PLANNING PROPOSAL – MITIGATING THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT

FACT SHEET

THE PLANNING PROPOSAL

A Planning Proposal is a document that explains and justifies any changes being proposed to planning controls. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's process requires any planning proposal to be placed on public exhibition for community and stakeholder comment before it can be adopted.

WHAT CHANGE IS PROPOSED?

An amendment to the Penrith Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2010 is proposed to introduce a new local provision to ensure the mitigation of the urban heat island effect is a major consideration for development.

The provision proposes to apply to development on land in the following land use zones:

- All residential zones
- All business zones
- All industrial zones
- All special purpose zones
- All recreation zones
- RU5 Village zone
- C4 Environmental Living zone (previously known as E4).

The provision aims to ensure development incorporates effective planning and design measures to reduce the urban heat island effect. It also aims to ensure buildings and outdoor spaces are thermally comfortable, particularly during summer, for people living and working in our City.

WHY IS THIS CHANGE PROPOSED?

Our City is susceptible to urban heat impacts due to the region's existing climate and topography, geographic position, large and growing residential population and rapid urban development. As our City grows and becomes more urbanised, reducing and removing heat from the urban environment is critical to achieving an environment that has high amenity, provides opportunities for active, healthy and safe activities and is comfortable throughout summer.

Implementing effective planning, design and building measures can significantly help to mitigate urban heat. Some examples are using light-coloured surfaces to promote reflectivity, increasing natural ventilation, protecting and increasing vegetation for shade, using water for cooling and adopting building design principles that suit our local climate.

WHAT IS THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT?

As urban development occurs, it usually replaces natural land surfaces and vegetation with hard structures like roads, car parks and buildings. These hard surfaces absorb, store and radiate much more heat and encourage rainwater runoff, leaving little moisture in the ground and less opportunity for cooling to occur like it would in a natural landscape.

Urban development also has other sources of heat, such as waste air from air conditioners and heat from vehicle engines, which when combined with absorbed heat make urban areas significantly hotter than surrounding, less urbanised areas - urban areas become islands of heat. This is known as the urban heat island effect.

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SUPPORTING DCP CONTROLS

The new provision proposed in the Planning Proposal is part of an Urban Heat planning controls package, which also includes introducing a new Urban Heat chapter into the Penrith Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014. This chapter is being exhibited at the same time as the Planning Proposal.

HAVE YOUR SAY

We're now seeking your feedback on the Planning Proposal and the new local provision, which are on exhibition from **Monday 7 February 2022 to Monday 7 March 2022.**

The Planning Proposal and supporting documents are available to view online at **yoursaypenrith.com.au**.

If you would like to provide feedback, please do so in writing by 5pm on Monday 7 March 2022:

1. **By email** to: cityplanning@penrith.city
2. **By post** to:
   The General Manager
   (Attn. City Planning)
   Penrith City Council
   PO Box 60
   Penrith NSW 2751

Please include a subject line indicating 'Mitigating the Urban Heat Island Effect Planning Proposal'.

We will send an acknowledgment in response to all submissions. If you do not receive an acknowledgement within 10 working days, please contact us.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

All submissions will be reported to the elected Council for consideration. If you make a submission, we will notify you of the dates of relevant Council meetings and how to address Council should you wish to do so.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you have any questions regarding the Planning Proposal, please call Council's City Planning team on 4732 7777 or email cityplanning@penrith.city.

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