

An assessment of a rational approach to drawing up local government zoning schemes.

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### An assessment of a rational approach to drawing up local government zoning schemes

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#### Abstract

A rational planning method, SIRO-PLAN, and an associated computer program, LUPLAN, developed by the CSIRO Division of Water and Land Resources, Australia, have been used by CSIRO personnel for planning exercises ranging from teaching examples to practical resource agency and local government plans. This paper presents an assessment of SIRO-PLAN and LUPLAN for producing local government zoning schemes, based upon an application in a New South Wales local government area. The application demonstrated some of the practical limitations of rational approaches to planning. The goal-driven nature of the SIRO-PLAN method focussed discussion on the meaning of (and conflicts between) the policies advanced by various interest groups and expedited data collection. However SIRO-PLAN and LUPLAN were less successful in assisting planners, politicians and government officials to use these guidelines and data

to produce an acceptable zoning scheme. Some difficulties, such as a reliance on numerical manipulation, are fundamental to extant rational approaches to planning; others, such as a lack of justification for the plan, resulted from the inappropriate design of the LUPLAN program for this purpose. It is suggested that computerized techniques, based upon artificial intelligence research, may be better suited to assisting planners draw up zoning schemes.



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