

NEWSFRONT

Pressure grows over changes to planning

ALEXANDRA HUMPHRIES

SEVEN more community groups have added their voices to calls for Local Government Minister Peter Gutwein to release the Tasmanian Planning Commission's report on the proposed state planning provisions.

An alliance of 27 community groups have now joined forces to highlight concerns

about the Government's plan changes.

The Government is developing a single statewide planning scheme, which will incorporate state planning provisions as well as local provision schedules for each municipal area. The TPC presented its report to Mr Gutwein on December 9.

Alliance co-ordinator Sophie Underwood, of the Frey-

cinet Action Network, said the Government's refusal to release the report lacked transparency and due process.

"Collectively, we are concerned that Minister Gutwein's planning rules benefit developers by reducing protection for important values, decreasing assessment rigour or removing community participation in development decisions," she said.

East Coast resident Grant

Gaffney's group No Fish Farms in Tasmania's East Coast Waters said the proposed provisions would not address the fact aquaculture was exempt from the planning scheme.

Acting Local Government Minister Matthew Groom said the planning commission's report would be released when the Government finalised planning provisions early next year.

He said the Government

was considering the report and seeking further advice.

Other groups in the alliance include BirdLife Tasmania, Blackmans Bay Residents Action Group, Environment Tasmania, Huon Valley Residents and Ratepayers Association, South Hobart Progress Association, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Tasmanian National Parks Association and The Wilderness Society.