

Rural City of Murray Bridge submission on Accredited Professionals:

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General Comments:

- Council needs more details on the implementation of the Accreditation system as currently there are too many unknowns (i.e. how to apply, who to apply to, yearly fees, timeframes, etc.)
- Concerns regarding the time period for CPD points (is it 1 year or 3 years) and how much work time will this take from Planning Professionals on a yearly basis?
- Planning professionals will need to budget time to undertake 20 hours of CPD learning every 1 or 3 years, a self-assessment every year plus a five yearly audit regime. We agree that continuous learning is required, however shouldn't the new system try to allow planners to do their jobs as well?
- Record keeping requirements – how will this be managed?
- Will the Portal record all decisions made by an Accredited Professional? How does this work in practice for Assessment Managers who delegate their powers?
- How will Accredited Professionals keep records when they shift Council's/Employers?
- It is critically important that Policy Planners and Enforcement officers are included in the accreditation scheme.
- If the new system places greater importance on Community Consultation at the Policy making stage then this should be reflected by ensuring that Policy Planners are working at the same professional level as assessment officers (Accredited Professionals).
- It is also important that Policy Planners and Enforcement officers are treated in a similar manner as Accredited Professionals
- Concerns that the requirements for accreditation of CAP members; especially in regards to required knowledge areas as these relate mostly to planning whereas builders, architects, engineers, environmental managers and other professionals can sit on CAP's.
- There is a double up of accreditation levels for professionals that may act as Assessment Managers (or Level 3) and also sit on a CAP. As the requirements for Assessment Managers and Level 3 professionals are higher than Level 2 (CAP Members) they should supersede the need to gain Level 2 accreditation.
- Why should it be left to the Accredited Professional to initiate a 5 yearly audit?
- How much work is involved for an Accredited Professional in preparing for an audit?
- Should the Portal be able to collate the records on behalf of the auditor/Accredited Professional?