

Design Advisory Service

Better Apartments



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Design Advisory Service

The Design Advisory Service (DAS) is one of the tools supporting the apartment design standards and the apartment design guidelines for Victoria (ADVG). DAS is a voluntary process where councils, developers and design teams can receive objective feedback on larger scale apartment projects from qualified individuals with extensive apartment design experience from a wide variety of disciplines.

The DAS provides access to independent advice at the pre-application stage of an apartment design project. The objective of the DAS is to provide greater certainty for applicants, improve confidence in the decision making processes of planning authorities, and ensure better outcomes for communities.

Each DAS session will involve one or more panel members depending on the complexity of the development project, and will typically run for 1.5 to 2 hours. Panel members are selected to complement the design team with specific expertise including, for example, architectural, urban design, heritage, sustainability and environmental design expertise.

Expressions of Interest process

Expressions of interest for appointment to the panel is encouraged from suitably qualified individuals with demonstrated expertise and experience in apartment design. Applicants may email their Expression of Interest responding to the selection criteria to: planning.implementation@delwp.vic.gov.au

Evaluation & Selection

Evaluation and selection will be undertaken by a panel drawn from units within the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) including Development Assessment and Urban Design, Planning, Building and Heritage, and Planning Implementation, and the Office of the Victorian Government Architect.

The Minister for Planning will approve appointments. The Department will maintain a list of approved DAS panel members on the Planning website (www.planning.vic.gov.au).

Selection criteria

Expressions of Interest should address the following selection criteria:

1. Appropriate qualifications.
2. Demonstrated expertise in architecture, urban design, planning, heritage, sustainability and environmental design, apartment project development or building management.
3. Demonstrated experience in larger scale apartment development projects.
4. Demonstrated experience in design review and critique, and the provision of advice to planning panels, or similar.

5. Understanding of and experience working with Victoria's Planning Framework, relevant local government policies and development controls.
6. Skills and experience in analysis and application of local planning strategies and policies (e.g. Local Planning Schemes, Structure Plans, Activity Centre Plans, and Local Development Plans).
7. Ability to deliver objective, clear, and concise advice (both written and verbal) to proponents.
8. Highly regarded amongst their professional peers.

Appointment Term and Remuneration

DAS panel members will be appointed for an initial period of one year. The DAS operation will be then reviewed.

The remuneration fee for each session is \$600 per day or \$300 per half day. A full day typically allows for two projects to be considered (2 hours each). The fee includes an allowance for half a day preparation time, travel time or additional work the panel member may be required to perform in respect of a DAS session. No disbursements can be claimed for travel expenses.

This fee scale is consistent with the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Appointment and Remuneration Guidelines (2016).

Design Advisory Service – Session Operation

Interests

Prior to attendance at a DAS session, each panel member will be asked to make a statement identifying any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest. This statement will require giving consideration to any current commercial interest, past commercial interests, future commercial interests, formal interests, informal interests and familial interests.

Confidentiality

All DAS discussions are to be treated as confidential and all details of the session are to remain confidential. To assist the review of the DAS a copy of advice documentation is to be provided to DELWP at planning.implementation@delwp.vic.gov.au. The documentation format can be decided between the DAS parties.

Scope of Advice

The role of the DAS panel members is to provide independent and objective advice to Council officers and developers and their design teams. This advice is limited to consideration of:

1. The project's urban context, site characteristics, local sensitivities and neighbouring uses
2. How the design response responds to its immediate context
3. State and local policies, character and urban design issues
4. How the proposal meets the objectives of the Apartment Design Standards

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ISBN 978-1-76047-684-7 (pdf/online)

Accessibility

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Cover: Collins and Queen (Rothelowman). Photography by Scott Burrows.