

Meeting Communiqué – 1 June 2011 – MELBOURNE

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) met in Melbourne on 1 June, 2011.

Members received a presentation from representatives of the Productivity Commission, Mr Paul Coghlan and Ms Ros Bell, on the *Performance Benchmarking of Australian Business Regulation: Planning, Zoning and Development Assessment* report. The study, which can be viewed at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/study/regulationbenchmarking/planning> offers a comprehensive overview of planning and zoning systems and land development assessment processes.

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**. Final details are being reviewed.
- A report of leading practice case studies and guidelines to identify the appropriate **role for the private sector** in development assessment and planning. National examples are currently being collated.
- A guide to the principles and leading practice approaches to **development application referrals**. Case studies highlighting the referrals process in each jurisdiction are being reviewed.

2011-2012 Work Program

Members approved two new projects for the 2011-2012 work program and Project Briefs for both are currently being finalised.

- **Improving Development Applications/Business Practices Project:** aiming to improve the quality of development applications prior to their lodgment with consent authorities.
- **Development Assessment Panels:** aiming to review the operation of the various models used in Australia.

Administration

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