



Environmental Development and Allied Professionals

Summer 2020/21 Newsletter

Environmental & Development Industry News

Notice of intended completion of building work

With a number of recent construction problem-cases such as Opal Towers the NSW Dept of Fair Trading is requiring that developers with building work approaching completion must give notice of when they will apply for an Occupation Certificate. Notice is to be given at least six months before the application for an occupation certificate is made.

Fair Trading stated that *'Giving notice of an application for an occupation certificate allows time for a review of the building development including a possible Occupation Certificate Audit to identify any serious defects before the building is completed and buyers settle their contracts.'*

<https://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/housing-and-property/building-and-renovating/notice-of-intended-completion-of-building-work>

Covid changes for investigations officers

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of Acts were amended to enable authorised officers and investigation officers to take evidence and answers to questions by audio link or audio visual link.

On 20 November 2020, new clauses were inserted into the regulations to extend the provisions to 26 March 2021.

The new clauses permit investigation officers and authorised officers to authorise a person to answer questions using audio link or audio visual link of a kind approved by the officer, rather than attend at a specified place and time. value and contribution will assist in making decisions about current and future agricultural land uses.

https://www.lindsaytaylorlawyers.com.au/in_focus/covid-19-investigations-via-av/

Ever-faster DA Assessments

Minister Rob Stokes has continued his assault on development assessment timeframes by unveiling the new Rapid Assessments Framework. The framework would apply to state significant development and focuses on reducing assessment times for lower impact developments.

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/News/2020/Rapid-assessments-to-turbocharge-NSW-Planning-System>



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EDAP Annual Regional Conference - ORANGE 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic unfortunately led to EDAP's 2020 conference in Orange being cancelled. This was greatly disappointing as the conference was to involve a quality range of speakers and presentations, social events, key state agencies and supported by our wonderful and loyal sponsors.

But we'll be back in 2021 with the conference to be held in Orange, likely during the second half of the year. We will let you know as soon as the conference dates are locked in.



EDAP Membership

EDAP membership now at 567.



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EDAP Workshop/Networking Opportunity

In light of the postponement of 2020 EDAP Annual Conference, the committee has considered that it is important for the group to be able to meet as a collective to confirm our relationships and create new ones. In addition, a session together can reaffirm our continued focus on the further progression of our professions in the western areas.

With this in mind, the committee has proposed to have a Workshop/Networking Opportunity in Forbes on Friday 26th March 2021 starting at 1.30pm. It is proposed to be held in the afternoon to allow travel with catering provided for both workshop and networking program. We are hoping to provide some Council updates and overviews as to current activities, issues, and opportunities for collective solution driving discussion.

It is a great opportunity for the members to get together and we are looking to provide an opportunity for dinner and refreshments on the Friday evening for attendees.

Please consider joining us and provide RSVPs to Alan as soon as possible for catering purposes.

Staff movements

Recent staff movements include the following:

- Regan Hotham from Parkes Shire Council to Procort Group Pty Ltd
- Liam Bridge from Dubbo City Council to Orange City Council
- Francois Van Der Berg From Broken Hill City Council to Leeton Shire Council
- Steven Campbell from Parkes Shire Council to Forbes Shire Council
- Daniel Boyce from Narrabri Shire Council to Moree Plains Shire Council
- Howard Orr from Parkes Shire Council to TRNSW

EDAP

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