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RECEIVED

15 Oct 2018

DPTI

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15 October 2018

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure
GPO Box 1815
ADELAIDE SA 5001

BY EMAIL: DPTI.PlanningEngagement@sa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Draft Accredited Professionals Scheme – City of Holdfast Bay Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in response to the Draft Accredited Professionals Scheme

The submission below is in the form of responses to the guiding 4 questions from the engagement webpage.

1. Should industry bodies be allowed to deal with complaints against Accredited Professionals on behalf of the Chief Executive of DPTI?

The handling of complaints should be centralised and consistent to provide complainants, the community and indeed the Accredited Professional with some confidence in the process. Industry bodies could make representation or provide input, but their role should not be as adjudicator.

2. Should Accredited Professionals be penalised for failing to participate in audits in accordance with the Scheme?

This depends on the circumstances around the breach, but there certainly need to be punitive measures available for persistent and wilful avoidance.

3. Should certificates of currency be submitted as proof of insurance, or is annual self-certification sufficient for this purpose?

Certificates of currency are the most reliable measure for providing the community with peace of mind.

4. How important is design as a non-mandatory Continuing Professional Development topic compared with other non-mandatory topics?

Very important. Too few planning practitioners have meaningful post-graduate design qualifications (urban design in particular) from an accredited school of architecture. Planners must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to developing their knowledge around good design as a means to maintain accreditation. The whole sales pitch for acceptance of the Planning Reform agenda has been built around trading-off regulatory standards for good design, and yet there is no link between policy and practice to support this.

Further to the four questions posed, it is important to highlight a major omission from the accreditation requirements; being the absence of any accreditation required for practitioners who develop planning policy. This is particularly concerning given the high level of importance that the Planning Reform agenda has placed on policy content as a means of ensuring quality and certainty in the assessment process. It is essential that mandatory accreditation is required for practitioners that perform the critical role of policy investigation and development.

Please contact me on [REDACTED] should you wish to discuss the submission further.

Yours faithfully



Anthony Marroncelli
Manager Development Services