

Deputy Premier
Minister for Education and Skills
Minister for Planning and Workplace Relations

Submission 4

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Mayor Mike Gaffney
Latrobe Council
PO Box 63
Latrobe Tas 7307

Dear Mayor Gaffney

Thank you for your correspondence of 15 February 2008 directed to the previous Minister for Planning regarding the Resource Planning and Development Commission's (RPDC) recent decision on the combined rezoning and subdivision application for Closed Residential lots at Hawley Beach.

I share some of your concerns about natural justice being denied in situations where the RPDC determines to reject the draft amendment but does not provide an opportunity for the Council to address or rebut the grounds for refusal.

In respect of this matter, recent changes to the *Land Use and Planning Approvals Act 1993* allow the RPDC to hold a hearing in cases where no representations are received. This will go some way to rectifying the problem you have raised in future by providing an opportunity to examine, adduce and test all the relevant information through the same public process that applies when representations are received.

However, I believe there is still potential to further improve processes and the Review of the Tasmanian Planning System recently announced by my predecessor Steve Kons provides such an opportunity. As your letter is pertinent to this review, I will ensure it is treated as a submission and your issues brought to the attention of the Steering Committee.

Thank you for bringing your views to my attention.

Yours sincerely

David Bartlett MP
Minister for Planning and Workplace Relations