



The Standing Committee on  
Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
PERTH WA 6000

27<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Honourable Kate Doust MLC

**Inquiry into Planning and Development (Development Assessments Panels)  
Regulations 2011**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into *Planning and Development (Development Assessments Panels) Regulations*.

The Property Council of Australia is the leading advocate for Australia's property industry and the built environment. Our members represent the broad spectrum of businesses that own property, property developers, building managers and property industry service providers.

The Property Council of Australia was a strong advocate for the introduction of Development Assessment Panels (DAPs). This followed a sustained call by our members in the development industry for strong actions by the Government to reform the development assessment determination process, which was not keeping up with the demands of the growing WA economy.

Since the introduction of DAPs in Western Australia, there has been a significant improvement in the development assessment determination process and this has greatly assisted the development sector in meeting the challenges in our growing state.

The property development sector is very satisfied with the performance of DAPs. Overwhelmingly, our members in the development sector have reported that DAPs have improved the transparency, consistency and reliability of decision making, as well as the efficiency and timeliness of decision making. We have also found very high levels of satisfaction with the quality of decision making and planning conditions for development assessment through DAPs.

In the development sector, DAPs are universally regarded as the most effective policy reform in recent years that delivers good planning governance and good outcomes in the form of building and infrastructure projects. This was supported by a recent study by the Department of Finance into the Review of Residential Planning and Building Approvals Processes, which found that DAPs was one of the very few effective reforms in the recent year.

The DAP system can be further strengthened by a number of reforms.

