

Quick stats and facts on the planning system

- There are 120,000 houses, townhouses, and apartments in Victoria that have been given planning approval but haven't commenced construction – that's the size of Greater Geelong.
- Previous streamlining efforts have taken applications out of the planning system, and the construction industry is facing significant challenges. It makes no sense to criticise councils for low numbers of approvals when fewer applications are being lodged and only 3% of those that are lodged get refused.
- More than 80% of permit applications for multiple dwellings required councils to ask the applicant for more information that wasn't initially provided. Incomplete applications add an average of three months to assessment timeframes.
- On average it takes over 500 days from a council seeking Ministerial approval to progress a change to their planning scheme, to the Minister approving and enacting the changes in the planning scheme. Two thirds of councils surveyed said they had at least one amendment sit with the Minister for over 12 months.
- Over 98% of residential planning permits are decided under delegation by planning officers. When a matter is considered by councillors the officer's report and the council meeting itself are public, ensuring a high level of transparency for all parties.
- Despite the Big Housing Build, Victoria lags behind the rest of Australia in providing social housing for those in need. From 2013 to 2023 Victoria grew by half a million households, yet the number of households we were able to support with social housing shrunk by a thousand.