

# TASMANIAN PLANNING REFORM – AN OVERVIEW

## What do the reforms include?

The Government has been undertaking planning reform to ensure planning in Tasmania will be simpler, fairer and more efficient.

### *Changes to the planning legislation*

In 2014 the Government first introduced changes to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act) to streamline the processes for finalising interim planning schemes and amending planning schemes, and a range of other measures to improve the planning system.

In late 2015, further amendments to the Act were made to provide for the introduction of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme (TPS) to deliver greater consistency in the planning rules across the State, providing greater certainty to investors and the community.

The Act has been further amended to expand the scope of the savings and transitional provisions. This will assist councils in preparing their Local Provisions Schedule for their municipal area, which when approved will form part of the TPS.

### *Tasmanian Planning Scheme*

The TPS has two key elements:

- (i) the State Planning Provisions (SPPs), which were made on 22 February 2017; and
- (ii) local councils' Local Provision Schedules (LPSs) which apply the SPPs at the municipal level. These are currently being prepared by councils.

The TPS will be one single planning scheme for Tasmania, replacing 30 planning schemes that currently exist. The LPSs will also contain the particular purpose zones, specific area plans and site-specific qualifications for each local council area which have been approved for unique sites.

### *Tasmanian Planning Policies*

The Government intends to introduce further legislation changes to prepare new Tasmanian Planning Policies to give strategic direction to Tasmania's planning system including principles to support economic development and the future needs of the community. These will be implemented predominantly through the regional land use strategies.

### *Major Projects*

The Government also intends to introduce further legislation to deliver on reforms for the assessment of major development proposals to make the process more efficient, provide greater certainty to

proponents earlier in the assessment process and improve transparency and public involvement.

## Who is doing what?

The planning reforms are being delivered through a number of State and local government bodies.

### *Department of Justice – Planning Policy Unit*

The Department of Justice's Planning Policy Unit (PPU) provides expert advice on planning issues including the development, maintenance and review of statewide content and guidance for Tasmania's planning system including the SPPs. It also advises on the development and review of legislation and strategic policy for the Minister for Planning and Local Government and the Secretary of the Department.

The PPU is working closely with local councils on transitioning existing Interim Planning Schemes to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

### *Tasmanian Planning Commission*

The Tasmanian Planning Commission is an independent body established under the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* that performs a range of statutory and advisory functions for land use, including assessing planning schemes and planning scheme amendments.

In moving to the TPS, the Commission will be responsible for the assessment process of Local Provision Schedules (LPS).

### *The Planning Reform Taskforce*

The Planning Reform Taskforce was established in 2014 to report to the Minister for Planning and Local Government on the planning reform agenda, particularly on the delivery of the TPS. It continues to provide advice as requested on broader planning reforms.

### *Local Councils and the Local Government Association Tasmania (LGAT)*

Local councils are the planning authorities responsible for implementing the TPS through the preparation of LPSs. Councils are working cooperatively at a regional level and through the LGAT with the PPU and the Commission to prepare work programs for the preparation of LPSs and to share issues and their resolution. The Department of Justice chairs a Steering Committee to coordinate the statewide progress of the LPS preparation.

## Where can I get more information?

General information about the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the preparation of Local Provisions Schedules can be found on the [Tasmanian Planning Reform website](#).

General enquiries about the Government's planning reform agenda and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme should be directed to:

Planning Policy Unit, Department of Justice  
GPO Box 825 HOBART TAS 7001  
Ph (03) 6166 1429  
email [planning.unit@justice.tas.gov.au](mailto:planning.unit@justice.tas.gov.au)

December 2017