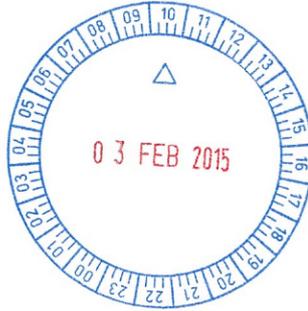




Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Planning**



Your ref: PDR
Our ref: DP/12/00264
Enquiries: Stephen Ferguson, 6551 9454

Hon Kate Doust MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Attention: Samantha Parsons
Committee Clerk
unileg@parliament.gov.au

Dear Ms Doust

**SUBMISSION REGARDING INQUIRY INTO PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
(DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANELS) REGULATIONS 2011**

Thank you for your letter of 24 November 2014 inviting submissions with regard to the operation and effectiveness of the Planning and Development (Development Assessment Panels) Regulations 2011 (DAPs Regulations).

Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) came into operation on 1 July 2011 and were established as part of the State Government's planning reform agenda *Planning makes it happen – a blueprint for planning reform*. DAPs are independent decision-making bodies, comprising of a mixture of professional specialists members and local government representatives.

The DAPs system is designed to offer an appropriate balance between local knowledge and planning expertise to ensure challenging and complex planning decisions are determined in an independent manner that best promotes transparency, consistency and reliability.

To ensure the DAP system operates independently, the involvement of the Minister for Planning is limited to appointing new DAP members and oversight of the system as a whole. The Minister has no direct role in any individual DAP application. Similarly, the Department of Planning (DoP) only provides administrative support to the DAPs. To ensure transparency in DAP decision-making, the agenda, responsible authority reports and minutes are published for all DAP meetings on the DoP website.

