

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW JOURNAL

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## ARTICLES

### **Building and development committees under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Qld) – everything you need to know but were afraid to ask – *Michael Walton***

The Building and Development Tribunal was created under the repealed Integrated Planning Act 1997 (Qld) to provide a low-cost way of resolving technical disputes (initially dealing with building-related matters only). The commencement of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 (Qld) heralded some important changes for the tribunal. First, its name was changed to the Building and Development Committees. Secondly – and more importantly – its jurisdiction has been expanded. For example, the jurisdiction has been expanded to hear and decide proceedings for certain declarations and to decide appeals against conditions of approval imposed by assessment managers on material change of use development approvals for certain multiple dwellings. The purpose of this article is to highlight the expanded jurisdiction of the committees. .... 22

### **Options for funding: Environmental compliance programs in New South Wales – *Gerry Bates and Kate Meares***

Councils have legal responsibilities for carrying out a wide range of environmental functions. Their capacity to effectively deliver on their environmental responsibilities depends heavily on their capacity to fund and resource appropriate personnel. The powers of authorised council officers to make, monitor and enforce decisions in relation to their roles as environmental managers depends upon the conferment of appropriate legislative powers. This article reviews the legal powers available to councils in New South Wales to fund their environmental management and compliance programs; and the practice of councils in the Hunter Region that strive to integrate the delivery of desired local services with recognised and accepted obligations for environmental management. Although most of the material for this article is drawn inevitably from New South Wales, the options available to, and practice of, Hunter councils should be relevant to councils in other jurisdictions. .... 32

