



## DAF Fact Sheet – April 2011

The improvement of Australia's development assessment system is a long-term focus for all levels of government, and is a priority for the development and building industry and related building professionals.

Innovative reform initiatives can reduce compliance burdens and deliver more flexible regulatory systems.

This will improve business efficiency, stimulate growth, help business generate employment and deliver better planning outcomes for all Australians.

### The DAF

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) was established in 1998 as an independent think tank in which stakeholders could identify and promote leading practice approaches to simplify and improve development assessment, without sacrificing the overall quality of the decision making.

DAF aims to promote world-class planning and development assessment processes in Australia through:

- the national harmonisation of similar systems and requirements between jurisdictions;
- the adoption of processes that are efficient and cost effective for proponents, governments, industry and the community;
- improved access for stakeholders to information on leading practice methodologies and outcomes; and
- the adoption and implementation of electronic-planning (e-planning) systems.

The current chair of DAF is [Ms Kristin Brookfield](#) and the Deputy Chair is [Ms Allison Hailes](#).

The Forum meets three times a year and is serviced by a Commonwealth Secretariat based within the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government.

### Our Achievements

DAF has released several publications since its establishment, covering a range of issues such as strategic planning, benchmarking, private certification, standard definitions, and the development of objective rules and tests.

Our most significant achievement has been the [Leading Practice Model for Development Assessment](#). This project outlined ten practices that can be adapted and adopted by jurisdictions to suit their specific needs in streamlining the development assessment process.

Application of the model can ultimately result in the increased harmonisation of development assessment systems across Australia.

Project findings, technical papers, reports and general information may be accessed via the DAF website ([www.daf.gov.au](http://www.daf.gov.au)).

## Current Projects

DAF's work program is developed annually with projects undertaken directly by members, or where appropriate, consultants.

The work program focuses on the goal of development assessment reform across Australia, based on promoting opportunities to identify and implement leading practices.

DAF's current work projects include:

- a report outlining standard definitions for, and a guide to streamlining and implementing, **track-based assessment**;
- a report of leading practice case studies and guidelines to identify the appropriate **role for the private sector** in development assessment and planning; and
- a guide to the principles and leading practice approaches to development application **referral**;

The DAF will endorse a new work program for 2011–2012 at its 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.

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