

Heritage rift deepens

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GLENORCHY commissioner Sue Smith wants Planning Minister Peter Gutwein to take back responsibility for the evaluation of local heritage precincts.

The work has been mooted as a council responsibility under the proposed Statewide Planning Provisions.

In February, Mr Gutwein announced Tasmania would

implement a single, statewide planning scheme. It would include councils taking responsibility for deciding what protection is needed for local heritage places and precincts, landscape precincts, places of archaeological significance, and significant trees.

The Glenorchy council is the latest to voice its concern over the cost and time needed.

"It's a big issue for large and small councils," Ms Smith said.

"All councils have heritage

buildings in their area and while it's more about time for larger councils such as Hobart and Glenorchy having to prepare statements for their numerous heritage buildings, smaller councils are going to have issues with costs," she said.

"The heritage issues are quite difficult."

At today's meeting of Glenorchy City Council, Ms Smith and council staff will discuss how the council can im-

plement the statewide scheme.

Ms Smith said she had written to Mr Gutwein advising him of the time frame and resourcing costs of preparing local historic heritage statements and asking him to remove this "onerous requirement".

"It's a \$50,000 cost to do it and it is estimated to take seven months to do so," Ms Smith said.

"At its council meeting, Hobart said it would be ex-

tremely difficult for them to prepare all those statements, and it will be no different at Glenorchy."

Glenorchy council staff say the \$50,000 cost for a consultant to prepare the statements has not been budgeted by Glenorchy.

Staff say if that if the council is forced to complete the task in-house, it will significantly increase the time for completion and affect local planning submissions to the

Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Mr Gutwein has previously said he hopes councils will determine how the new rules apply locally, over the next six to nine months.

Additional support for councils to carry out the transition is expected to be part of next month's State Budget.

A State Government spokesman said Ms Smith's letter and request would be considered.