



GSE 816

Local Government Approval Process

S2 Day 2014

Dept of Environment & Geography

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Adrienne Keane

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E7A 607

by appointment. Send me an email to arrange

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnvPlan or MEnvMgt or MEngMgt or MPP or PGDipPP or MEnv

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines the development approval process which is a major component of environmental planning in a statutory context. The examination will be undertaken from both theoretical and practical perspectives with a focus upon the foundation elements of environmental planning frameworks including stakeholders, assessment methods and professional planning ethics, while considering both administrative and jurisdictional contexts. This highly practical subject pays particular attention to methods of environmental assessment in development control and case studies are employed to relate theory to practice, generating professional planner practice skills for each participant.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Gain an appreciation of the theory and practice of the development approval process in NSW, including plan making

Develop an improved understanding of NSW local government law

Gain an appreciation of the range of methods, institutional and ethical contexts and

values of stakeholders in development approval processes and environmental assessment in development control, including understanding the role of councils and the NSW Land and Environment Court.

Gain plan reading, design and on-site planning skills.

Analyse and critically evaluate practical case studies in development approval and assessment. Recognise the strengths and limitations of the development approval process and reflect on how personal experiences influence your own professional practice.

Review and critique key ideas from international and national literature relating to development approval processes

Write cogent and clearly structure reports, addressing defined issues, demonstrating an understand of planning terms in both strategic and development planning

Gain presentation skills for briefing clients, stakeholders and councillors and managing interactions between stakeholders.

Consider the ways in which values and ethical issues affect the built environment and reflect on how personal values and assumptions influence ethical practice.

Gain an appreciation of the contemporary evolutionary nature of land use planning in NSW and in other jurisdictions. Develop an understanding that current decisions and framework affect sustainability outcomes and planning is a continuous activity.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Development proposal review</u>	10%	18 October 2014
<u>Development proposal review</u>	10%	18 October 2014
<u>Approval processes</u>	15%	19 September 2014
<u>Development assessment</u>	30%	14 November 2014
<u>Planning reform essay</u>	30%	29 August 2014
<u>Online quiz</u>	5%	various

Development proposal review

Due: **18 October 2014**

Weighting: **10%**

1. Development Proposal Review.

This assessment comprises two parts: a presentation and a one page summary.

Presentation Length: 12 P/P slides and/or 10 minutes maximum accompanied by 1 page handout (enough copies for all the class).

Date: Saturday 18 October

Select a development proposal with which you are familiar or which is currently before a local Council of your choice and prepare a verbal presentation accompanied by a power-point presentation. A topical, interesting or controversial case study example will be rewarded. The development you select must not be determined (finalized). Selection of your proposal must be made without delay to maximise the opportunity to follow the development approval process through all of its steps over the semester. That said, the development that you choose may not be determined (finalized) over this period. This is not a disadvantage to your assessment. Please choose a development within the Sydney Region (preferably within a 20km radius of CBD) to make a site visit possible. Confirm your chosen development with the course convenor as soon as possible to avoid duplication among class members. Students may not collaborate on proposals.

The Development Proposal Presentation must include a description of your chosen development and canvas the characteristics of the proposal, the legal and procedural context, and the attitudes of all the stakeholders/parties to the proposal. Consider using a SWOT analysis to examine the environmental and social outcomes for the developer, the Council, the community and the environment. Include a past and predictive time-line of events in your presentation. Please prepare a short 10 minute (12 slides max) presentation to be uploaded to iLearn no later than the date of the presentation. The presentation should be accompanied by a 1 page handout summarizing the development for each class member. Use of visual aids for the oral presentations is important – your audience needs to be able to see the site in the form of maps, photographs and/or slides. You may combine power-point, slides, overheads and a display as necessary. All students will be required to present on Day 4, Saturday 18 October 2014. The presentations will be peer and self-reviewed.

The aim of this assessment is for students to develop an awareness of development and the local government approvals process through a case study analysis and to develop writing and presentation skills.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Gain an appreciation of the theory and practice of the development approval process in NSW, including plan making
- Gain an appreciation of the range of methods, institutional and ethical contexts and values of stakeholders in development approval processes and environmental assessment in development control, including understanding the role of councils and the NSW Land and Environment Court.
- Analyse and critically evaluate practical case studies in development approval and assessment. Recognise the strengths and limitations of the development approval

process and reflect on how personal experiences influence your own professional practice.

- Gain presentation skills for briefing clients, stakeholders and councillors and managing interactions between stakeholders.
- Consider the ways in which values and ethical issues affect the built environment and reflect on how personal values and assumptions influence ethical practice.

Development proposal review

Due: **18 October 2014**

Weighting: **10%**

Part 2: All students will be involved in a peer-review of the presentations of Part A of the development proposal review. Each student will be reviewed using an assessment template. In addition, each student will self-review using the same template. The marks will be averaged and marks equivalent to 100% will be mediated against the convenor's assessment.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Analyse and critically evaluate practical case studies in development approval and assessment. Recognise the strengths and limitations of the development approval process and reflect on how personal experiences influence your own professional practice.
- Gain presentation skills for briefing clients, stakeholders and councillors and managing interactions between stakeholders.
- Consider the ways in which values and ethical issues affect the built environment and reflect on how personal values and assumptions influence ethical practice.

Approval processes

Due: **19 September 2014**

Weighting: **15%**

Attend a hearing in the Land and Environment Court and a meeting of a local council of your choice.

The Land & Environment Court hearing must be a development related matter; cases are listed in advance and information on the sitting schedule for that week can be obtained by checking the

web. Check with the convenor if you are unsure of the relevance of the chosen hearing. The first or last day of a hearing are usually the most useful.

Similarly, attend a council meeting which is discussing a development related matter. Councils usually have more than one type of meeting. You need to check the council's website to determine which type of meeting hears development related matters. They are usually property or planning meetings. Advance notice of the agenda for each council meeting is available on the council web page.

You are responsible for identifying these matters It is most likely that you will have two separate, unrelated matters.

Prepare a poster using powerpoint to report on the Land & Environment Court hearing and the local council meeting including:

- a brief summary of the case before the court and of the development related matters in a case before council;
- the range of stakeholders involved and their relative standing;
- an evaluation of the relative emphasis on procedural versus merit issues;
- the consideration of environmental, social and economic issues in the case.
- a comparative summary

Consider clear and effective methods of communicating the comparative information in poster format. The role of summary boxes, comparative tables, pictures, maps and graphics need to be carefully considered.

Upload a copy (pdf is fine) through iLearn on 19 September 2014

Bring a hardcopy A1 or A0 size to class on 18 October 2014.

The aim of this assessment is to assess student's ability to critically observe and reflect on real developments and planning practice, and to practice presentation skills.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Analyse and critically evaluate practical case studies in development approval and assessment. Recognise the strengths and limitations of the development approval process and reflect on how personal experiences influence your own professional

practice.

- Write cogent and clearly structure reports, addressing defined issues, demonstrating an understand of planning terms in both strategic and development planning
- Gain presentation skills for briefing clients, stakeholders and councillors and managing interactions between stakeholders.
- Consider the ways in which values and ethical issues affect the built environment and reflect on how personal values and assumptions influence ethical practice.

Development assessment

Due: **14 November 2014**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will be required to assess a current development application. Copies of the relevant materials and a site visit will be provided. The assessment has been designed so that a student could use the results as part of their career portfolio.

The assessment is to be no more than 10 pages in length (3000 words). Students are encouraged to view similar reports available on the websites of councils. Full details, including an assessment guide, will be provided to the students. Information regarding this assessment will be made available through the iLearn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Gain plan reading, design and on-site planning skills.
- Analyse and critically evaluate practical case studies in development approval and assessment. Recognise the strengths and limitations of the development approval process and reflect on how personal experiences influence your own professional practice.
- Write cogent and clearly structure reports, addressing defined issues, demonstrating an understand of planning terms in both strategic and development planning
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Planning reform essay

Due: **29 August 2014**

Weighting: **30%**

This essay will require the students to identify, analyse and discuss the NSW planning reforms. This essay will accord students an opportunity to illustrate their understanding of planning processes in NSW and planning approval processes in general. Further details of the requirements of this essay will be provided.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Review and critique key ideas from international and national literature relating to development approval processes
- Write cogent and clearly structure reports, addressing defined issues, demonstrating an understand of planning terms in both strategic and development planning
- Consider the ways in which values and ethical issues affect the built environment and reflect on how personal values and assumptions influence ethical practice.
- Gain an appreciation of the contemporary evolutionary nature of land use planning in NSW and in other jurisdictions. Develop an understanding that current decisions and framework affect sustainability outcomes and planning is a continuous activity.

Online quiz

Due: **various**

Weighting: **5%**

Planning practice includes the regular reading of plans and maps. GSE816 students will be required to undertake a number of tasks through iLearn. More information will be provided during class and through iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Gain an appreciation of the theory and practice of the development approval process in NSW, including plan making
- Gain plan reading, design and on-site planning skills.

Delivery and Resources

Technology

GSE816 has a website which is accessible via ilearn.mq.edu.au. Here you can get access to unit materials, copies of PowerPoint slides, notices and a bulletin board to communicate with staff and fellow students. You should check the website regularly for messages. During 2014 a new online teaching resource will be released.

Students are required to purchase a scale ruler in order to assess architectural plans - one of the skills that will be developed in the unit. Please note that field visits will be planned and it would be advantageous for students to have the ability to take photographs.

Students are expected to use computers for the preparation and submission of assessments.

Lecture and Tutorial Times

GSE 816 is presented in block mode - 8 and 9 August and 17 and 18 October. Lectures and student participation activities are integrated throughout these four days. Class times are set for 9 to 4pm. However, where field trips are arranged or a guest speaker is visiting, there may be a requirement to be reasonably flexible on start and finish times. This will be confirmed in class and through iLearn announcements. Lectures will be held in EMC G220 (Day 1) and EMC G210 for the remainder.

Learning and Teaching strategy

GSE816 is presented in block mode to maximise the opportunity for site visits to enhance planning profession skill learning and access to specialists in the planning field. The unit comprises lectures, workshops, site visits and assessments designed to meet the learning objectives.

Learning and Teaching Activities

Lectures

Lectures establishing foundation theory and application of land use planning and approval processes

Skills exercises

reading plans, using online tools, learning how to undertake a development assessment, becoming familiar with planning laws, regulations and controls.

Assessments

The assessments focus on the development assessment process including assessment and approval. There is also the opportunity to understand NSW's planning system by addressing planning reform more globally enabling students to see how planning is undertaken in other jurisdictions.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Gain an appreciation of the theory and practice of the development approval process in NSW, including plan making
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- Write cogent and clearly structure reports, addressing defined issues, demonstrating an understand of planning terms in both strategic and development planning

- Gain presentation skills for briefing clients, stakeholders and councillors and managing interactions between stakeholders.

Assessment tasks

- Development proposal review
- Development proposal review
- Development assessment
- Planning reform essay
- Online quiz

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Gain an appreciation of the theory and practice of the development approval process in NSW, including plan making
- Develop an improved understanding of NSW local government law
- Gain an appreciation of the range of methods, institutional and ethical contexts and values of stakeholders in development approval processes and environmental assessment in development control, including understanding the role of councils and the NSW Land and Environment Court.
- Gain plan reading, design and on-site planning skills.
- Analyse and critically evaluate practical case studies in development approval and assessment. Recognise the strengths and limitations of the development approval process and reflect on how personal experiences influence your own professional practice.
- Gain an appreciation of the contemporary evolutionary nature of land use planning in NSW and in other jurisdictions. Develop an understanding that current decisions and framework affect sustainability outcomes and planning is a continuous activity.

Assessment task

- Approval processes

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Gain an appreciation of the range of methods, institutional and ethical contexts and values of stakeholders in development approval processes and environmental assessment in development control, including understanding the role of councils and the NSW Land and Environment Court.
- Gain plan reading, design and on-site planning skills.
- Analyse and critically evaluate practical case studies in development approval and assessment. Recognise the strengths and limitations of the development approval process and reflect on how personal experiences influence your own professional practice.
- Review and critique key ideas from international and national literature relating to development approval processes
- Write cogent and clearly structure reports, addressing defined issues, demonstrating an understand of planning terms in both strategic and development planning
- Gain an appreciation of the contemporary evolutionary nature of land use planning in NSW and in other jurisdictions. Develop an understanding that current decisions and framework affect sustainability outcomes and planning is a continuous activity.

Assessment tasks

- Approval processes
- Planning reform essay

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Gain an appreciation of the range of methods, institutional and ethical contexts and

values of stakeholders in development approval processes and environmental assessment in development control, including understanding the role of councils and the NSW Land and Environment Court.

- Write cogent and clearly structure reports, addressing defined issues, demonstrating an understand of planning terms in both strategic and development planning
- Gain presentation skills for briefing clients, stakeholders and councillors and managing interactions between stakeholders.

Assessment tasks

- Development proposal review
- Development proposal review
- Approval processes
- Development assessment
- Planning reform essay

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop an improved understanding of NSW local government law
- Gain an appreciation of the range of methods, institutional and ethical contexts and values of stakeholders in development approval processes and environmental assessment in development control, including understanding the role of councils and the NSW Land and Environment Court.
- Consider the ways in which values and ethical issues affect the built environment and reflect on how personal values and assumptions influence ethical practice.
- Gain an appreciation of the contemporary evolutionary nature of land use planning in NSW and in other jurisdictions. Develop an understanding that current decisions and framework affect sustainability outcomes and planning is a continuous activity.

Assessment task

- Development assessment

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and

Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Gain an appreciation of the range of methods, institutional and ethical contexts and values of stakeholders in development approval processes and environmental assessment in development control, including understanding the role of councils and the NSW Land and Environment Court.
- Consider the ways in which values and ethical issues affect the built environment and reflect on how personal values and assumptions influence ethical practice.

Assessment task

- Development assessment

Changes from Previous Offering

Changes since the last offering It is an exciting time to be considering land use planning as NSW is on the brink of forecasted change to the framework. Students will have the opportunity to discuss these issues and the offering has been adjusted accordingly to maximise the opportunity. In addition, online skills learning exercises will be trialled through GSE816.