

Make planning decision properly public

PLANNING is an issue that transcends party politics and generations. It affects everyone and it is time to take politics out of planning.

Good planning should genuinely and effectively engage the community in a long-term view on how we want our cities, towns, rural areas and wilderness to be in 50 years' time. This has not happened in the current circumstances.

Good planning should be visionary as well as functional, and of course must be integrated with infrastructure needs.

The LUPAA 1993 Act objectives and

Resource Management Planning System of the 1990s captured these concepts beautifully.

The proposed new statewide planning scheme, especially the draft state planning provisions (SPPs) are causing great concern, misgivings and distress across wide swathes of the community.

Three thousand issues were raised in submissions on the draft SPPs in May and the Tasmanian Planning Commission is soon to deliver its conclusion to the Planning Minister.

It is important that what so many

people have spent the past seven months working on, written submissions and public hearings, whether representers, planners or TPC commissioners, should be available to the public.

This is vital to demonstrate the independence of the commission and rebuild trust in the whole process.

The commission is urged to make public their conclusions and ideally also their formal report to the Planning Minister.

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