

Meeting Communiqué – 24 February 2011 – Sydney

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) met in Sydney on 24 February, 2011. At the meeting, Ms Kristin Brookfield, Senior Executive Director, Building Development and the Environment, Housing Industry Association was appointed the new DAF Chair. Ms Brookfield fills the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr Paul Waterhouse in January 2011.

Ms Allison Hailes, Executive Manager, Planning and Community Development Western Australian Local Government Association, will continue as Deputy Chair.

Ms Brookfield and the members paid tribute to Mr Waterhouse's leadership during his 12 months as the Chair and for his strong personal commitment to the renewed work program.

Members received a presentation from Ms Sara Stace, from the Commonwealth's Major Cities Unit on its discussion paper *Our Cities-Building a productive, sustainable and liveable future* which will support the development of a national urban policy.

Mr John Hudson, Deputy Chair, National eDA Steering Committee (representing NSW) also reported on recent activity to implement national electronic planning and development assessment. He advised that the Committee was successful in gaining funding from the Housing Affordability Fund (HAF) to develop a national ePlanning roadmap. The roadmap will enable stakeholders to make informed decisions on the priorities for advancing ePlanning nationally. This work will support HAF projects currently underway in the jurisdictions to implement electronic DA systems.

Current Work Program

The meeting received updates on the 2010-11 work program. The DAF agreed to further progress or finalise a number of these projects for endorsement at the next meeting in mid-2011, including:

- a report outlining standard definitions for, and a guide to streamlining and implementing, **track-based assessment** as defined in the Leading Practice Model for development assessment processes;
- a report of leading practice case studies and guidelines to identify the opportunities for **private sector involvement** in development assessment and planning; and
- a guide to the principles and leading practice approaches to **development application referrals**;

The DAF will endorse a new work program for 2011–2012 at the next meeting and include a strong focus on communicating the Forum's work. Another priority will be to update the DAF *Benchmarking Report* to show how recent reforms to development assessment systems are now operating across Australia.

Due to current capacity constraints, it was agreed to defer work on developing a leading practice model for **planning systems reform** and the **development assessment panels** project.

Administration

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