

Government must extend consultation period for planning reform

Tasmanian Labor Media Release

Published May 17, 2016 (two days before deadline for submissions)

- **Liberal Government has failed to engage on planning reform**
- **Significant reform proposed without proper consultation**
- **Not too late for consultation period to be extended**

Shadow Planning Minister Lara Giddings has called on the government to extend the public consultation period for its new State Planning Provisions.

“The period for public comment ends tomorrow and the feedback I’ve received is the Government has failed genuinely engage with Tasmanians,” Ms Giddings said.

“The public awareness campaign has been virtually invisible.

“We are talking about significant changes to the planning system and yet very few people even know that there is public consultation underway.

“If the Government wants community support for its reforms, it must take the community with it.

“There’s been nothing that spells out the Government’s intentions in plain English.

“There have been no public forums, no brochures and no radio or television advertisements to help stimulate interest, understanding and public discussion of the reforms.

“Constituents and councils I have spoken to are concerned about the long-term social, economic and environmental outcomes will be.

“There are questions around residential rezoning which will allow for infill developments across the state.

“There are also concerns around scenic protection provisions, with some zones having no protection at all.

“The deletion of the Stormwater Code will mean permits will no longer be required for larger developments which could impact on council infrastructure.

“There are also concerns around the watering down of environmental protections.

“It’s not too late for Peter Gutwein to extend the consultation period and properly engage with local communities about his proposed reforms.

“Labor supports planning reform but the eight week consultation period has not been adequate.

“If the Government is going to achieve long-lasting reform it must have the broad support of the community.”