

## Coversheet for a submission on the Planning and Environment Act Review

Name: .....

Organisation (if applicable): Strathbogie Shire Council

Position title (if applicable): Manager Statutory Planning

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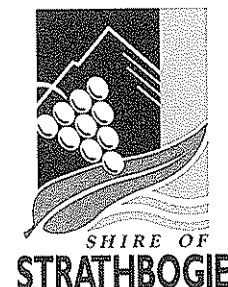
Which of the following best describes you? (please tick)

- General public
- Community-based organisation
- Local government
- Planning or development industry organisation
- Individual or company involved in the development industry
- Planning or development consultant
- Other, (please specify) .....

*Please note the section on "Publication of submissions" on page 2.*

## Planning and Environment Act 1987 review

### Strathbogie Shire Council Submission



Strathbogie Shire Council, in a meeting of the Planning Committee on 28 April 2009, recommended that the Manager of Statutory Planning or delegate prepare and submit a submission on behalf of Council as outlined below.

Council's Statutory Planning Department submits the following issues as recommended by and on behalf of the Strathbogie Shire Council. They relate to the general clarity of definitions and greater procedural certainty for planners.

1. Defining the term 'Waterway' to clarify general terms such as natural water features, named waterways or mapped floodplains etc, i.e concise definitions of waterways as a planning trigger for permits.
2. Section 52 Notice exemptions. To formally recognise that planners have a right and a process for seeking informal comments from other Authorities and agencies.
3. 60 days Statutory timeline for application processing. The need to provide clear definition, i.e. calendar days or working days etc, when the clock stops and starts.
4. Application referrals. The need to provide clear and prescriptive timelines for referring applications, similar to the *Subdivision Act* which clearly sets out when referrals must be sent.
5. Objections. The requirement to develop a process, similar to requests for further information, in taking objection mediation outside the 60 day statutory timeline.
6. As a recommendation, the development of a Practise Note (formal guidelines for applying the Act) setting out the relevant timelines for the application process.

### CONCLUSION:

Council appreciates the opportunity to provide comment, and in making a submission wishes to provide a contribution to further ensure that proper clarification and procedural correctness is clearly defined and understood by Planning Officers working under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.