

Improved Electronic Data Exchange

The electronic Development Assessment Project (eDA) has created a National Communication Protocol for transferring development application information electronically. This Protocol will facilitate the exchange of information between proponents and regulators in all Australian jurisdictions. The purpose of the eDA Communication Protocol is to create details of the form and content of specific messages in the set of communication transactions that occur during the normal course of processing a development application from “lodgement” to a “decision”.

This will lead to faster, more efficient transactions between proponents and regulators in all Australian jurisdictions. The emphasis is on enabling existing systems to transfer information, rather than developing new processes and software.

The Protocol has been developed using the eXtensible Markup Language (XML), supported by agreed non-proprietary formats (file types) for exchanging information related to a Development Assessment. The developed XML schema is compliant with the “*Interoperability Technical Framework for the Australian Government*” published by the Australian Government Information Management Office (AGIMO). The Protocol is available to software vendors and developers that provide solutions for the lodging, tracking and management of the DA process.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, through the Office of Small Business has funded 10 projects nationally that will be implementing some component of an electronic Development Assessment (online) solution. It has been stated by the RRIF that all funded projects that related the eDA will utilise the DAF National eDA XML Schema. The RRIF eDA Projects are:

1. ACT Planning (2 Councils) – Electronic Development and Building System
2. Rockdale City Council (38 Councils) – Building DA Capacity
3. Shellharbour City Council (2 Councils) – Online Business Portal
4. Pittwater Council (1 Council) – Online Development Enquiry and Assessment Project
5. Brisbane City Council (21 Councils) – Regional Development Process Online
6. Cairns City Council (128 Councils) – National electronic Development Assessment Project
7. Alexandrina Council (23 Councils) – Biz Connect
8. Adelaide City Council (54 Councils) – Pathway to eBusiness
9. City of Whittlesea (29 Councils) – Ezybiz Online Business Regulation

10. Moira Shire Council (1 Council) – Electronic Processing of Development Application

To ensure national outcomes for electronic development assessment, the Cairns City Council, National electronic Development Assessment (NeDA) Project has an allocation of funding that will be managed by the DAF eDA Project Leader for:

11. Ongoing development and maintenance of the DAF National eDA XML Schema until June 2007 - \$200,000.
12. National Benefits Realisation Assessment across all the RRIF eDA related projects - \$200,000.

More information about these projects is available at

<http://ausindustry.gov.au/content/content.cfm?ObjectID=4310894F-916B-40B0-BC5EDFCA543E8CA8&L3Keyword=rrif>