FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will the Tasmanian Planning Scheme look like?

It is proposed that the Tasmanian Planning Scheme will consist of two parts:

* a set of statewide planning controls (State Planning Provisions); and
* Local Provisions Schedules that contain the Local Planning Provisions for each local area

Who will prepare the Tasmanian Planning Scheme?

The Taskforce is undertaking initial drafting of the State Planning Provisions, in consultation with local government and stakeholders. The Minister will approve the final version for public exhibition.

The draft Bill will provide that the Minister or, where directed by the Minister the Tasmanian Planning Commission, will be able to prepare draft State Planning Provisions, including amendments to these.

Planning authorities will prepare the Local Provisions Schedules, in accordance with the templates provided as part of the State Planning Provisions.

Will I be able to make representations on the Scheme?

The draft Bill provides that any person can make a representation on the draft State Planning Provisions.

The processes for making representations on the State and Local Planning Provisions are similar to the processes under the current Act for planning schemes.

How will representations on the draft Scheme be dealt with?

State Planning Provisions

The draft Bill provides that the Commission will undertake the statutory assessment of representations on the draft State Planning Provisions and report to the Minister.

After receiving this advice the Minister will decide if the State Planning Provisions need to be modified prior to their declaration.

Local Provisions Schedules

Representations on the draft Local Provisions Schedules will be able to be made on the Local Planning Provisions and the application of the State Planning Provisions to the local area. Representations will not be able to be made on the content of the State Planning Provisions, which are subject to a separate process.

The draft Bill provides that the Commission will undertake the statutory assessment of representations on the draft Local Provisions Schedules.

The role of planning authorities and the Commission in the making of Local Planning Schedules will be similar to their roles under the current Act for local planning schemes.

How will the Scheme be amended?

The proposed process for amending State Planning Provisions is similar to the process for making the initial provisions.

The processes for amending Local Provisions Schedules will be similar to the current processes for amending planning schemes.

The Minister will be able to direct planning authorities to amend their Local Provisions Schedules for certain purposes, including to be consistent with a State Planning Provision.

The processes for combined permit and amendment applications and minor amendments to permits will be retained.

The draft Bill also retains exemptions from the requirement for public exhibition for certain minor and administrative types of amendments where the public interest will not be prejudiced.

How will the Scheme be reviewed?

The draft Bill provides that the Minister must keep the State Planning Provisions under regular and periodic review.

It provides that planning authorities must also regularly review their Local Provisions Schedules to ensure they remain consistent with the State Planning Provisions.

The Minister would also be able to direct planning authorities to review their Local Planning Schedules at any time, including in light of any new State Planning Provisions.

What is happening with the interim planning schemes?

The changes to the Act that commenced on 1 January 2015 provide a more streamlined process for finalising the interim planning schemes, to allow for the Tasmanian Planning Scheme to be introduced.

It is anticipated that all interim planning schemes will be finalised by the end of 2015.

How will the new state planning policies be developed?

Once the Tasmanian Planning Scheme is in place, the Government will develop new state planning policies to support Tasmania’s planning system.

It is anticipated these new policies will cover a range of matters to support economic development, and the future needs of the community.

The Government intends to commence consultation on the development of state planning policies in the second half of 2016.

How will the new state planning policies be used?

The new state planning policies will inform a review of Tasmania’s three regional land use strategies and the first review of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

Will the current State Policies be reviewed?

Once the new state planning policies have been developed, the Government will consider whether any review of the current State Policies under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* may be required.

What will happen to the Regional Land Use Strategies?

The Government recognises the important role of regional strategies in guiding strategic planning and the spatial application of zones across the State.

Once the Tasmanian Planning Scheme is in place the Government will consider whether any changes may be required to the regional strategic planning framework to support the implementation of the Scheme and the new state planning policies.

As noted above, the new state planning policies, once finalised, will guide a review of the three Regional Land Use Strategies.

What is happening with the other planning reforms?

The Government intends to introduce further legislation to implement a range of other planning-related reforms, following the development of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

This includes the Government’s election commitments relating to major projects, ministerial call-in powers and third-party appeals.