

# Streamlining Development Assessment

Good development assessment processes will improve Australia's competitiveness, while poor practices will impede further growth.

For liveable and vibrant communities, the built environment must meet and reflect state and local policy objectives.

Development assessment has an important role in delivering this.

## The DAF Leading Practice Model<sup>1</sup>

There is a **leading practice guide to world class development assessment**.

The guide was developed by the **Development Assessment Forum (DAF)**, which includes all states, territories, local government, property sector industry associations, professional organisations and the Australian Government.

The DAF model (see Appendix 3) outlines **ten elements** of an efficient development assessment process that will:

- depoliticise assessment;
- reduce development delays;
- increase certainty;
- clarify the community's requirements up front; and,
- reduce costs and waste.

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<sup>1</sup> *A Leading Practice Model for Development Assessment in Australia*, Development Assessment Forum (March, 2005)

**Streamlining Development Assessment – Recommendations:**

- First:** Negotiate a COAG agreement and timeline for the implementation of the DAF Model in each state and territory.
- Second:** Through COAG and the National Competition Commission, provide **financial incentives** to state, territory, and local governments to implement the DAF reforms, consistent with programs already announced by the Australian Government (for instance, the Housing Affordability Fund).
- Third:** Increase the resourcing of the DAF Secretariat so that it is serviced by at least one full-time project manager and has sufficient funds available for applied research.

**Sources:**

*A Leading Practice Model for Development Assessment in Australia,*  
Development Assessment Forum (March, 2005)