



DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PANEL

Establishment

Pursuant to Section 56A of the Development Act 1993 (“the Act”) the Council has established a Development Assessment Panel to be known as the Mid Murray Council Development Assessment Panel (“the DAP”) for the purpose of acting as the “*relevant authority*” (as that term is defined in the Development Act 1993) in respect of all development control matters.

Functions

The functions of the DAP are:

- To act as a delegate of the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
- To provide advice and reports to the Council as it thinks fit on trends, issues and other matters relating to planning or development that have become apparent or arisen through its assessment of applications under the Act.
- To perform other functions (other than functions involving the formulation of policy) assigned to the DAP by the Council.
- The assessment and determination of development applications.
- Hearing representations from the public concerning applications that have been publicly notified.

Membership

In July 2001, Mid Murray Council resolved to appoint a Panel as the relevant authority to exercise or perform Council’s powers and functions in accordance with the Development Act 1993.

The Panel consisted of five elected members, two business representatives and two community representatives.

Changes to the Development Act have required Council to form Development Assessment Panel’s consisting of seven members incorporating both elected members and independent members.

Council’s current Panel comprises the following members:-

- Bruce Ballantyne Independent Member and Presiding Member
- Graham Gaston Independent Member
- Sharon Jardine Independent Member
- Kelly Mader Independent Member
- Myles Somers Independent Member
- Peter Raison Elected Member
- Brian Taylor Elected Member.

Public Officer

The DAP has a Public Officer appointed by the Council.

The functions of the Public Officer include ensuring the proper investigation of complaints about the conduct of a member of the DAP.

Council has appointed Kelvin Goldstone as its Public Officer. Kelvin can be contacted at the Mannum Office of Council, 49 Adelaide Road, Mannum 5238 or by telephone on 8569 0100.

Conduct

Members of the DAP are bound by a Code of Conduct pursuant to Section 12A of the Development Act 1993. Amongst other things the Code is clear members must not:-

- (a) engage in consultation outside of the panel process with any party on a proposed development application that is likely to be heard by the panel;
- (b) give advice to an applicant or other third party on a development application after it has been lodged outside of a panel meeting;
- (c) speak at a public meeting for or against a proposal where the purpose of the meeting is to discuss either a proposed development or a development application unless required by the Act;
- (d) express an opinion on a development application or a proposed development outside of a panel meeting; and
- (e) engage in any other act or omission which may give rise to a reasonable presumption that you have prejudged a development proposal or application.

Access to Meetings

Council DAP meetings are generally held on the third Monday of every month, commencing at 10am at the Council Chambers, Main Street, Cambrai.

The decision making is open and is conducted in an objective and unbiased manner in strict regard for Council's Development Plan and the Development Act.

Access to agendas and minutes of Panel Meetings are available to the public from the Council Offices or Council's website.

Enquiries or further information relating to Council's DAP can be obtained/directed to Council's Development & Environmental Services Section located at the Cambrai Office on 8564 6020.

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