Healthy Urban Development Checklist

**Summary** The purpose of this Guideline is to help build the capacity of NSW Health to provide valuable feedback to local councils, and other relevant organisations, on health issues in relation to urban development plans and proposals. The Guideline is a tool which has been designed to meet the needs of first time and experienced staff commenting on development plans and proposals.

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**Applies to** Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Public Health Units

**Distributed to** Public Health System, Ministry of Health

**Audience** Population Health & Health Promotion Units in the DoH and AHSs
HEALTHY URBAN DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

PURPOSE
The purpose of this Guideline is to help build the capacity of NSW Health to provide valuable feedback to local councils, and other relevant organisations, on health issues in relation to urban development plans and proposals. It is intended that the use of the Guideline will facilitate strengthened partnerships and collaboration between NSW Health and urban planners and developers as part of NSW Health’s initiatives to promote healthy communities in NSW.

KEY PRINCIPLES
The Guideline provides a tool which has been designed to meet the needs of first time and experienced users. It provides context on the relationship between health and the urban environment and gives an overview of the current NSW planning system including when and how NSW Health can contribute. The Guideline also sets out some of the evidence in relation to health and the urban environment and provides a checklist on ten health related issues which should be considered when commenting on development plans and proposals.

The Guideline is intended to help NSW Health ensure that the health of current and future communities is considered and that health inequalities are not created, or worsened, by new development. The Guideline includes four guiding principles which underpin the use of the Checklist:

- Equity – impact on those facing health inequalities;
- Early Engagement – consideration of health issues from the outset;
- Interdependence – links between the social determinants of health; and
- Building Partnerships – influence of those outside the health system

USE OF THE GUIDELINE
The Guideline has been produced to support NSW Health - and particularly Area Health Services - in providing comments on development plans and proposals, and on building relationships with organisations involved in the planning process, in order to help take forward the State Health Plan commitment (P3.2) to ‘Create environments that promote health and wellbeing’.

The Guideline was developed with significant input from Area Health Services and it is intended that it will compliment and add to existing tools and practice in this area. The Guideline is primarily aimed at Population Health units, particularly in Area Health Services who are frequently invited to comment on development plans and proposals by local councils.
REVISION HISTORY

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<th>Version</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
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<td>February 2010</td>
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