



FACT SHEET

National Electronic Data Exchange Standard

The Electronic Development Assessment (eDA) project aims to facilitate the electronic processing of development applications, through the creation of a national communication protocol. This protocol will cover the entire process, from the lodgement of applications and associated reports and drawings, to communicating electronically with an applicant or a referral agency, to reporting the assessor's decision (including any conditions of approval) to the applicant.

This is a national project, so the protocols will not be tied to any particular State or Territory legislation. Instead, it will concentrate on the generic processes and information employed within development assessment with the goal of improving interoperability between applicants, councils, and referral agencies.

The DAF recognises the large investment made by applicants and assessors in their own internal IT systems and the complex way in which these systems are tied to land management and rating systems. The project, therefore, is not attempting to change either the IT system or the workflow of anyone involved in the process. However, by standardising the "way" IT systems speak to each other, information used in these individual systems will be translated into a common language so that it can be easily passed between stakeholders.

The DAF is expecting to commission two consultancies for the eDA project this year:

- the first will produce a cost/benefit analysis to assess the impacts of the proposed protocol; and
- the second will develop a generic communication protocol for development assessment, building on the work currently being carried out in most States and Territories.

Contact:

Project Leader

Mr Paul Waterhouse

Pwaterhouse@nat.propertyoz.com.au

02 9252 3111

Project Manager

Mr Adam Heather

adam.heather@dlgp.qld.gov.au

07 3237 1736

The Development Assessment Forum

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. 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 Australian Government, State/Territory and Local Governments; the development industry; and related professional associations

Since its establishment in 1998 the DAF has delivered initiatives such as:

- a first tranche of 14 national development assessment definitions;
- an agreed set of principles of leading practice in development assessment;
- a Good Strategic Planning Guide;
- a Practice Guideline to extend private sector involvement in DA certification processes;
- a website (www.daf.gov.au) to provide resource material and contacts; and
- a free-access web based database of all Australian Government planning instruments.

Current projects include:

- the development of a leading practice model for development assessment – reviewing each element of the development assessment process; assessing the use of innovative legislation, processes and technologies; examining opportunities to use performance indicators to deliver better services; and enhanced use of the private sector;
- an examination of ways to enhance comparative performance measurement and benchmarking of planning and development assessment systems; and
- developing agreed national standards for terminology and meaning in DA definitions.

Contact:

DAF Secretariat

Ms Lucy Jenkin

daf@dotars.gov.au

02 6274 6070