

Statutory Planning Newsletter

December 2021



Back to the Office

Over the past two years Council's planning and planning administration officers have largely been working from home. At the direction of the State Government all Council employees are now able to recommence working from the Madden Avenue Service Centre and will be returning to the office over the coming 4 weeks.

Meetings can now be conducted face to face as well as on Microsoft Teams. Given Social Distancing rules still apply it is important to inform Council of the number of people attending the meeting so a suitable meeting room may be booked.

Team Changes

- Joshua Larder has taken on a planning role in the Northern Territory and we are currently looking at filling this role.
- Robert Tindall, Council's Enforcement Officer, will be on long service leave for the first half of the New Year. A process has started to employ an additional Enforcement Officer who is expected to commence early in the New Year.
- Sima Vaez, Strategic Planning Officer, has resigned to move interstate.

Extensions of Time

For requests to extend planning permits, the Planning and Environment Act requires written consent from the landowner agreeing to the request before it can be considered.

Council has seen an increase in the number of extension applications made without written consent being provided. As this is a requirement of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and Council is unable to process the applications without it please ensure the consent is supplied with the request to prevent any delays in their processing.

Enforcement

Both Council and the EPA have received a large number of complaints regarding dust being generated through the development of land. Investigations into these complaints have revealed significant impacts on surrounding residents. With the temperature of the next few months being drier and hotter the corresponding issue of dust generated by construction is expected to increase.

It is the responsibility of the developer to ensure that the generation of dust is kept at a minimum. Given the number of complaints and the impact the situation is having on resident's health and property, the undue generation of dust will be a priority for Council's Enforcement Officer over the coming months. Developers are encouraged to meet with Council to discuss dust mitigation plans to minimise the impact on surrounding residents.



Mildura Rural City Council

Planning Reform

A review of both planning and building approvals has been undertaken with a final report submitted to the State Government making 27 recommendations for improvements across 5 proposed programs being:

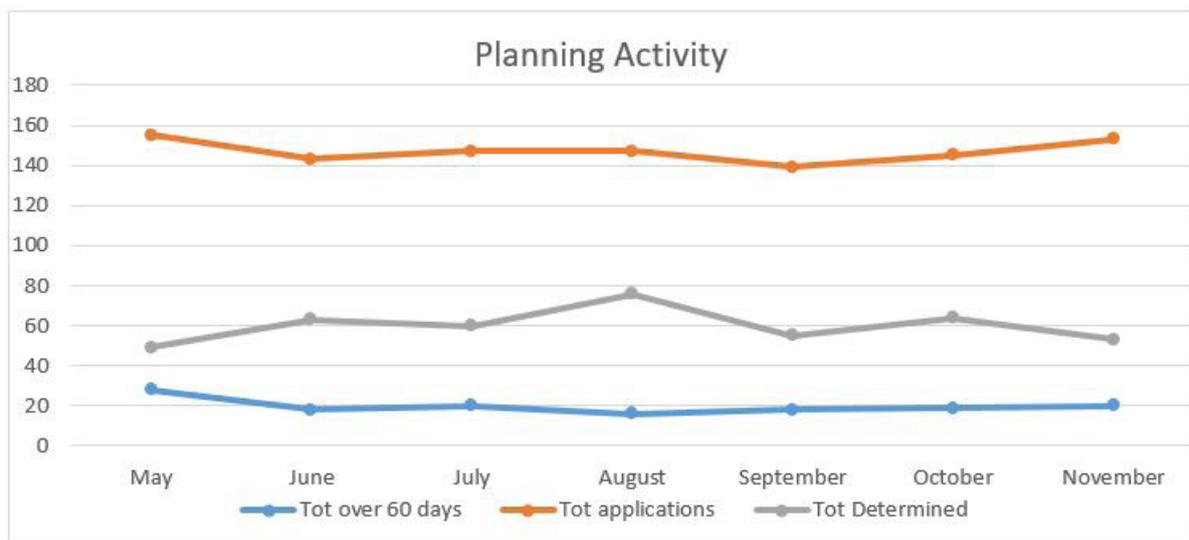
1. Better planning rules
2. Better planning processes
3. Better reporting
4. Better capabilities
5. Better building approvals

The government has considered and is acting on all 27 recommendations. A link to the report can be found below:
Turning best practice into common practice | Victorian Government (www.vic.gov.au)

Planning Permit Activity

A review of the statutory planning applications over the last seven months shows a consistent number of applications received and determined. Applications determined within 60 days has also risen and sits at 83% for the current financial year. Further permit/ development information can be found at the following link:

<https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/resource-library/planning-permit-activity-in-victoria/planning-permit-activity-monthly-report#Report-tabs2>



COVID-19

As mentioned above, Council planners are now able to undertake face to face meetings. For anyone wanting to attend a meeting at Council the following safety measures apply:

- Customers wishing to attend onsite meetings must check in via QR Code and must be able and willing to provide proof of double vaccination at the time of attending the meeting.
- If social distancing of 1.5m is unable to be maintained, it is recommended that all attendees continue to wear face masks.

Christmas Break

Council will be closed for Christmas from 3.00pm 24 December and will reopen at 8.00am on 4 January 2022.

The Statutory Planning Unit would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to working with you all in 2022.

T (03) 5018 8100

E planning.services@mildura.vic.gov.au

www.mildura.vic.gov.au