

PLANNING FOR PEOPLE

BUILDING BACK GREENER & FAIRER: A GREEN NEW DEAL FOR LUTRUWITA/TASMANIA

BACKGROUND

In 100 years, we want our environment to be as beautiful and diverse as it is today. Communities know the value of their characterful cities, towns, rural areas and wild places. In a shrinking world, difference is rare and valuable.

In 2015, the Liberal Government brought in legislation for a new Tasmanian Planning Scheme. While many groups supported the concept of a consistent, statewide scheme, there was general consensus the Liberals' model was too prescriptive in its one-size-fits-all approach.

The legislation has been criticised for placing too much power in the hands of the Minister, opening up an avenue for developer influence, and limiting meaningful public consultation.

Communities should have the ability to decide the character of their own place, and protect public open space and heritage. The Greens will reorient our planning system to prioritise the interests of locals and return the right in law to have real input into, and to appeal, decisions.

Not only is our current planning system not working for communities, but government piecemeal policy decisions have left us with a population settlement boom that hasn't been supported by infrastructure planning. Tasmania is now in the grips of a housing crisis, there's serious congestion problems in fast growing areas, and developments are eating into habitat for rare and threatened species.

We need to properly establish the policy and legislative settings so that governments can undertake holistic forward planning and engage with their communities about changes to the places they love.

A Better Statewide Planning Scheme

We will introduce amendments to the law, and alterations to the statewide planning scheme implementation process, so that planning decisions remain independent of the minister, protect local character, are informed by a strategic vision, and empower communities to meaningfully have input into decision-making.

Planning Appeals

We will establish a Queensland-style tribunal for appeals to planning decisions. This will adopt an informal process, deliver decisions in plain English, and prohibit legal representation (unless exceptional circumstances exist, or both parties agree to waive this right).

Tasmanian Planning Commission

We will return decision-making, policy-making, and advisory powers to the Tasmanian Planning Commission. We will ensure they are resourced to perform their vital functions.

Biodiversity Mapping

We will develop an ongoing program of comprehensive biodiversity monitoring, as well as maintain critical biodiversity overlays. We will train a Job Guarantee workforce to undertake data collection, and develop a suite of tools to assist citizen scientists to share their data.

State Policies

We will review and update the three existing State Policies, and develop six new State Policies, around the big issues that determine our state's security, the quality of every person's life, and our democracy:

- Climate change
- Settlement, transport and infrastructure
- Biodiversity management
- Public consultation
- Health and well-being
- Cultural preservation

State Planning

The Department of State Growth will become the Department of State Planning. As part of this restructure, the offices of Chief Engineer, State Architect, and State Demographer will be established.

The Tasmanian Greens acknowledge and pay respect to the palawa/pakana people as the original owners and ongoing custodians of lutruwita/Tasmania. We are committed to Truth, Treaty, Justice, and the return of lands.