

8 November 2012

## OUTCOMES OF NATIONAL FORUM ON DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) met in Adelaide on 8 November 2012.

The Forum is an independent think tank of planning and policy experts from Federal, State and Local Government, the development and professional built environment industry sectors. Formed in 1998, it provides a unique opportunity for all levels of government to come together in conjunction with the peak private and professional building industry sectors, to consider ways to improve the operation of the development assessment and planning system.

Elections for the positions of Chair, Deputy Chair and the Executive Working Group were held. The Forum unanimously supported the following nominations for the next two year period:

Chair	Kristin Brookfield (HIA)
Deputy Chair	Dyan Currie (PIA)
Executive Group	Rolf Fenner (ALGA)
	Peter Allen (Vic DPCD)
	Lisa Teburea (LGASA)
	Richard Barton (RAIA)
	Caryn Kakas (PCA)

Members undertook a review of the DAF Charter and reconfirmed that the primary role of the Forum is to promote leading practice in planning systems and development assessment in Australia through:

- the national harmonisation of similar systems and requirements between jurisdictions;
- the adoption of processes that are efficient and cost effective for proponents, governments, industry and the community;
- improved access for stakeholders to information on leading practice methodologies and outcomes; and
- the adoption and implementation of e-planning systems.

The Forum considered the ongoing role of the Federal government in planning and development assessment, with members agreeing that there is a critical role that the Federal government can play in guiding planning reform to achieve improvements in the development assessment process.

The DAF Work Program was reviewed and two new matters were put forward to be the subject of further work:

- The development of a land zoning leading practice model, and
- Investigation of ways to facilitate code track assessment options

The current work project in relation to private sector involvement in planning was reviewed. It was agreed that the activity by several states at the present time to introduce or expand certification in their planning systems, mostly in respect to code assessable development types, has rendered some of the responses from state and territory administrations out dated. On this basis, it was agreed that the project should be re-scoped and refreshed to take account of this activity.

The Forum invited the Council of Mayors South East Queensland to become an observer member in recognition of their ongoing work to improve development assessment, deliver e-planning reforms and promote the need for reform in their region.

The Forum received a comprehensive presentation about the work of the *National Enhancing Disaster Resilience in the Built Environment* project.

*DAF next's meeting will be in July 2013. Kristin Brookfield is the current Chair of the Development Assessment Forum. For further comment Kristin can be contacted on (02) 6245 1314 or 0409 853 053.*