

Submission

To address duplication and waste in development assessment and approval it is suggested that:

- the Commonwealth government does not duplicate State government residual powers;
- a request for additional information be limited to one request;
- State government assessment timeframes be adhered to;
- Where assessment and determination has not been completed within statutory timeframes a 'deemed approval' should be assumed.

Much time and money is wasted by the Commonwealth government duplicating State government functions. The Commonwealth should limit itself to the express powers conferred on it by the Australian Constitution. By not duplicating State government functions the size of the Commonwealth bureaucracy could be significantly reduced which would have positive impacts of the budget deficit and free up educated people for employment in the private sector.

Much time is wasted and costs imposed by bureaucracies making multiple requests for information, often outside the scope of their jurisdiction.

Many bureaucracies and approval bodies deliberately fail to observe statutory assessment timeframes either by making repeated requests for information or just ignoring the timeframe.

The introduction of the 'deemed approval' would focus the attention of the assessment and determining authorities. Approval bodies could then ignore low-impact proposals and concentrate their efforts on higher impact proposals, improving efficiency.

Richard Clowes