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**From:** Aaron Wilksch [ ]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 September 2018 11:47 AM  
**To:** Slattery, Greg (DPTI)  
**Subject:** RE: Assessment Pathways, Accredited Professionals Regulations and Performance Indicators

Hello Greg,

Thank you again for communications on the various matters which are affecting Council in the transitions process.

We note that the matter of Professional Accreditation for CAP members is on the table and would like to re-submit as we did in May this year as to the effect of the draft accreditation scheme (attached).

Additionally, we would also like to submit that, within the draft regulations it would seem that there is not a great deal of discretion given to the accreditation authority in determining applications for Panel Members or providing support for regional and remote areas CAP's.

Panels in urban areas are often able to be comprised from a vast pool of independent candidates, with expertise and valuable experience in a wide range of professions useful to a assessment such as economics, law, environment, agriculture, transport and social sciences. The CPD requirements, on the other hand, appear to be primarily aimed at practising Town Planners. In fact, it is clear that the CPD policy has come from the Planning Institute of Australia. - It will be difficult, if not unreasonable for the accreditation authority to determine the eligibility of Panel Members that are in professions that are separate from but important to planning.

A number of Panel Members are retired Town Planners with considerable skills, experience, honours and awards, including Life Fellowship of the Planning Institute of Australia. Some panel members have more than ten years' experience as senior Town Planners, educators, executives, Panel Members or Presiding Members in various occupations and such diversity has been a major reason for the success of the Panels.

Many are likely to withdraw from Panels unless the accreditation authority has flexibility and discretion is determining their applications particularly in relation to requirements for continuing professional development.

There is nothing in the draft regulations that suggests that support and dispensation will be given to determining accreditation for Assessment Managers and Panel Members in regional or remote areas as was suggested in the earlier Discussion Paper.

**In summary, the proposed regulations are likely to have an adverse effect on good planning unless the accreditation authority is provided with considerably more flexibility and discretion in determining applications for accreditation from Assessment Managers and Panel Members both in urban and regional areas.**

We would appreciate that Kangaroo Island Council's comments are given further consideration as the prospect of establishing a compliant panel is likely to be a substantial burden, financially and administratively, to compose and operate. As you are aware, we are subject to unique constraints in terms of physical isolation, capacity to travel, particularly at peak times (although anecdotal evidence suggests it is increasingly difficult to book travel in off peak and shoulder periods in recent years with further invigorated Tourism on KI) and subsequently is again in line for far greater impact than any other metro, outer metro or regional council area in the State.

In light of the above, utmost flexibility is considered paramount. If I can be of further assistance in developing or suggesting other appropriate checkpoints for accreditation for CAP memberships, Please let me know. I am sure that there would be a practical set of parameters to use for eligibility.

Thank you in advance.

Regards,



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**Services**  
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Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure  
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1 May 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Subject: Council Assessment Panels Accredited Professionals Scheme - Discussion Paper – Kangaroo Island Council, Assessment Panel Response.**

The Kangaroo Island Council Assessment Panel has considered the Accredited Professionals Scheme Discussion Paper and is concerned that the proposal as described is too restrictive to permit the operation of a well experienced and multi-disciplined Panel unless formal qualifications in planning are held by members. It should be amended if it is to provide good assessment decisions.

Council's Assessment Panel and administration contends that Assessment Panel membership should not be restricted to experts in planning alone, but should include other technical expertise such as architecture, heritage, environment, economics, agriculture, social science, natural resources etc.

Many potentially valuable members, including planners may have considerable experience in their fields but no formal professional accreditation. Those that do should not have to acquire accreditation under the PDI Act as well.

The Act States that:

*83(1)(b)(i) the membership of the assessment panel, being no more than 5 members, only 1 of which may be a member of a council*

*and*

*83 (1) (c) a person appointed as a member of an assessment panel must be an accredited professional;*

*Unless:*

*83(2) (a) the person is a member, or former member, of a council; and*

*(b) the designated authority is satisfied that the person is appropriately qualified to act as a member of the assessment panel on account of the person's experience in local government.*

The Draft Accreditation scheme states that:

*All assessment panel members, except where the person is an elected representative of the council **and** has sufficient experience in local government to act as a member of a panel.*

This means that only elected members of Council are exempt from accreditation but only one elected member of Council may be a member of a Council Assessment Panel.



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It also states that:

*In some regional and remote areas of South Australia, local governments have experienced difficulties attracting qualified planners. The proposed scheme should allow appropriate dispensation be given to these areas, particularly with regard to Assessment Managers and Assessment Panel Members.*

No details are given on what is meant by this last suggestion or how it is to be implemented, However Kangaroo Island Council would highlight its Panel Composition, which has existed in various forms since the inception of Development Assessment Panels, to have included independent members with various skills, knowledge and background to add to the knowledge base and richness in the panel's consideration of proposals.

Kangaroo Island Council's Assessment panel is held in high esteem for making well considered judgements in assessment of applications and we would wish to utilize that level of diversity in composing the Assessment Panel into the future.

Our Panel currently comprises two former Mayors of Kangaroo Island, both awarded OAM's, having great prior experience not only in Local Government administration, but also in areas involving social, environmental and economic matters of planning and development, along with former senior executive within Government Agencies and PHD in Environmental Science former manager within the KI Natural Resources Management Board, whom ostensibly may not be eligible for re-appointment to the Panel under the current discussions. These members if deemed ineligible would be a terrible loss to the Council's Assessment Panel.

In short, the Kangaroo Island Council Assessment Panel (and Kangaroo Island Council) is of the view that:

- the scheme should be less restrictive in terms of expertise, recognizing not only allied fields of expertise, but also prior experience of Panel members to exist in future composition of Panels (including those whom have gained experience as an Elected Member on a Panel, wishing to re-nominate as a Panel Member after term(s) serving as an Elected Member).
- what is meant by dispensation, how it is achieved and whom it is applicable to, should be detailed as a matter of urgency.

Council and the Council Assessment Panel extends thanks for your further consideration of these matters as they relate to settling an appropriate scheme for the appointment of Assessment Panels.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Wilksch', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Aaron Wilksch  
**Manager, Development & Environmental Services**  
for & on behalf of the Kangaroo Island Council Assessment Panel.

