

MEDIA RELEASE

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Planning permits processed faster at Towong

Towong Shire Council's planning department is one of the most efficient in Victoria according to annual statistics recently released by the Victorian Government.

The Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure's Planning Permit Activity Reporting revealed that Towong was the State's second-fastest council at processing planning permits for the 2013/14 reporting year.

"This is excellent news for land-owners and developers in our Shire," said Cr David Wortmann, Towong Shire Council Mayor. "In the majority of cases, Council's planning team are able to process planning permit applications within five weeks, comparing very favourably to the state-wide average of 123 days," said Cr Wortmann.

A key factor contributing to Council's success is the pre-development discussions Council's planning team have with potential applicants.

"Our planning staff are available to discuss every proposed development before any application is submitted," advised Cr Wortmann. "A pre-application conversation will identify what Planning Scheme requirements will apply to the development and Council staff can also provide advice about what information will be needed to process the application,"

Towong Shire Council processed 103 planning permit applications during 2013/14, with the costs of works totaling over \$14 million. Permits issued for a number of Country Fire Authority (CFA) stations and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries Depot in Eskdale contributed to the considerably higher value of works approved in 2013/14.