



## Council lost in fog about professionals



***Greg Forgan-Smith of Forgan-Smith Architects***

The continuing debacle over interpretation of the government's Integrity Act 2009 is about grey matter. However, I'm saying it's the grey area of the Act that defines who is, or is not, an industry professional. It comes down to qualifications.

The essence of it is that people talking to council about any development issue should register their name with the State Government as a lobbyist unless they are a resident objector to a particular application; the owner of land with a development application or a professional person as defined in Claus 41.5 of the Act. The reason for all the confusion is over the definition of a professional – what constitutes a professional person and what constitutes otherwise between a person acting in an incidental manner to his or her fulltime occupation and that of a person fully engaged to represent a development application.

“The council and the Public Service Association (PSA) remain concerned about implications of individual officers rather than organisations or departments of government to be held responsible for any misdemeanours.”