

Attachment A

LGPMC Sub-Group on Development Assessment Reform

The Council noted progress made by the LGPMC Sub-Group on Development Assessment (DA) Reform. Work has commenced on five streams of reform under the LGPMC Sub-Group's National DA Reform Program.

Victoria is leading a project on electronic Development Assessment (eDA) which will develop costed options and a funding proposal to enable continued implementation and uptake of eDA across all jurisdictions. This will build upon the current Housing Affordability Fund projects to enable all parties involved in the development assessment process to interchange information between differing systems in a "standard" manner. Consultants have been appointed to undertake the survey and facilitate a workshop. The survey, which includes interviews with each jurisdiction, has been completed. The workshop is to be held on 13 May 2009. The project remains on track with a draft report to be available by the end of June 2009.

NSW is leading a project which will review each planning system in terms of the percentage of merit approval versus complying code approval. This will form the basis for national comparison to assist in a national target and road map for code assessment. NSW is undertaking the process of appointing the consultant to undertake the project and will deliver both stages of the project in June and September 2009.

South Australia will develop a common set of national performance measures, used to assess the "health" of development assessment system, which will then be nationally publicised. A tender process has been commenced with the evaluation currently underway. It is expected that the successful tenderer will commence work by mid-late May 2009 with the first milestone reached at the end of July 2009.

Queensland is responsible for developing a comprehensive discussion paper on a set of national planning system principles and leading practice approaches. The paper will be developed by an expert panel and widely disseminated to government, industry and other key stakeholders for consultation. A project manager has been appointed and an expert planner is to be engaged to establish and facilitate the expert panel. The panel will be finalised by late-May, with a workshop to be held in June.

ACT is responsible for preparing a model for measuring the benefits of all four streams of reform, as above. The project will examine the cost savings and efficiency dividends in each area of reform to provide a comprehensive evidence base for continuation of the reforms. A procurement process has commenced and it is expected that a consultant will be engaged by 15 May 2009. It is anticipated that the ACT's report will be finalised by 21 August 2009.

The Planning Officials Group (POG) will manage the delivery of the National DA Reform Program and a progress report will be submitted by the Sub-Group to LGPMC members at the next Council meeting.