Local Government Association Tasmania

Our Ref: ME | LR

22 October 2024

Mr Sean McPhail
Acting Director
State Planning Office
Department of Premier and Cabinet

Via email: yoursay.planning@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Sean

Amendment to the State Coastal Policy 1996 – Development on Actively Mobile Landforms

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposed amendments to the State Coastal Policy 1996, as outlined in the 'Review of the State Coastal Policy – Development of Actively Mobile Landforms Position Paper'. The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) has consulted with its members to prepare this submission.

Local government uniquely positioned in development

Local government has a special statutory and community representation role when it comes to development. Councils' roles under the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* means that they stand at the convergence point in the planning system of all the planning legislation and statutory instruments, of state and development industry players, and of communities. This makes them the primary managers and mediators of growth and change in the state and central to planning policy. This includes the State Policies under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.

This role gives local government unique experience and expertise in development policy implementation and regulation. Their input can help create more effective and efficient State policy. We advise putting local government at the forefront of your engagement efforts when creating and reviewing State development policy. This will help the Government deliver a better outcome in all development policy reforms.

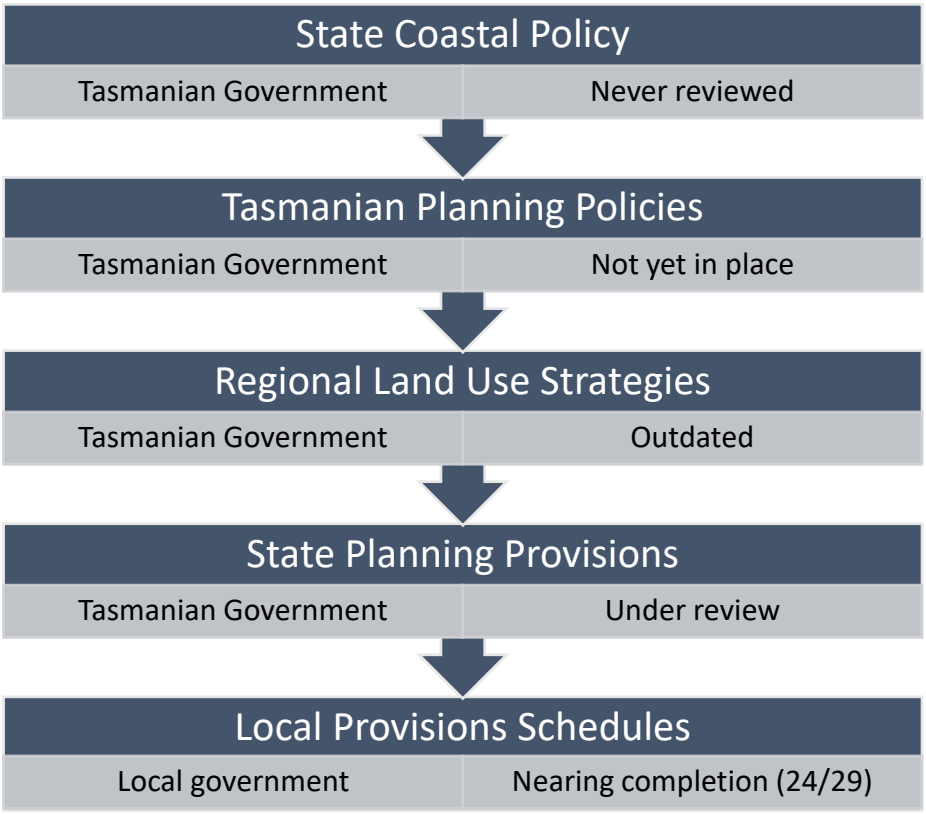
Amendments generally supported

Our consultation found that councils generally supported the proposed amendments. Councils supported moving from outright prohibition of development on actively mobile landforms to a risk and performance based assessment. This is consistent with contemporary development planning practices.

Councils also agree on the need for an improved definition of 'actively mobile landform' to improve clarity for proponents and regulators alike. Mapping is part of delivering better clarity and improved regulatory efficiency, so is strongly supported.

Broader review of the State Coastal Policy sought

Overall, councils appreciate efforts to continually improve the policy framework, including the State Coastal Policy. However, these amendments are limited and councils recognise the need to maintain our policy and regulatory instruments. The State Coastal Policy is nearly 30 years old with the last amendments 15 years ago. Tighter, less ambiguous and more unequivocal language is needed. Contemporary regulatory practices and climate change science need to be applied. Subordinate planning instruments, like the State Planning Provisions, also need amending to properly align to and be consistent with revised superior instruments, such as State Policies.



Councils urge the Tasmanian Government to commit to a wholesale review of the Policy, and schedule this, not immediately, but as soon as possible after the current suite of planning reforms.

Please contact Michael Edrich, Senior Policy Advisor, if you have any questions or would like further information, at michael.edrich@lgat.tas.gov.au or 03 6146 3740.

Yours sincerely



Dion Lester
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER