

7 May 2020

Planning Policy Unit
Department of Justice

Planning.Unit@justice.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Major Projects Legislation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Major Projects) Bill 2020 (the Bill).

LGAT is incorporated under the Local Government Act 1993 and is the representative body and advocate for Local Government in Tasmania. LGAT fully supports councils who have made individual submissions to the consultation process and in turn, supports the content and opinions expressed within those submissions.

The third round of consultation on the updated Bill is noted and supported and there are a number of improvements in this Bill, from its predecessor, that LGAT supports, in particular

- The reinstatement of the ability for a planning authority to refer a proposal for consideration for declaration as a major project;
- The removal of the previous exclusion of projects on the basis of height alone; and
- Clarification that a proposal cannot be declared a major project if it would be in contravention of a State Policy or Tasmanian Planning Policy or is inconsistent with the relevant regional land use strategy.

There is one residual area of concern in the Bill. Section 60ZL requires that a Panel must only publicly exhibit draft assessment guidelines if in relation to a “bilateral agreement project”. While we recognise the need to create an expedient assessment process, in this instance the removal of the public exhibition of the draft assessment guidelines in all instances (refer to 60ZL (5) in the previous Bill) unnecessarily compromises public participation.

It is imperative that the public have the opportunity to provide input into the final assessment guidelines, given they are being developed on a project by project basis. It is suggested the contents of the previous Bill's clause 60ZL (5) be reinstated.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact dion.lester@lgat.tas.gov.au or via phone on (03) 6146 3742.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrena Stephenson'.

Dr Katrena Stephenson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER