

What is CDAP?

CDAP is the abbreviation for Council Development Assessment Panel. CDAP is a body of people who consider and make decisions on some development applications in their Council.

The role of CDAP is to make impartial and transparent development assessment decisions based on the policies in the Development Plan.

The CDAP consists of seven members appointed by the Council. A minimum of four members must be independent of the Council and up to three members can be Council elected members or Council staff. All members have voting rights and decisions are made on a majority basis.

CDAP members have to abide by the Code of Conduct under Section 21A of the *Development Act 1993*. Some important things in the Code of Conduct are that panel members can not:

- Talk to a representor or an applicant about a development that is going to be considered by the Panel, except at the CDAP meeting when the application is considered
- Enter a development site unless it is part of the assessment of the development such as a formal panel viewing

The independent members who are on the CDAP are experienced professionals, who have worked in development related fields. Some of the professions include planners, architects, engineers, heritage experts, environmental experts, urban designers and lawyers. This means that decisions made by CDAP will be informed by the Development Plan and what the Development Plan has envisioned for the area.

The Elected Members of Council as a whole has no role in decisions made by CDAP. The CDAP will weigh up the pros and cons of a proposal by referring to the relevant provisions of the Development Plan. Decisions are made on the 'balance' of the Objectives and Principles contained in the Development Plan. Decisions are not required to be endorsed or ratified by the elected Council. The mixture of Council representatives and independent members provides a balanced view on the CDAP combining local experience and technical expertise.