

Meeting Communiqué – 12 November 2010 – Brisbane

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) met in Brisbane on 12 November, 2010.

Members received presentations:

- from the COAG Reform Council Secretariat about the **Review of Capital City Strategic Planning Systems** and the development assessment reform work under COAG's *Seamless National Economy* initiative; and
- about recent reforms to the **Victorian State Planning Policy Framework**.

Current Work Program

The meeting received updates on the projects forming the 2010-11 work program:

- a report outlining standard definitions for, and a guide to streamlining and implementing, **track-based assessment**;
- a report of leading practice case studies and guidelines to identify the appropriate **role for the private sector** in development assessment and planning;
- a guide to the principles and leading practice approaches to **development application referrals**;
- a review of the problems associated with **development applications** and recommendations for improvements;
- the DAF **Education Strategy**; and
- the DAF **Communications Strategy**, including progress with the website.

eDA

Members reviewed progress on **electronic development assessment (eDA)** and the national **electronic development assessment interoperability standard (eDAIS)**, which is administered by the National Coordination Office (NCO).

DAF noted reports from the NCO on the uptake of eDAIS nationally and on work to develop a model for the long term management and governance of eDAIS and eDA.

Members also noted that the Chairman will participate in a workshop in December on the future of eDAIS, eDA, and ePlanning more generally.

New Projects

Members approved a new project to develop a leading practice model for **planning systems reform**. This model will complement the *Leading Practice Model for Development Assessment*.

Members also agreed to develop a brief for a project examining leading practice approaches to the composition and operation of **development assessment panels**, which will be presented for consideration at the next meeting.

Administration

Members agreed to invite a leading organisation representing planning academics and educators to apply for membership of the DAF.

The meeting noted changes to Federal Government agencies following the recent Federal election, which have placed the DAF within the portfolio responsibilities of the Hon Simon Crean MP, Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

The next meeting of the DAF will be held in February, 2011.

Background

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) was formed in 1998 to recommend ways to streamline development assessment and cut red tape - without sacrificing the quality of the decision making.

An independent think tank, it provides advice to government (through Ministers and officials) and the development sector.

Its membership is drawn from the three spheres of government; the development industry; and related professional associations.

DAF meets three times a year, and is supported by a Working Group of members which meets more regularly to progress projects between the plenary meetings.

DAF is currently chaired by Mr Paul Waterhouse, Executive Director National Policy, Property Council Australia. The role of DAF Chair rotates biannually amongst its membership sectors.

For information on any of the projects described above, please contact the following:

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