

## NEWSFRONT

themercury.com.au

# High-rises not in Labor's plan

## Policy launch rejects 'call-in' powers

SIMEON THOMAS-WILSON

LABOR has come out against high-rise development, unveiling the policy it will take to the state election.

Madeleine Ogilvie yesterday released the party's "cornerstone" planning and local government policy, saying Labor did not want to see skyscrapers in the city.

"People aren't being listened to when it comes to planning," she said.

The Labor policy will: **NOT** support "call in" powers as part of the State Government's major projects legislation that it says could allow the minister of the day to make decisions about "high-rises" and has no plans to change legislation for projects of State and Regional Significance.

**OFFER** a free planning advice phone service, funded by \$220,000 a year.

**PROVIDE** free, real-time information about planning applications and developments.

**REVIEW** the statewide planning scheme and the Reserve Activity Assessment process for developments by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

**ONLY** support voluntary amalgamations of councils.

It adds to Labor's existing



**POLICY:** Labor's Madeleine Ogilvie.

Picture: MATHEW FARRELL

policy of no restrictions on people using their primary place of residence for short-stay accommodation, but owners of an investment and secondary property being shared would be required to register with their local council.

But with the Tasmanian Planning Commission to soon provide a report on the State Government's deregulation of the industry, this could change.

Ms Ogilvie said the policy was about communities making decisions on planning.

She said that was especially the case around Labor not supporting the ability of a minister to call in a development as part of the Liberal election promise on major projects legislation.

"This legislation about granting yourself call-in powers ... is not the Labor way," she said.

Planning Minister Peter Gutwein has said the major projects legislation would not be used for skyscrapers.

He said the Labor policy supported the Liberal agenda.

"[It] includes supporting our statewide planning scheme, our already announced review of the Reserve Activity Assessment process and iplan, which is already in place, and provides for real-time tracking of planning approvals."

Community group Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania and the Tasmanian Conservation Trust "cautiously welcomed" Labor's policy.