

Community Participation Plan

What we heard

8 April – 3 June 2026

August 2026



Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

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Community Participation Plan

The aim of the state-wide Community Participation Plan (CPP) is to standardise public exhibition processes and timeframes, providing greater consistency and certainty across the planning system. The single plan replaces more than 120 separate CPPs so that consultation is more streamlined, transparent, and easier for all stakeholders to understand and engage with.

In finalising the plan, the Department undertook extensive engagement which included public exhibition of the draft state-wide Community Participation Plan, as well as webinars, briefings and council information sessions.

Public Exhibition

The state-wide community participation plan and discussion paper were publicly exhibited for 8 weeks between 8 April 2026 to 3 June 2026. Feedback for the draft plan and the discussion paper could be given via a formal submission or guided survey on the NSW Planning Portal.

Councils and agency information sessions

During the exhibition period, the Department held 7 separate online information sessions reaching **76 councils** across NSW. These sessions gave councils the opportunity to ask questions and the Department received valuable feedback that helped refine the policy to achieve the best outcome.

These sessions were held online via teams and invites were split geographically:

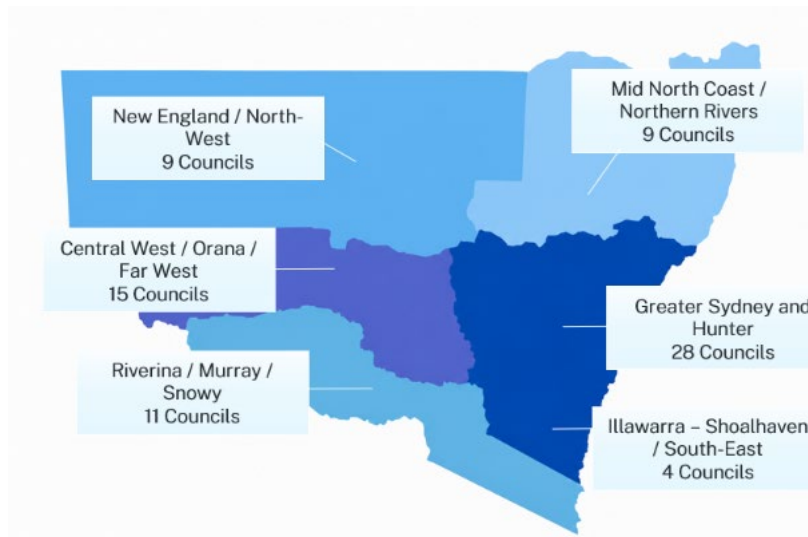


Figure 1: Council information sessions

Submissions

Over the 8-week exhibition period a total of 629 formal submissions were received from a range of stakeholders and 391 respondents engaged with a guided survey:

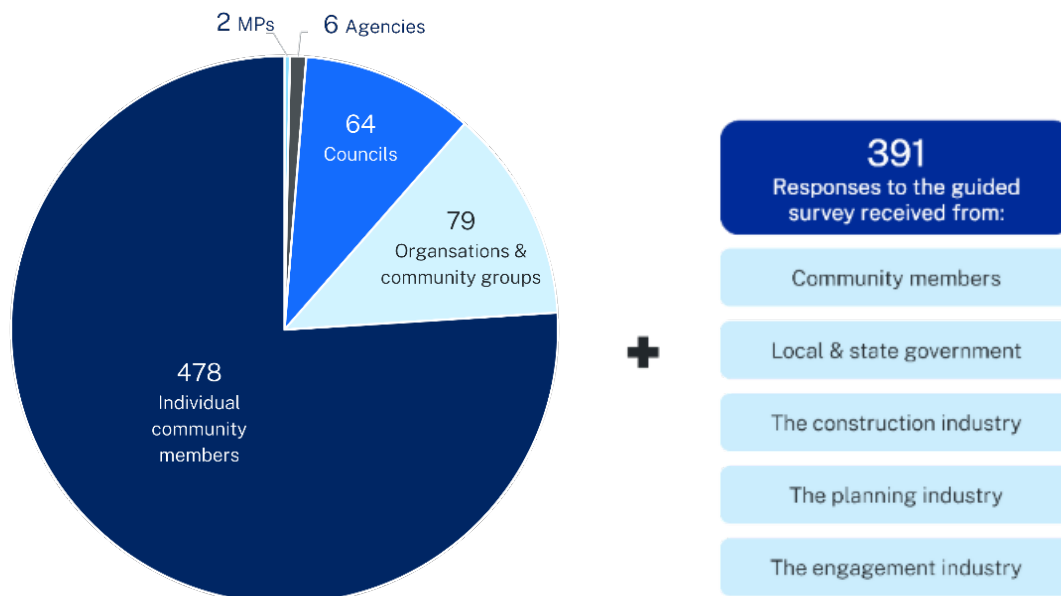


Figure 2: Public exhibition breakdown

Key themes from public exhibition

The Department sought feedback on a number of proposed changes, including, extending minimum public exhibition timeframes for regional strategic plans, notification of complying development certificates (CDC) and development exempt from public exhibition and notification.

The main themes raised by stakeholders from the formal exhibition period include:

- Feedback from councils and stakeholders opposing the removal of notification and exhibition of residential flat buildings and shop top housing
- Feedback from the councils and the community in support of extending the strategic planning exhibition timeframes
- Suggested development types by councils which could be included or removed from development exempt from notification and exhibition
- Suggestions from councils and stakeholders on pre commencement timeframes for CDCs, with some supporting 7 days and others recommending 14 days
- Support from stakeholders that councils and planning authorities should continue to use their own engagement strategies, aligned with the proposed CPP
- Suggestions from the community that state significant developments should be exhibited for longer periods, especially for concurrent rezonings
- Feedback from the community that engagement is higher at the development assessment stage when they are directly affected.

Key figures from the guided survey

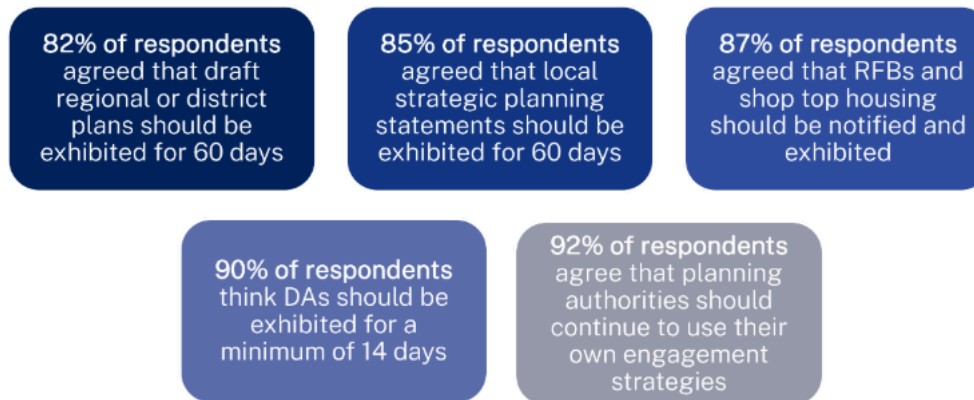


Figure 3: Guided survey responses

Next steps

On the 1 September 2026, the Community Participation Plan will become the only active community participation plan in NSW. This means that all existing council and NSW Government agency Community Participation Plans will be superseded.

To support the implementation of the plan, consent authorities including councils and agencies will receive a notice prior to the publication of the plan.

More Information

- The information that was exhibited can be viewed on the [NSW Planning Portal](#)
- Visit the [NSW Government website](#) for more information on the Planning system reforms.

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