

Planning scheme details on way

LORETTA LOHBERGER

PLANNING Minister Peter Gutwein says he expects to release more details early next year about the Government's statewide planning scheme.

Mr Gutwein said he yesterday received the Tasmanian Planning Commission's report on the draft state planning provisions which form the base of the new scheme.

"When I finalise the SPPs, which I expect will be early in the new year, I will release the commission's report, and set out the reasons for making any modifications to the SPPs as they were drafted," he said.

Mr Gutwein said more than 300 public representations were received.

"While the SPPs will set the statewide planning rules to deliver on the Government's commitment for a fairer, faster, cheaper and simpler planning system, local councils will apply them to their local areas by determining the zoning of land in their local provisions schedules," he said.

Hundreds have attended public meetings in recent weeks to voice concerns.

Opponents have claimed Tasmanians could lose appeal and consultation rights under the new scheme and were concerned about the effect of having the same rules across all residential areas.

In a submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission, the National Trust has asked for greater consideration to be given to protect the look and feel of the state's historic villages.

Mr Gutwein said the Government would work with councils to help them protect local character.

"Neither the finalisation of the SPPs nor any of the recent changes to the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 change the rights of the community to have a say about discretionary development applications or lodge any subsequent appeals," Mr Gutwein said.

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