



# SAT

State  
Administrative  
Tribunal

Information Sheet

Western Australia

## Local Government Building Controls

Applications for reviews of decisions made by local governments under Part XV of the *Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1960* are now made to the State Administrative Tribunal.

However, the SAT is encouraging local governments to continue to resolve these issues by discussion.

Most of the applications involve orders from a local government to remove or alter a structure (Section 401). However, reviews can be brought under another 20 sections of the Act as well as Section 26 of the *Strata Titles Act 1985*.

### Application Forms

Application forms can be completed online using the SAT Wizard at [www.sat.justice.wa.gov.au](http://www.sat.justice.wa.gov.au) or printed forms can be obtained by telephoning the SAT.

### Special requirements for decisions makers

Local governments are required under Sections 21 & 22 of the *State Administrative Tribunal Act 2004* to provide the SAT with written reasons for their original decision.

### Reaching an agreement

In dealing with similar applications in the past, the Ministers for Local Government and Housing and Works found that matters could often be resolved amicably through discussion between the parties. The SAT will try to facilitate a similar outcome.

Therefore, after receiving an application, in most cases the SAT will send letters to the applicant and the local government, and the local government will be asked to attempt to resolve the matter by agreement. If an agreement is reached, no further involvement by the SAT may be necessary or consent orders may be made by the SAT.

### If an agreement cannot be reached

If agreement is not possible, the SAT may deal with the matter by:

- listing it for a directions hearing, where the parties will be required to attend and the future conduct of the matter will be decided; or
- considering the matter on the papers, with no appearances required.

The SAT's objective is to resolve questions according to the substantial merits of the case. The SAT will act speedily and with as little formality and technicality as practicable, while minimising costs to the parties.

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