

The Hon. Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Human Services
Minister for Housing
Minister for Planning
House of Assembly
Parliament House, Hobart, 7000

By email: minister.jaensch@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re: Proposed Residential Housing Supply Bill 2018

I am writing to you in response to your request for feedback on the draft 2018 Residential Housing Supply Bill.

At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the leadership the Tasmanian Government has shown on the issue of regulation of the short-term rental accommodation industry. We strongly believe that the policy framework outlined so far by the Tasmanian Government will ensure a strong tourism sector that drives continued economic growth and job creation.

On the topic of the proposed Residential Housing Supply Bill, HomeAway broadly supports the intent and direction of the draft Bill. However, we are awaiting the finalisation of the details and text of the Bill before forming our final position. Specifically, we await confirmation that the Bill will not grant the Minister the power to direct the acquisition of private property without the formal consent of the owner. This is an important issue for HomeAway, as we do not support the acquisition of properties that are engaged in short-term rental accommodation activities for the purpose of creating additional supply in the long-term rental market, unless the owner consents to the acquisition by the Tasmanian Government. Without this important protection in place, we fear that confidence in both Tasmania's housing market and tourism sector will be undermined.

Further, as a general point, HomeAway supports measures that will increase the supply of residential property in Tasmania. Increasing the supply of residential property is the main solution for improving housing affordability and accessibility. To that end, we stand ready to advise the Tasmanian Government on further measures that will strike the right balance between ensuring a strong tourism sector and improved housing accessibility in Tasmania.

I am available to discuss the contents of this letter further and can be contacted on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] to arrange a meeting.

Regards,

Eacham Curry
Director, Corporate and Government Affairs
HomeAway

Monday, 14 May 2018

cc: planning.unit@justice.tas.gov.au, haveyoursay@justice.tas.gov.au

About HomeAway

HomeAway, based in Austin, Texas, is a leading online marketplace for the vacation rental industry with sites representing more than two million unique places to stay in 190 countries, and is part of the Expedia Group family of brands. For more information about HomeAway please visit www.homeaway.com.au. © 2018 HomeAway. All rights reserved. HomeAway and the HomeAway logo are trademarks of HomeAway. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.