



Local Government Association Tasmania

MEDIA RELEASE

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Planning System Not Broken

“It is unfortunate that the body representing some of the State’s major property developers continues to fail to understand how the planning system works,” commented the President of the Local Government Association, Mayor Barry Easter today.

“Always quick to criticize, the Property Council simply seeks to overlay national solutions to a State system that is not broken,” he said. “We do not have the delays that other States encounter, we don’t have the complex referral arrangements that other States have to endure, and councils are a one-stop-shop for the majority of development applications lodged.”

“Finding solutions to problems that don’t exist in Tasmania seems to be the modus operandi of the Property Council. Propositions such as establishing expert panels, just because they exist in two other States, fails to recognise how the current system works and that the vast majority of development applications are dealt with well inside the 42-day timeline,” Mayor Easter said.

Mayor Easter went on to say that 80-90% of development applications in the State are dealt with via delegation to expert council officers. “The suggestion that the elected members of councils don’t have the capacity or the understanding is both ignorant and offensive. Councils are charged with the role of planning authorities and councillors take that role very seriously,” he said. “What fails to be understood in this debate is that the planning system exists for everybody – not just developers. Other people have rights as well, and councils develop planning schemes that take into account the values of communities and the land use needs of the people living in their municipalities,” Mayor Easter said.

“Councils welcome good development that is well-considered and takes into account the requirements of planning schemes. Local Government is presently working with the State Government to develop a consistency across municipal boundaries in adopting a template planning scheme and has already delivered three regional land use strategies.”

“It would be a useful exercise for the Property Council to praise the good things that are happening in this State for once, rather than constantly talking everything and everybody down,” Mayor Easter added.

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For media enquiries, contact LGAT President Barry Easter on 0408 334 936.