



## **August 2007 Meeting summary**

At the Development Assessment Forum (DAF) meeting held on 24 August 2007, DAF members unanimously confirmed Mr Peter Allen from the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development as the new DAF Chair.

During his two year term as Chair, Mr Allen will lead the forum in the review and implementation of its work programme. A continuing priority will be development assessment reform through the DAF Leading Practice Model for development assessment and the national implementation of electronic development assessment (eDA).

The development of the eDA Project initiated and supported by DAF, is being furthered by a \$7 million grant from the Australian Government under the Regulation Reduction Incentive Fund. This funding, announced by the Minister for Small Business and Tourism, Fran Bailey, on 31 July 2007, will enable development applications to be lodged online directly with a council and provide the ability to track or monitor their progress.

Workshops have been held in all states to identify jurisdictional requirements, with jurisdictions expected to endorse this work in October 2007 to be included in the National Standards Governance Framework. The Australian, state, territory and local governments acknowledge the implementation of eDA as an essential component for development assessment reform in Australia. The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) has tasked jurisdictions with a 2009 deadline to maximise the uptake of eDA processing.

DAF has been asked to provide advice on the development of best practice guidelines for the regulation of home-based businesses (HBBs). DAF, with experience in developing best practice guidelines and reducing red tape, is pleased to be involved with the guidelines and provide advice, for future consideration by the Small Business Ministerial Council.

The forum will also examine the benefit of a new project to develop an Australian Best Practice Guideline for Industrial Development. The guideline for Industrial Development will build on DAF's understanding and research on development assessment tracks in Australia.

For more information, please visit [www.daf.gov.au](http://www.daf.gov.au)