



# STATE COMMISSION ASSESSMENT PANEL

A COMMITTEE OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

## Industry and Local Government / Agency Forums – Summary of Feedback

### The role of the State Commission Assessment Panel

The State Commission Assessment Panel (SCAP) has been established by the State Planning Commission under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (the PDI Act).

#### The responsibilities of the SCAP are to:

- independently assess and determine development applications where the State Planning Commission is the relevant authority
- assess and report on Crown development and public infrastructure applications to the Minister for Planning
- act as the lodgement authority for South Australian land division applications.

### The Forums

In mid-November 2021, the SCAP initiated three forums as part of its annual review, to gain feedback from key stakeholders working in industry, local government and state agencies who regularly interface with the SCAP. The purpose of the SCAP forums was to hear directly from participants as to what was working well and what could be improved.

The forums were also an opportunity for the SCAP to provide advice and feedback to stakeholders regarding engagement and the presentation of information to improve the assessment and decision-making processes.

The SCAP wishes to thank all participants who attended the forums for their constructive feedback, suggestions and interest in SCAP's continual improvement.

## Key Themes

Four key themes emerged from the forums with a range of positions presented in regard to:

1. The conduct of SCAP hearings
2. Timeframes for referrals and SCAP meetings
3. Access to Information
4. Decision Making

The results will be used to advance the efficiency, transparency and appreciation of SCAP's role in South Australia's planning system.

## Agreed Actions

1. Update the information on the SCAP website to include:
  - a) Additional guidelines to assist applicants in compiling information to submit with applications and when making presentations at SCAP hearings.
  - b) New reporting templates with consideration being given to embed links to relevant internet sites, 3D models and other visual media where appropriate, to better explain complex development proposals.
  - c) Standard SCAP conditions of approval.
  - d) Details on the format and operating procedures of SCAP meetings with clarity about the roles of the various meeting participants.

2. Review the process for local governments and referral agencies to seek extensions of time to submit their advice and consider providing longer response times for complex development proposals.
3. Advise stakeholders of tentative dates for SCAP meetings as early as possible.
4. Provide referral agencies with copies of the issues raised in representations on request, as they relate to the Agency's statutory referral role.
5. Obtain independent peer reviews on technical reports when the advice is beyond the expertise of government agencies.
6. Improve SCAP reporting through the inclusion of detailed reasons for decisions in meeting minutes to enhance confidence in the decision-making process.