

Who decides where things such as houses, schools, shopping centres and parks are located in a new development?

Local councils zone land for different uses, taking into account such things as state government policy, the needs of different government agencies, the attributes of the land, available infrastructure and so on. The local community and other stakeholders are consulted.

Are there rules for the types of houses you can build?

Yes. Development control plans prepared by local councils set controls and guidelines for development in different zones.

Are there rules about the types of building materials you can use?

Sometimes local councils may have a policy on this, particularly in areas where the predominant existing building materials create a special character that should be preserved, such as in a heritage area.

Can high-rise buildings be built anywhere?

No. Usually the development control plans prepared by local councils include building height limits.

What is a development?

Building infrastructure (such as roads and water supply) and buildings on vacant land, or reworking old structures for new uses (such as converting warehouses to apartments or offices).

What is sustainable development?

Development that does not deplete environmental resources, and where communities and economies function well in the short and long term.

What is a master plan?

A vision of how a place should evolve over time. It could cover a place as small as a village centre or as large as a group of new towns.

Who decides where a new development will happen?

Broad land use strategies are set by the state government and local councils prepare plans to deliver those strategies.

When does urban design take place?

At the broad level, in planning the structure of new places (structure planning and master planning); at the detailed level, in the design of new streets and buildings.

**What subjects do urban designers study?**

At high school the most relevant subjects are geography, art, technical drawing, economics and urban history. Much more specific subjects about history and design techniques are studied at university.

What skills do urban designers use in their work?

Knowledge of different urban environments, drawing, writing, computer graphics and communicating with people.

Who do urban designers work for?

Councils, state governments, developers and private landowners.