



# Planning circular

---

## PLANNING SYSTEM

<b>Circular</b>	PS 24-004
<b>Issued</b>	22 July 2024
<b>Related</b>	Nil

---

# Temporary approach to managing freight and logistic developments

---

## Overview of this circular

On Friday 19 July 2024 a worldwide IT outage caused significant disruption to technology systems used in warehouse and distribution centres. This has resulted in supply chain issues and there is a considerable backlog of items that need to be processed through these centres and delivered to wholesale and retail customers.

Fresh produce and other essential grocery items are affected by the delay in distribution caused by the IT interruption. It is imperative that supply chain systems be provided with flexibility needed to recover and return to normal to enable customers to receive delivery of these essential goods as well as avoid food wastage.

This circular advises councils to consider the broader context and the need for supply chain recovery when responding to any complaints that may be received regarding out of hours operations for warehouse and distribution centres.

## Councils have discretion when using their compliance powers

The *Environmental Planning Assessment and Planning Act 1979* authorises councils to take compliance action in response to any offence under the Act or the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. This includes any non-compliance with conditions of a development consent that may regulate operating hours, noise limits or vehicle movement caps.

However, councils have discretion in choosing whether to exercise their powers and issue a penalty

infringement notice or undertake other compliance action when they become aware of breaches.

In exercising their enforcement functions in the two-week period from the issue of this circular in relation to relevantly impacted development, councils are advised to have regard to the need to restore supply chain operations to their normal level. This includes taking into account the temporary nature of any breach, the low level of harm caused and the broader public interest in restoring supply chains when responding to any complaints that may be received about out of hours operations or noise at warehouse and distribution centres.

## Further information

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure circulars are available at:

[planning.nsw.gov.au/circulars](https://planning.nsw.gov.au/circulars)

## Authorised by:

**Monica Gibson**

**Deputy Secretary  
Planning Land Use Strategy, Housing and  
Infrastructure**

**Department of Planning, Housing and  
Infrastructure**

---

**Important note:** This circular does not constitute legal advice. Users are advised to seek professional advice and refer to the relevant legislation, as necessary, before taking action in relation to any matters covered by this circular.

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure [planning.nsw.gov.au](https://planning.nsw.gov.au)

**Disclaimer:** While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of publication, the State of New South Wales, its agencies and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.