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INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING – GUIDELINES AND MANUAL

As advised in Circular to Councils 09-37, the amendments to the planning and reporting requirements for councils in the *Local Government Act 1993* have now commenced.

In accordance with section 406 of the Local Government Act, councils are advised that the *Planning and Reporting Guidelines for local government in NSW* have been released. The Division of Local Government has also prepared a supporting Manual to assist councils in their implementation of these reforms.

The Local Government (General) Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Regulation 2009 is currently being finalised. Councils will be advised when it has been approved and published on the NSW legislation website at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

These documents and other resources that will include advice on workforce planning are available on the Division of Local Government's website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au under the link to *Integrated Planning and Reporting*.

Transitional legislative provisions

It is important that councils are aware of the transitional provisions that are now included in the Local Government Act. Schedule 8, Part 31 Provisions consequent on enactment of *Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009* provides that the management planning and annual reporting requirements that were in the Local Government Act prior to the amendments, which commenced on 1 October 2009, continue to apply until a council has commenced under the new planning and reporting requirements.

For example, Group 1 councils will commence under the new provisions from 1 July 2010. This means that Group 1 councils must comply with the new planning provisions for the 2010/11 year. However, Group 1 council annual reports for the 2009/2010 year (due 30 November 2010) must comply with the previous reporting requirements.

It is important to be aware of these transitional provisions when referring to the Local Government Act on the NSW legislation website. Referring to a section of the Act in isolation may lead to the misinterpretation of a council's planning and reporting requirements.

Councils can refer to an historical version of the Local Government Act on the NSW Legislation website at:

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+30+1993+ed+2009-07-06+N/>

For further information about integrated planning and reporting, please contact the IP&R team on telephone 02 4428 4220 or via email to ipr@dlg.nsw.gov.au.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ross Woodward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Ross Woodward
Deputy Director General (Local Government)
Department of Premier and Cabinet