

October 2021

Conservation Zones Fact Sheet

The name of environment zones is changing to conservation zones

The environment zones are being renamed by the NSW Government to conservation zones in the local environmental plan applying to your land. This change is occurring across all standardised local environmental plans that are in place across New South Wales.

The change relates to the four environment zones that currently exist under standard instrument local environmental plans.

Current name	New name
Zone E1 – National Parks and Nature Reserves	Zone C1 – National Parks and Nature Reserves
Zone E2 – Environmental Conservation	Zone C2 – Environmental Conservation
Zone E3 – Environmental Management	Zone C3 – Environmental Management
Zone E4 – Environmental Living	Zone C4 – Environmental Living

Note: not all local plans include each of the Environmental zones

The change rectifies concerns that the name ‘environment zone’ is too broad with an unclear intent and purpose of the zone.

After 1 December 2021, all references to the environment protection zones or environment zones is taken to be a reference to the equivalent conservation zone in documents which refers to the land use zones under the Standard Instrument (Local Environmental Plans) Plan 2006.

How does this affect me?

If you own land that is currently zoned one of the Environment Protection Zones, you may have copies of planning documents relating to your land that refer to an environment zone.

Additionally, councils over the next few months will be updating their plans, forms, and documents to reflect the changed zone name. Where you read of requirements applying to one of the ‘Environment Zones’ these should be read as applying to a ‘Conservation Zone’.

The new zone name does not change what can be carried out on the land

The change of name is an administrative amendment limited to the name of the zone and does not affect landowner’s development rights, permissible land use activities or existing development consents.

If your property is already listed within a heritage conservation area, this change in name does not alter that listing. Conversely, if your property is not listed, it remains unlisted.

For further information

If you have any more questions, more information is provided here (website link) or please contact conservation.zones@planning.nsw.gov.au. Your Council can also help you with understanding these changes at the local level.

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