While the local government sector sees significant benefit in good design being part of the new planning system and is supportive of the concept of ‘design review’, the responses the LGA has received highlight that given the many uncertainties, as outlined in this submission, councils will not take up the scheme as currently presented.

The Local Government Association does not support the draft Local Design Review Scheme in its current form as it is considered:

1. to be overly bureaucratic;
2. unlikely to have any positive impact;
3. that it will be easily ignored by both developers and assessment authorities, and
4. will have limited positive impact on good design outcomes.

For the scheme to be successful the following amendments to the scheme must be undertaken:

1. the Principles of Good Design should be embedded both within the scheme and the Planning and Design Code;
2. the scheme must operate both pre and post application lodgement, and
3. councils must have the discretion to determine which applications will undertake the design review process.

The LGA and councils seek to work with ODASA to address the deficiencies currently identified to help establish a scheme that benefits both developers and councils and encourages high quality design outcomes for the whole community.

Brad, happy to catch up to discuss how the LGA can work with ODASA to improve the scheme.

Stephen

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