

Australia's property industry

Creating for Generations

26 June 2019

Mr Gino Cavallaro
Executive Director ePlanning
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Cavallaro

Towards Digital Plan Making Discussion Paper

The Property Council welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the discussion paper, *Towards Digital Plan Making* released in May 2019.

The discussion paper provides a good summary of the process that the Department intends to embark upon and highlights the benefits of the changes. For the reasons set out in the paper, the Government's decision to transition from PDF maps to digital mapping as the legal map reference is supported.

Transition from PDF mapping to digital data provides many benefits to the property and development industry including time and cost savings and a reduction in errors when amendments to Environmental Planning Instruments (EPI) are made. Our members would prefer that fees paid to councils to progress planning proposals be expended on assessment of their proposals rather than manual checking of PDF maps. The economic benefit of this transition would be very significant considering there are currently more than 16,000 PDF map tiles linked to all EPIs in NSW.

The only matters that the Property Council would raise at this time would be to ensure that:

- The Department provides adequate resources to local councils to complete this project in a timely manner;
- Unless there is a good reason for a council to maintain its own cadastre we think it is important that all councils should be required to adopt the state-wide Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB).

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- There needs to be adequate safeguards in place to ensure the integrity and reliability of the State's zoning and other planning information to ensure that it meets all legal requirements under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Should you have any questions or need any further information, please contact Troy Loveday, Senior Policy Adviser on (02) 9033-1907 or tloveday@propertycouncil.com.au

Yours sincerely



Jane Fitzgerald
NSW Executive Director
Property Council of Australia