

28-10-16

# Property council backs new planning legislation

**ALEXANDRA HUMPHRIES**  
Urban Affairs Reporter

TASMANIA'S Property Council says it supports improvements to planning legislation, following the State Government's confirmation that proposed changes will be ready for consultation early next year.

Property Council Tasmania executive director Brian Wightman said including call-in powers and restrictions on third-party appeals in the state's planning legislation would strengthen confidence in Tasmania's development sector.

The State Government has confirmed that legislation is being developed to replace the Projects of Regional Significance legislation "because it has proven to be ineffective".

The new legislation will include call-in powers, a process of in-principle approval, and a development assessment panel.

Mr Wightman said he wanted to see more detail, but the changes were sound.

"The strengthening of planning legislation, which ensures job-creating investments are approved in a more streamlined and consistent fashion, is always most welcomed," he said. Mr Wightman said the council had championed the establishment of a development assessment panel for years.

Local Government Association of Tasmania chief executive Katrena Stephenson said the Projects of Regional Significance legislation was being under used.

She said councillors and aldermen could "lose their voice" when making planning decisions, because they were required to follow stringent guidelines, rather than being able to represent the views of their communities.