

Improving the property development environment

Who we are

The Western Cape Property Development Forum (WCPDF) is a registered non-profit organisation (246-760 NPO). It was founded in 2008 to create awareness and address the challenges that impede the property development industry, and to be the collective voice of the industry in the Western Cape. We focus on the full production line of private and public property projects and associated infrastructure provision.

We actively engage and lobby politicians and government representatives and provide detailed input and feedback on draft legislation and policy to make the public sector aware of the ramifications that decision-making processes and service delivery have on property development and, in turn, the economy and most importantly jobs.

While the industry is also impacted by national legislation, the most critical development issues tend to occur at ground level, and therefore our emphasis is regional. Property is produced at municipal level.

Our focus areas

- To be a representative body for the property development industry in the Western Cape that is recognised by relevant authorities, particularly in terms of the vital role it plays to the province's economy through investment and job creation
- To promote the interests of the property development industry
- To interpret and facilitate understanding between the authorities and our industry
- To inform our membership of changes in legislation and policies
- To co-operate with the various property-related professions in making the greater Western Cape sensitive to the need for property development
- To actively engage in the education of the industry.

Who we represent

The awareness we strive to create can only be achieved through ongoing networking and lobbying, and the Forum has therefore actively sought membership from the broadest spectrum of representative bodies from the various professions that rely on the industry so that we may be able to speak with one voice. As a result, and along with a number of independent professionals, including from the legal and financial sectors, that support the property production line, the Forum is very proud to have a number of formal industry organisations represented on our dedicated and highly active management committee. These include the following:

- Association of Construction Project Managers (ACPM)
- Association of South African Quantity Surveyors (ASAQS)
- Cape Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Cape Institute for Architects (CIfA)
- Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA)
- Development Action Group (DAG)

- Green Building Council of South Africa (GBCSA)
- Master Builders Association (MBA) Western Cape
- South African Association of Consulting Professional Planners (SAACPP)
- South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions (SACPCMP)
- South African Council for Planners (SACPLAN)
- South African Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors (SAFCEC)
- South African Institute of Black Property Practitioners (SAIBPP)
- South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE)
- South African Planning Institute (SAPI)
- South African Property Owners Association (SAPOA)
- Urban Design Institute of South Africa (UDISA)
- Wesgro
- Youth in Property Association (YIPA)

Our active workgroups

From among this dedicated group of non-executive volunteers, a number of currently active industry workgroups engaging with high-ranking officials at municipal, regional and national government levels include the following:

- Construction Alliance South Africa (CASA)¹
- Development contributions (DCs) and bulk infrastructural capacity
- Development finance
- District plan engagement and the “Purple Turtle”
- Engineering guidelines and standards
- Environmental and heritage management
- General transportation crisis
- Inclusionary housing (IH)
- Internship programme
- Media, communications, sponsorships, memberships and scholarships
- NHBRC
- Planning legislative status
- Procurement (RFPs, Public Tenders, Built Environment professionals and contractors)
- WCPDF Annual Conference and events
- Western Cape Government Economic War Room: Fixed capital & property development sector

Links to other organisations

Among a number of other achievements, we are proud of the fact that the WCPDF was instrumental in the creation of the Western Cape Government (WCG) Economic War Room, set up under the Office of the Premier of the Western Cape Government, Alan Winde. This led to the property development and construction sector being included in the WCG’s five economic areas deemed to be those most crucial to kickstarting the provincial economy and creating much-needed jobs.

The WCPDF was also one of the founding members and one of only two regional bodies to be included in the Construction Covid-19 Rapid Response Task team, which lobbied government for the reopening of construction sites and unblock relief measures for the industry.

¹ In January 2021, the Construction Alliance South Africa (CASA) was formalised out of the original Construction Covid-19 Rapid Response Task Team in order to continue the work begun during 2020 to reopen construction sites during lockdown.

From a research perspective, we have strong ties to the Urban Real Estate Research Unit (URERU) at the University of Cape Town. It was in collaboration with this Unit that the Property Development Process Model was created in a major effort to determine why the development process now takes as long as it does – the objective of which is to identify the blockages and find solutions to shorten the unwieldy timeframe.

The Forum is also linked to the Stellenbosch School of Public Leadership and its Stellenbosch Good Governance Forum, and works closely with the Property Committee of the Cape Law Society.

Our association with the Youth in Property Association (YIPA) and in turn the UCT 100UP programme enables us to play a part in driving transformation. Since 2018, we have hosted intern programmes with high school learners who may be encouraged to consider a career in one or other of the sectors in our industry, and ultimately we aim to set up of a bursary programme for post graduate students.

Membership benefits

A strong membership base is critical to the ongoing success of the organisation as it acts as the collective voice of the industry between the private and public sectors. Membership of the Western Cape Property Development Forum (WCPDF) is therefore open to property developers and property development-related professionals across the entire production line of property and construction.

Our members enable us to continue our work on behalf of our industry and, in particular, enable us to tackle “head on” the many challenges which currently face our economic future.

In return, we offer our members the following:

- First-hand and ongoing exchange of information on important private and public sector developments within the industry as they occur. This includes invitations to WCPDF, local government and Province-led workshops, presentations and events on critical issues.
- Up-to-date information on the latest legislative changes pertaining to development in the Western Cape. This includes access to and giving input on industry submissions on critical policy issues impacting property development and, in turn, being constantly kept in the loop on the outcomes of negotiations with government to streamline the development process.
- Discounts of up to 20% per delegate (for paid-up members) to attend WCPDF events such as the popular annual conference and “In Conversation” events.
- Opportunities to network with key property development role players in both the private and public sectors, as well as access to the WCPDF’s monthly and always highly topical newsletter.
- Access to a members-only page on our website, including:
 - Useful government contacts and industry links
 - Latest industry news
 - Information on the WCPDF’s workgroups – led by members of our management committee
 - Latest legislative and policy updates
 - Research undertaken and collated by the WCPDF and associated organisations
 - Past WCPDF newsletters.

The membership fee structure is as follows *(please note the WCPDF is not VAT registered):*

Number of employees	Individual	2 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 50	51 to 150	151+
Annual subscription	R1 450	R2 250	R3 350	R4 450	R6 650	R11 000

For more information and for membership fees visit our website: www.wcpdf.co.za