

Aim and Structure

Harmonising and improving Australia's development assessment system is a long term focus for both the development industry and government. Reduced compliance burdens and more flexible regulatory systems will improve business efficiency, stimulate growth and help business generate employment.

Following a 1998 meeting of key stakeholders the Development Assessment Forum (DAF) was formed to bring together the relevant parties to reach agreement on ways to streamline the processes used for development approval and cut red tape - without sacrificing the quality of the decision making. The Forum's membership includes the three spheres of government - the Commonwealth, State/Territory and Local Government; the development industry; and related professional associations (see separate Fact Sheet for the latest Membership details).

On 10 February 2006 the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) recognised the work undertaken by the DAF and requested that the Local Government and Planning Ministers Council encourage the implementation of key elements of its development assessment reform proposals.

The Forum is chaired by Sue Holliday, Director of City Strategy with DEGW People and 2006 President of the Planning Institute of Australia. Through its linkages with the Planning Officials Group the DAF provides advice and recommendations to Local Government and Planning Ministers.

Secretariat support and some project funding for the work programme is provided by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services.

The Forum's work programme is developed annually with projects undertaken directly by members or where appropriate consultants. Project findings, technical papers, reports and general information may be accessed via the DAF website (www.daf.gov.au) or from the Secretariat.

Some of the DAF's current projects include:

- promotion of the DAF leading practice model for development assessment (DA);
- The development of guidelines for effective policy development;
- The development and implementation of a national electronic data exchange standard for DA; and
- Developing performance standards and benchmarking for planning and development systems.

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