



Australian Institute of Architects

15 March 2016

Hon John Day MLA
Minister for Planning; Culture and the Arts
11th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANELS

The Australian Institute of Architects advocates on behalf of the architecture profession and the community to enhance the quality and amenity of our built environment. We take this opportunity to affirm our support for Development Assessment Panels [DAP] following recent media attention casting doubt over the efficacy of the system.

At the outset we believe that DAPs have worked well since their inception in 2011 and that it is inherently better that major developments are decided after professional consideration, rather than sometimes short sighted activism and very localised politics. Indeed the beauty of DAPs is the high degree of objectivity applied to making determinations, when necessary, that are in the long term economic and social interest.

It is important that communities are well represented in planning and that Town Planning Schemes [TPS] have an adequate framework to reflect the way of life in each local government area. It is just as important that the authorities have a mechanism to prepare for future needs on the basis of population growth, changing lifestyles and transport demands. The TPS is the place for the community to ensure its values and aspirations are outlined. It is the DAP's remit to apply the TPS in a professional manner.

As Perth's communities become more dense and diverse, DAPs will be more important than ever. It would be enormously retrograde to diminish or remove a system that is serving our planning process effectively.

Yours sincerely

PHILIP GRIFFITHS FRAIA RIBA M.ICOMOS
STATE PRESIDENT WESTERN AUSTRALIA