consultation that will be undertaken.

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## How does the Natural Hazards package support local communities?

- it helps planners identify and mitigate natural hazards risk
- builds resilience into communities, infrastructure and services
- encourages community consultation
- natural hazards are considered at the earliest stage of the planning process.

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## How does the guide develop connections with Country?

Planners and designers must consider Country in their plans. The guide refers to the Department's [Connecting with Country Draft Framework](#).

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## How does this relate to the urban design guidance from the NSW Government Architect?

The guide complements the Government Architect's [Better Placed](#) and [Greener Places](#) frameworks.

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## How often will the resource kit be updated?

As additional resources become available.

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## What is the relationship to the proposed Design and Place SEPP?

The Design and Place SEPP recommends a risk-based approach to design and adaptation to future risks and vulnerabilities from natural hazards will be a key consideration for proposed development.