

DLINFO

SYDNEY – OCTOBER 09

Building Surveying Update

Ten Day Planning Approvals

A fast-track planning approval system for businesses will come into effect this month, potentially saving small retailers and other businesses thousands of dollars each.

The NSW Government has announced the introduction of a fast-track planning approval system. This approval system could save eligible businesses thousands of dollars on council red tape by the introduction of one state-wide planning policy for internal fit-out works to commercial, retail and limited industrial buildings.

Currently businesses, including small retailers, often have to lodge a development application with council when moving into and fitting out a new shop/office or light industry premises.

From 7 September 2009, clients may be able use a private certifier such as Davis Langdon to take advantage of the Commercial Code, which is a 10 day 'checklist style' approval, instead of going through a development application process saving precious time in doing minor development work in the state of NSW.

Davis Langdon and DEGW Announce Merger

Davis Langdon and strategic space planning consultants DEGW have recently merged. The move comes as Davis Langdon continues to grow its global service offering and move further into strategic consultancy. "DEGW's services in Australia and New Zealand are exclusively focused on the strategic,

pre-design stages of projects, specialising in how people and space come together to support organisational culture and improve business performance," said Davis Langdon's Australian Managing Director Mark Beattie.

"DEGW do not provide design delivery services, and this will continue to be the case under the merger with Davis Langdon. Instead they will be working closely with a range of Architecture and Design practices to realise its clients' objectives as it has done for over 10 years."

Despina Katsikakis, Chairman of DEGW commented: "For over 35 years we have focused on managing change through the effective integration of people, process and place. The coming together with Davis Langdon enables us to measure the value of place in delivering business performance for our clients worldwide."

In Australia DEGW has offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. Mr Beattie said that DEGW business will complement Davis Langdon's strong industry brand and strengthen the strategic service offering to our clients.

Events – Existing Buildings

Davis Langdon recently hosted a series of information sessions, focusing on the recently launched *Existing Buildings Survival Strategies* publication that Davis Langdon authored with ARUP.

Davis Langdon Sydney held a boardroom lunch which was hosted by David Hartigan – Director of Project Management. Guests included The Hon. Catherine Cusack, MLC, the NSW Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Environmental

Sustainability. The Shadow Minister indicated that she found the focused discussion to be particularly informative in the context of the NSW oppositions policy setting objectives.

The *Existing Buildings Survival Strategies* publication was also well received at the Property Council Existing Building Summit 2 seminar. Davis Langdon's Managing Director, Mark Beattie, spoke at this event with input from Colliers on leasing and valuation.

At the Property Council QLD Sustainability Breakfast, Michael Manikas presented "Retrofitting in a Capital Constrained

Market" to over 80 industry professionals, eager to hear about the retrofit challenge. Michael presented alongside Adam Beck from ARUP on the *Existing Building Survival Strategies* publication while Jo Russell from Conics spoke about their 4 Star Green Star Office in Cairns.



David Hartigan, The Hon. Catherine Cusack, MLC and Michael Manikas

New Sydney PO Box

The Sydney office has recently changed its mailing address: **PO Box 1891, North Sydney, NSW, 2059**. The office's street address, phone number, fax number and email address remain unchanged.

Davis Langdon Specification Consultancy

The Problem:

A recent CSIRO survey shows that 60 – 90% of all building variations are due to poor design and documentation, and that substandard project documentation is estimated to equate to a financial loss exceeding \$12billion in the national construction budget every year!

The Solution:

We are the premier architectural specifications consulting company in the world with offices across five continents.

We have a united team of 10 in Australia and our combined efforts ensure superior specifications tailored to each procurement path, project size and sector. Our experienced consultants are construction professionals with backgrounds in architecture, construction, cost consultancy and contracts, backed up by a full time proof reader and researcher.

Our delivery is our point of difference – the personal touches and presence that make us part of your team, understanding your

design and evolving the specification as the design evolves.

With lessons learnt from consulting to the world's premier architects, we provide an approach and knowledge second to none.



Bligh Street, 6 Star Greenstar Office Design, Sydney.

Profiles – New Staff

Lachlan Figtree

Lachlan has 12 years experience in the property and construction industry and has worked in Australia and the UK. He has worked on a variety of roles mainly focusing on residential, commercial fit-out and education sectors.



Lachlan Figtree



Marcel Frei

Marcel Frei

Marcel has four year's work experience in the property and construction industry, previously working for Westfield Properties and Fletcher Construction, both in New Zealand.

Shane Berry - Associate Building Surveying

Shane has been involved in the building surveying profession for 12 years. His experience ranges from assessment and approval of domestic residential developments, aged/healthcare, commercial and retail buildings.

Promotions

Justin-Jones Gardiner - Associate Director Building Surveying

Justin brings to Davis Langdon 8 years of building surveying experience that covers Government and the private industry in both Australia and the UK.



Justin-Jones Gardiner



Shane Berry

Project Profile – St Mary's Villa

The development of a new 99 bed aged care facility in Concord is being project managed by Davis Langdon, with construction due to complete in April 2010. This project has provided a number of interesting challenges, with the provision of future proof aged care solutions requiring a combination of technologically

advanced but socially approachable designs. Our team aims to transfer the knowledge gained from this experience to the Aged Care Focus Group in order to benefit similar jobs. In an industry that is constantly required to deliver special care and attention on a daily basis, the question of how technology can be incorporated to benefit staff and encourage sustainable operating systems without compromising the personal touch is becoming more and more relevant.



Architects impression of completed St Mary's aged care facility.

For more details on any matters in this issue, or if you have an suggestions for future comment contact Ian Jackson – ijackson@davislangdon.com.au or call 02 9956 8822

