

Latest news from Planning Policy - September 2021



The Planning Policy Unit is continuing to work hard to build, implement, and improve Tasmania's new planning system. Please check the [Tasmanian Planning Reform](#) website for ongoing updates.

Important updates

Tasmanian Planning Policies – Scoping Paper released

The Minister for Local Government and Planning is seeking input on the scope of the draft [Tasmanian Planning Policies](#) (TPPs). The TPPs will cover important issues not just for planners and decision makers, but for all Tasmanians. You are invited to review the scope of the indicative draft TPPs and think about what other topics and issues should be included.

Visit the Department of Justice [Community Consultation](#) website for how to comment on the [Tasmanian Planning Policies Scoping Paper for draft TPPs](#). All written submissions on this consultation must be received by **5:00 pm Friday, 22 October 2021**.

Phase 2: Planning Reforms

In the recent State Budget, the Government committed \$3.45 million over the next 3 years toward the Phase 2 Planning Reforms. This is in line with the key planning recommendation in the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council Final Report. Over the coming months, the program for those reforms will be developed in consultation with regional organisations, local government and other stakeholders.

The following provides a status snapshot for the Phase 2 Planning Reforms:

- [Tasmanian Planning Policies](#) – public comment currently sought on scoping paper (**ends 22 October 2021**)
- Improve the regional land use strategy framework and processes for preparing, assessing, reviewing and consulting the community – Discussion Paper to be drafted for public consultation.
- Data collection and analysis to facilitate the updates – councils and regions being provided funding to commence projects that inform regional land use strategy updates and for carrying through into the comprehensive review of regional strategies.

- Recent updates to the current regional land use strategies –
 - [Amended Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy \(23 June 2021\)](#)
 - [Amended Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy \(22 Sept 2021\)](#)
- Comprehensive review of the regional land use strategies – to follow the making of the Tasmanian Planning Policies and improvements to the regional land use strategy framework.

Planning Policy Unit move to DPAC

The Government recently announced the Planning Policy Unit (PPU) will move from the Department of Justice to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC). The move will provide clearer separation between the PPU and the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) and reduce some of the confusion around their respective roles – with the PPU focussed on providing policy advice, and the TPC undertaking independent statutory assessments. The TPC will remain administratively part of the Department of Justice.

Moving the PPU into DPAC also recognises that the important work that the PPU undertakes in delivering the Government’s planning reform agenda, crosses all portfolios and requires a whole-of-Government perspective and inter-Agency engagement. Locating the PPU within DPAC will better enable them to perform this central role.

New Look for Planning Reform Website – coming soon

The PPU has been updating the current ‘Tasmanian Planning Reforms’ website to help Tasmanians better understand our planning system.

The site will have the same weblink: <https://www.planningreform.tas.gov.au/> but we are improving the layout to make it more user friendly. The main difference to the updated site will be the 2 distinct paths:

- the Tasmanian Planning System (as currently in operation), and
- Tasmanian Planning Reforms and Current Consultations.

The website will continue to evolve.

While we will aim to keep you informed of upcoming changes, we invite you to check our website regularly. We also invite your feedback on how our website may be improved in the future.

Coastal Hazards Codes

Coastal erosion and coastal inundation are natural processes that have the potential to significantly harm people, properties, communities, industries, infrastructure and the environment.

The State Planning Provisions (SPPs) include a **Coastal Erosion Hazard Code** and a **Coastal Inundation Hazard Code** that operate alongside:

- the [Building Act 2016](#) and [Building Regulations 2016](#); and

- Determinations issued by the Director of Building Control regarding building requirements in coastal hazard areas.

Together, these regulations reduce risk in areas vulnerable to coastal hazards and contribute to a safe and sustainable working, living and recreational environment on Tasmania's coast.

Key documents have been prepared to assist with understanding the Coastal Erosion Hazard Code and the Coastal Inundation Hazard Code and assist with the preparation of an application for a permit in a coastal hazard area. View the documents on the [Planning Reform Website](#).

Minister announces intention to issue Planning Directive No. 8

The Minister for Local Government and Planning has announced his intention to issue [draft Planning Directive No. 8 – Exemptions, Application Requirements, Special Provisions and Zone Provisions](#) (draft Planning Directive No. 8) in accordance with the recent amendments made to the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (LUPA Act).

Draft Planning Directive No. 8 brings into effect certain parts of the State Planning Provisions (SPPs) through the remaining interim planning schemes during the transition to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. It is currently in effect through [Interim Planning Directive No. 4](#). The SPPs are also now in effect in several municipalities through the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

Submissions received by the Tasmanian Planning Commission on draft Planning Directive No. 8 are published on their [Assessments webpage](#).

The Planning Policy Unit has prepared a detailed summary report on the issues raised in the submissions published on the [Planning Reform website](#).

Reissuing of COVID-19 Emergency Notices

On 13 September 2021, the Premier reissued the following notices under the [COVID-19 Disease Emergency \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 2020](#) (COVID-19 Act):

- Section 13 Notice – Extension of time to substantially commence in accordance with a planning permit
- Section 15 Notice – Protection from offence against planning law for health services
- Section 19 Notice – Alternative arrangements for the public exhibition of Local Provisions Schedules and State Planning Provisions
- Section 19 Notice – Alternative arrangements for the public exhibition of development applications and planning scheme amendments

On 1 September 2021, the Attorney General also reissued the Section 20 Notice under the COVID-19 Act relating to the proceedings for the Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal.

More information of the reissued COVID-19 Emergency Notices is available on the [Planning Reform website](#).

Update on Local Provisions Schedules assessments

The rollout of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme continues across municipalities as the individual Local Provisions Schedules are approved for each council.

The Central Highlands Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) is currently on exhibition for comment and can be viewed through the [Tasmanian Planning Commission website](#).

The Tasmanian Planning Commission has directed modifications to the Clarence and Central Coast LPSs prior to their final approval.

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme is now in effect through the LPSs approved within Brighton Council, Burnie City Council, Circular Head Council, Devonport City Council, Glenorchy City Council, Meander Valley Council, and West Coast Council.

Other Information

Tasmanian Housing Strategy - Communities Tasmania have commenced developing a strategy to drive practical actions and more sustainable housing market outcomes across Tasmania for all Tasmanians. Visit the project's website:

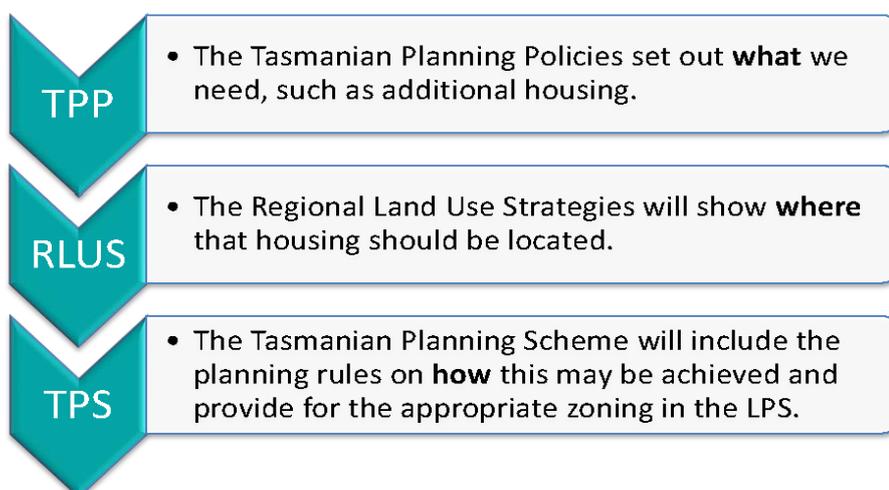
www.communities.tas.gov.au/tasmanianhousingstrategy

Did you know

Did you know that the [Tasmanian Planning Policies](#) will:

- provide strategic principles to guide the regional objectives and planning directions within the regional land use strategies
- provide the context for future reviews of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme's standard planning rules, being the State Planning Provisions (SPPs)
- guide the spatial application of the SPPs, being the Local Provisions Schedules (LPS).

For example, a TPP on Liveable Settlements might work as follows:



Spotlight on Planning Policy Unit

Introducing the Assistant Director of PPU, Sean McPhail



Sean grew up on a farm in north-west NSW. He attended the University of Queensland in Brisbane during the 1990s completing a Bachelor of Science with Honours majoring in botanical and ecological studies. Sean first worked for Greening Australia in Brisbane and then as a natural resource officer undertaking vegetation surveys along the railway corridors of far north coast and north-west NSW for the preparation of environmental management plans.

In 2003, Sean moved to Tasmania to complete a Masters of Environmental Planning at the University of Tasmania. It was during this year that he joined the Resource Planning and Development Commission (now the Tasmanian Planning Commission) kick starting his career as a town planner. Since then, Sean has worked at Hobart City Council, the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority and the former Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources. He also spent 2 and half years working in Canberra managing the Estates Development Team for the ACT Territory Government. He returned to the Tasmanian Planning Commission in 2012 before being seconded to the Planning Reform Taskforce and assisted with the preparation of the State Planning Provisions.

He lives in Taroona with his wife and son and cycles to work every day (rain, hail or shine). He also enjoys tending his large garden, bushwalking, listening to a variety of music, playing veterans cricket, and ferrying his son around to his various sporting commitments.

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We invite you to visit the [Tasmanian Planning Reform](#) website regularly as we keep you up to date with the latest planning information available including key information for:

- [The Tasmanian Planning Scheme](#)
- [State Planning Provisions \(SPPs\)](#)
- [Tasmanian Planning Scheme - Fact sheets](#)
- [Information on Local Provisions Schedules \(LPSs\)](#)

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