Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

User guide: Local Environmental Plan Assessment Tool

The Local Environmental Plan (LEP) Assessment Tool for water-related clauses allows several possible uses.

At its core, the assessment tool enables you to assess whether water-related clauses in your LEP are consistent in their content and intent, and the extent to which those clauses provide protections and procedures consistent with identified community environmental values and uses (see NSW Water Quality Objectives).

There are two main approaches for navigating the LEP Assessment Tool:

- Using the simple filter
- Using the complex filter

Find out how to choose the approach best suited to your needs and to put it into operation.

Simple filter

The simple filter function of the LEP Assessment Tool allows you to navigate the categories of 'Council Name', 'Clause Number', 'Clause Type', 'Prohibitions', and 'Procedural Steps'.

As suggested by the name, you might choose to use this approach if you're looking to perform simpler functions such as:

- identifying all water-related clauses for a specific council
- comparing 'Clause Types' across a number of councils
- searching for specific examples where councils have established 'Procedural Steps' for developments or other commercial activities such as 'Assessment – Authority' or 'Requirement – Consent'.

How to use the simple filter

1. Open the filter menu by clicking the 'down arrow' button that corresponds to the category relevant for your purposes.
2. A drop-down menu will appear with all the recorded values for that category. In this menu, first deselect the 'Select All' option to clear all selected values.
3. Once you can see no values are selected, navigate to the value(s) you want to include, either manually, via the alphabetically ordered drop-down menu, or using the search function.
4. Once you've selected all your desired values, click the 'OK' button to apply the filter. This ensures only entries with the specified value for the chosen category will be selected.

Example: using the simple filter

You want to find all water-related clauses for Ballina Council. Click the down arrow that corresponds to the 'Council' category (**Step 1**). Deselect the 'Select All' option to clear selected values (**Step 2**), then manually select the value 'Ballina' (**Step 3**). Clicking the 'OK' button (**Step 4**) displays the 'Clause Content' and other categories for all water-related clauses in the Ballina Local Environmental Plan.

Complex filter

The complex filter function allows you to systematically search categories that contain a wider range of values, or more extensive content. Examples of these categories include 'Objective Statement', 'Value Statement', and 'Clause Content'.

You might choose to use the complex filter approach if you are looking to perform more detailed functions such as:

- searching for all clauses with a specific objective (e.g., 'Enhance')
- identifying clauses with a specific objective while excluding others (e.g., 'enhance' without 'provide opportunities')
- filtering for multiple options occurring concurrently (e.g., maintain & provide opportunities)
- identifying all clauses that include a specific term (e.g., ''riparian' or 'stormwater').

How to use the complex filter

1. Open the filter menu by clicking the 'down arrow' button that corresponds to the category relevant for your purposes/
2. A drop-down menu will appear with all the recorded values for that category. In this menu, first deselect the 'Select All' option to clear all selected values, then manually select the values you want to include and click 'OK'.
3. Once this is done, click on the 'Text filters' button and choose 'Contains'. This will open a dialogue box.
4. In the dialogue box, enter the term you want to filter for.
5. If necessary, you can use the dialogue box to add to the query and filter for multiple options occurring concurrently, or to exclude certain results.

Example: using the complex filter

Ku-ring-gai Council wants to ensure that their water-related clauses contain 'Prohibitions' and/or 'Procedural Steps' that are consistent with the goals established and identify where any clauses diverge from Council goals and/or community values and expectations.

Ku-ring-gai Council decides to use the complex filter function of the LEP Assessment Tool to identify all clauses that mention the 'Objective' values of 'Protect' and 'Enhance'.

First, the user clicks the down arrow that corresponds to the 'Council' category (**Step 1**). Then, they deselect the 'Select All' option to clear selected values, followed by manually selecting 'Ku-ring-gai Council' and then clicking 'OK' to display information in categories related only to Ku-ring-gai Council (**Step 2**).

Once this is done, the user would then navigate to the 'Clause Content' category, click the down arrow and then the 'Text filters' button and choose 'Contains' (**Step 3**). With the dialogue box now open, the user would enter their chosen terms ('Protect' and 'Enhance') (**Step 4**) as shown in Figure 1.
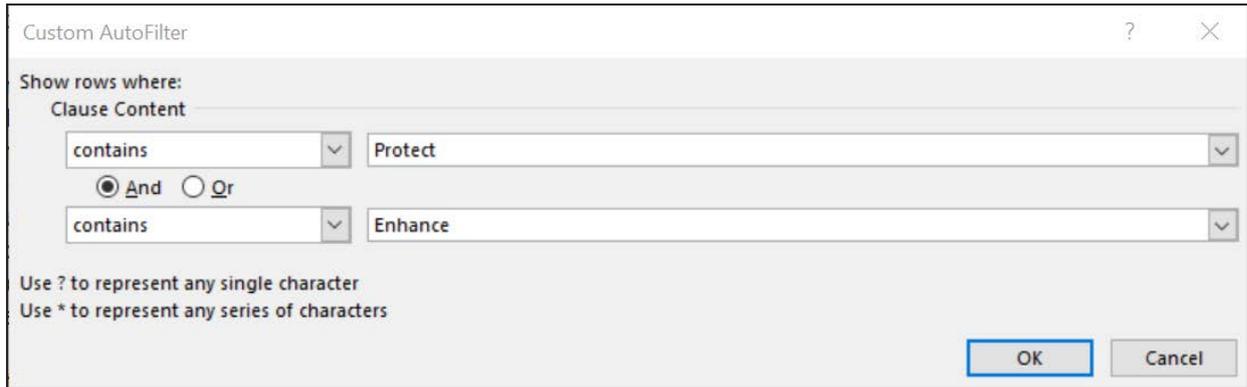
Figure 1   Using the 'Clause Content' category with the LEP Assessment Tool complex filter

With only clauses related to 'Protect' and 'Enhance' now displaying, the user can identify whether those clauses contain 'Prohibitions' and/or 'Procedural Steps' consistent with the objectives of 'Protect' and 'Enhance'. If the clauses establish a consent requirement, and clear guidelines along which the consent authority must assess a development prior to granting consent, they are good examples of clauses with consistency between content and intent.

If the Council identified divergence in one or more of their clauses, they could repeat this process to identify instances where other councils have established 'Prohibitions' and 'Procedural Steps' consistent in how the objectives, values and procedural requirements complement the language of the clause to support the outcomes identified in the Aims of the LEP.