



GSE 816

Local Government Approval Process

S2 Day 2015

Department of Geography and Planning

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnvPlan or MEnvMgt or MEngMgt or MPP or PGDipPP or MEnv or GradDipEnv or GradCertSusDev or GradDipSusDev or GradCertEnvPlan or GradCertSIA or GradDipSIA

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.

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>In class Quiz 07/08/2015</u>	10%	7/08/2015
<u>In class prep. SEE 08/08/2015</u>	20%	19/09/2015
<u>Attend L&E Court 18/09/2015</u>	20%	19/09/2015
<u>Written SEE Report</u>	50%	16/10/2015

In class Quiz 07/08/2015

Due: **7/08/2015**

Weighting: **10%**

In Class Quiz

Day 1 of the course will provide content on the question , why Plan? a brief introduction to planning in New South Wales and the institutions that govern planning, for example the Strategic Objectives of the Department of Planning and Environment, the preparation of a Metropolitan Plan for Sydney.

Towards the end of the Day, there will be an in class quiz , 20 questions to test that the students

have understood the content and understand the context in which local government approvals take place. The tests will be marked by their peers and will contribute 10% of the total course mark.

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.

In class prep. SEE 08/08/2015

Due: **19/09/2015**

Weighting: **20%**

Preparation of a Statement of Environmental Effectss (SEE)

The second half of the 8th August 2015 will be run as a workshop session where students will be introduced to Development Control. The latter half of the day students will be assisted to choose sites and projects, and will be guided through the methodology which will form the basis of their SEE's. The draft SEE's will be presented to the class on the 19th September 2015.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

Attend L&E Court 18/09/2015

Due: **19/09/2015**

Weighting: **20%**

Review of a Land Environment Court Case

We will all attend a hearing in the Land and Environment Court on the morning of the 18th September 2015. There will be a number of items of the Agenda and we will jointly decide which ones to attend. On completion of the visit you are required, in the afternoon, to prepare a brief review of the case and submit to the convener of the course on the 19th of September 2015.

Your review should address the following issues:

- a brief summary of the case before the court ;
- 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.

The aim of this assessment is to assess student's ability to critically observe and reflect on real developments and planning practice, and to prepare a succinct summary of the key issues.

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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 understanding 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.

Written SEE Report

Due: **16/10/2015**

Weighting: **50%**

Written Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE)

The SEE must include the following information:

- A legal description of your site;
- The site context and location;
- Characteristics of the site, topography etc.;
- Your proposed development;
- The statutory context (SEPPs, LEPs DCPs);
- A reference to other specialists that may be required, for example, Architects, geologists, Landscape Architects, Arborists etc.
- An assessment of your proposed development in terms of impact, for example solar access and overshadowing, privacy,
- A comment on the merits of your proposal and how it benefits the local community.

The aim of this assessment is for students to develop practical skills in the interpretation of the regulatory environment into a real project. It will require an understanding of the legislative context, the range of impacts, and the stakeholders involved. Students will be given the opportunity to test their concepts against the current planning regime and make an assessment on likelihood of an approval.

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
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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.

Students are required to purchase a scale ruler in order to assess architectural plans - one of the skills that will be development 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 18 and 19 September. 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.

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/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

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 - 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

- In class prep. SEE 08/08/2015

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
- Develop an improved understanding of NSW local government law
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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

- In class Quiz 07/08/2015
- In class prep. SEE 08/08/2015
- Written SEE Report

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

- Attend L&E Court 18/09/2015

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.
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Assessment task

- Attend L&E Court 18/09/2015

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

- In class Quiz 07/08/2015
- Attend L&E Court 18/09/2015
- Written SEE Report

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.

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.