

# Preferred Model

## Third Party Appeal Rights for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels

### Benefits of Third Party Appeal Right for decisions made by Development Assessment Panels

- Only Local Governments will be able to challenge and seek review of DAP decisions that are made contrary to the recommendations of the Responsible Authority Report (RAR) or Council position.
- In future, possible consideration to a broadening of Third Party Appeal Rights to other parties relating to Development Assessment Panel decisions.
- Local Government would be able to appeal a DAP decision and defend the merits of their policies and defend the enforceability of their conditions.
- More transparent process in both decision making and condition setting, resulting in more accountable DAP members.
  
- Would allow for an appeal to be made on the conditions of approval or refusal
  - i) that may have been removed from a RAR; or
  - ii) added to the decision, particularly where no liaison has occurred with the Local Government for clearing or enforcing the condition; or
  - iii) applied inappropriately i.e. the condition would change the intent or design of the development and therefore a new application should have been lodged.
  
- Limits appeal rights to larger, more complex applications and would filter out 'smaller' impact applications which could potentially overburden the system.
- Provides the opportunity for additional information to be included in the appeal process, particularly if information was not received before the DAP meeting.
- Provides the ability to challenge any new information being presented at the DAP meeting without the Local Government being able to undertake any assessment of the new information (unassessed revised plans are currently being lodged and approved at meetings).
- Able to appeal the 'Deferral' process being over utilised, i.e. DAPs are tending to defer applications multiple times rather than making a decision to approve or refuse the proposal.
- Can give the Local Government more confidence that the developer will provide a fully complete application and discuss the application with the Local Government first, rather than relying on the DAP to condition the proposal requiring additional critical information.

## Appellants in a Third Party Appeal

Should be for

- A Local Government where DAP has gone against the position of Council itself; or
- A Local Government where DAP has gone against the Responsible Authority Report (RAR)

## Local Government makes a submission

- SAT would need to ensure that appeals are made on valid planning grounds and are not made for commercial or vexatious reasons.
- The existing Directions Hearing process could be used to see if the appeal has reasonable planning merit, which would assist in providing clarity on what constitutes a valid planning consideration and what would be an invalid planning consideration. The Directions Hearing could consider the appellant's justification for submitting the appeal, in particular, whether the grounds of appeal are supported by documentary evidence or other material (a similar process for justifying the lodgement of an appeal already exists through Section 76 of the *Planning and Development Act 2005*).

*\*\* Will need to discuss with SAT the definition of 'valid planning grounds' to determine whether the submission has reasonable grounds for appeal\*\**

## What can be appealed?

- DAP applications that are compulsory over \$10 million for JDAPs and \$20 million for City of Perth DAP; or
- DAP applications in the optional threshold \$2m – 10m for JDAPs and in the City of Perth \$2 million - \$20 million; or
- DAP applications seeking amendments to approvals *i.e.* Form 2 applications proposing a change to the development application, and including applications for an extension of time

## Timeframe to lodge an appeal

- As per the existing timeframe, an appeal on a decision made by a Development Assessment Panel should be lodged within 28 days of the decision being made public, ie publishing of the DAP minutes.
- Local Governments would need to determine within their own organisation what process to follow in order to decide whether or not to lodge an appeal against a DAP decision. In many cases this may require a Special Council meeting to determine this.

## Costs

- Any Local Government would need to cover their costs of initiating the appeal, attending SAT directions, mediation and hearings, and costs could also include obtaining expert advice.

## Appeals Process

