



Premier's Report to the Community

Planning Reform – Questions and Answers

Why is the State Government making changes to Tasmania's planning system?

Planning reform is a key priority for the Government. We want Tasmania to be an even more attractive place to live and invest. Right now we are implementing some of the most important planning reforms we have ever seen. This will help boost confidence in our economy, ease the frustrations of home builders and developers and sustain jobs by encouraging investment.

What are some of the changes?

There are a whole range of changes being made to our planning system to make it more streamlined and user-friendly. One of the most significant is the new residential code that has just been announced. This will reduce costs, cut red tape and speed up approvals for single dwellings. In most cases people will no longer need planning approval if their application complies with the new code. Approvals will now be granted in a matter of days, not weeks or months, as was the case. This will not only reduce the time it takes to get building underway but potentially save hundreds of dollars in costs. We are also working with local councils around Tasmania to get new schemes in place to cover all types of approvals from residential to larger developments consistent with State-wide planning laws.

What is wrong with the current planning system?

A lack of consistency and certainty has been frustrating for local councils, developers and the general public. The changes will ease their frustrations because they will no longer have to work through a cumbersome planning process. Some local planning schemes are decades old.

Why has it taken the Government so long?

It is a very complex and time consuming task and we want to get it right. It is extremely important that we take Local Government with us and work collaboratively with all 29 councils and other stakeholders as we modernise the planning system. We need to strike the right balance between providing investor confidence and good planning outcomes. We should also acknowledge the efforts of all those involved particularly local councils for their work in bringing these reforms to fruition.

Is there more to be done to improve the planning system?

Our planning system is continuing to evolve. That is why the Government has committed \$6 million over the next four years to make further improvements and ensure it is kept up to date. We need to do this to ensure our planning laws keep pace with the aspirations of local communities and potential investors.

FIND OUT MORE

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