

VICTORIAN SCHOOL PLANNING REFORMS - KEY FINDINGS



STAGE ONE IMPLEMENTED

The first stage of the Non-Government school exemptions was announced on 3 December 2019.

A new provision has been applied (Clause 53.19) to all Victorian Planning Schemes, which exempts certain applications from notice and appeal rights and the Minister becomes the Responsible Authority (RA).

As intended, Stage One only applies to **development funded, or partly funded, by the Victorian Government's, Non-Government Schools Capital Fund** for the following new applications:

- Use or development of land for a new primary school or secondary school.
- Construction of a building on land used for a primary school or secondary school provided the combined gross floor area of all new buildings is 5,000 sqm or greater.
- Construction of additional classrooms on land used for a primary school or secondary school.
- An increase of the permitted number of students associated with additional classrooms on land used for a primary school or secondary school.
- Removal or replacement of non-conforming or non-compliant building products on land used for a primary school or secondary school.

The first round of funding was announced on 10 December 2019. A list of schools who have received funding is available here, <https://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Non-Government-Schools-Grants-Program.aspx>

View the full media release here, <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/191210-Smarter-Planning-For-School-Infrastructure-Upgrades.pdf>

The exemptions from advertising and third party rights in some areas is not a dramatic change. In growth areas, schools in Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) are already exempt from notice and appeal rights. In some middle ring areas such as Boroondara, schools in a Development Plan Overlay (DPO) do not have third party appeal rights.

STAGE TWO UNDERWAY

Urbis embraces the broader review that is currently underway to fast-track all Non-Government school approvals. Our final submission to DELWP was submitted in October 2019 following contributions from our working group and attendance at the DELWP workshop.

Our key message highlighted the need for State policy to support schools to accommodate Victoria's growing population. We would also like to see policy support for shared use of infrastructure to encourage community integration.

We expect a further update in March 2020.

To receive a copy of our March or October 2019 submissions or to join our mailing list for regular updates, please contact our cityshaper team.



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