Assessment timeframes in the new planning system

Regulation 53 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017 sets out the timeframes for relevant authorities to assess new developments in South Australia.

The relevant authority is the decision-maker who assesses the development application. This could be an assessment manager from council, an independent accredited professional, State Planning Commission or relevant panel.

Important changes to assessment timeframes

The new planning system sets out the timeframes for relevant authorities to assess new developments in South Australia, and includes:

• A new verification process that will enable relevant authorities to check that applications have been submitted to the right authority with the right information, and to charge the relevant fees, before the ‘assessment clock’ begins.

• Where notice of an application is required to be given, neighbours and the community will be given more time to provide feedback. For Performance-Assessed developments, this time has increased from 10 business days to 15 business days; for more complex restricted proposals, this time has increased from 10 business days to 20 business days.

• If the relevant authority exceeds the timeframe for assessment, the applicant can serve a notice that provides automatic planning consent.

• For performance-assessed developments, the assessment body can only stop the clock (once) to request further information, and such a request must be issued within the first 10 business days of assessment time.

• The time it takes for assessment bodies to make their decisions will be published on the PlanSA Portal as part of performance targets and monitoring.
Need more help?
To find out more visit www.plan.sa.gov.au, email PlanSA@sa.gov.au or call the PlanSA Service Desk on 1800 752 664.