Planning Portal Workshop notes

Chris provided an update on the Planning Portal and go live dates for different regions.

- Lowest risk people will probably go live first.
- Once live the outcomes may be similar to what we have experienced with DACO. (Residents still approaching Council reception to lodge applications).
- Suggestions have been made that the project should have discussions with Council Finance leaders.
- Councils have been advised that there is no historical take up of data and that they will potentially be running 2 systems for some time.

Chris encourages Councils to login to Council Connect on the Planning site for detailed information and communications. https://www.saplanningportal.sa.gov.au/

Action Plan moving forward – General Discussion

- **What are your top 3 concerns for the DA Assessment process post go live of the sPlanning Portal?**
- **What can you do now to prepare for the new way of working?**
- **How can we work together to make the transition easier?**

Q & A

Is there a requirement to take up BlueBeam or Trapeze?

There is no requirement to adopt Blue Beam or Trapeze. This is at the discretion of Council. Neither software packages will integrate with the system so there is no integration advantage in getting the software if you don't already have it. The software itself may have other benefits to a Councils processes.

Will the new system make it quicker for the customer or longer?

Processes will be standardised so this will mean changes for some if not all Councils. For example Councils get 1 opportunity for requests for further information. Process should be easier for certified planners/builders.

What happen with all the paper in regard to records management?

If Council get the document over the counter, they would scan, upload it to the portal and can destroy the hardcopy under GDS 21 (or return the plan to the customer). Councils should get together to develop a plan for how we will handle the hardcopies across the state so that there is consistency.

Will there be reports so that Councils can benchmark?

There will be statistics for performance measurement, how they will approach comparison to other councils is unclear. Councils may also need to consider what GIS layers that you currently have in relation to Planning data and consider what your process will be moving forward as this will change

Are any Councils are exempt for the planning portal?

No, all Councils will be required to use the Planning Portal?

Will Waste Water will still be managed locally?

Yes Waste Water will be managed by the Councils on their own systems. Waste Water applications will not form part of the Portal

How will we do the DAC fee distributions?

It is not clear how this will be managed under the new system we will require more information. It is known that the fee structure as we know it currently will change and we will need to be prepared for changes particularly management of fees taken over the counter and paid via the portal. We should be comfortable with many of these concepts as a result of DACO experience.

Concerns Raised to take back to the project

- Concerns around processing section 7's and having access to the right information
- Concerns around processing DA's and having access the right information
- Fee structure will change
- Still concerns around the relationship between Records Management integration and FOI.
- Biggest impact will be those customers who still want to deal with us face to face and what the communication strategy needs to be for all the "Mum and Dad" builders we interact with.

Ideas

As a group we could come up with a strategy to advise our customers in relation to the impending changes and how it will affect them.. Councils need to own this and have a consistent approach.