

Annual Report
2007-2008

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Resource Planning and Development Commission
GPO Box 1691
Hobart Tasmania 7001
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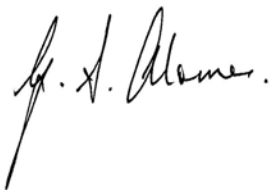
16 October 2008

The Hon Allison Ritchie MHA
Minister for Planning
Level 5
15 Murray Street
Hobart Tasmania 7000

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 19 of the *Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997* I submit, for presentation to Parliament, a report on the activities of the Commission during 2007-2008.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Alomes'.

Greg Alomes
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 *Formation of the Commission*

The *Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997* established the Resource Planning and Development Commission (“the Commission”) as a statutory body.

From 1 January 1998 the Commission assumed the functions of the Public Land Use Commission, Sustainable Development Advisory Council and Land Use Planning Review Panel.

The Commission oversees the State’s planning system, state of the environment reporting, and assesses draft State policies, public land use issues and projects of State significance.

1.2 *Membership*

The Commission is constituted by a full-time Executive Commissioner, and five part-time Commissioners.

Executive Commissioner

Greg Alomes

Commissioners (as at 30 June 2008)

- A Commissioner with planning experience nominated by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (Sandra Hogue)
- A Commissioner with planning experience and experience in industry and commerce (Jamieson Allom)
- A Commissioner with resource conservation or planning experience representing community interests (Roger Howlett)
- A Commissioner with public administration experience in regard to project implementation (Helen Hudson)
- A Commissioner with expertise and management experience in resource conservation (vacant)

1.3 *Functions of the Commission*

The Commission has the functions imposed, and the powers conferred on it by various Acts of Parliament, and has the following principal functions:

- to assess and approve draft planning schemes and draft amendments to planning schemes;
- to assess projects of State significance;
- to assess draft State Policies;
- to prepare the Tasmanian State of the Environment Report;
- to conduct inquiries into the use and management of public land, and
- to review the representations and the report of the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment relating to draft water management plans
- to consider the draft development plan and any representations, statements and recommendations contained in a report of the Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority

1.4 *Legislative Framework*

The manner in which the Commission operates is directed by *the Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997*.

The Commission is responsible for the functions prescribed under the following Acts:

- *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*
- *Public Land (Administration and Forests) Act 1991*
- *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*
- *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*
- *Water Management Act 1999*
- *Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority Act 2004*

The Commission and its Executive Commissioner also have minor functions assigned under the following Acts:

- *Aboriginal Lands Act 1995*
- *Conveyancing and Law of Property Act 1884*
- *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*
- *Forestry Act 1920*
- *Gas Act 2000*
- *Gas Pipelines Act 2000*
- *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*
- *Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999*
- *Marine Farming Planning Act 1995*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- *Survey Co-ordination Act 1944*
- *Wellington Park Act 1993*

The Minister for Planning has responsibility for the administration of the *Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997*, *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, *Public Land (Administration and Forests) Act 1991* and Part 4 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.

The Premier has responsibility for the administration of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* (except Part 4) and the Minister for Tourism, Arts and the Environment has responsibility for the administration of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*.

The Commission is part of the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning System, the objectives of which are set out in Schedule 1 of the *Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997* as follows:

- (a) to promote the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; and
- (b) to provide for the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of air, land and water; and
- (c) to encourage public involvement in resource management and planning; and
- (d) to facilitate economic development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c); and
- (e) to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of government, the community and industry in the State.

2.0 The Executive Commissioner's Report

The 1st January 2008 marked the 10th anniversary of the operations of the Commission as an independent statutory planning authority.

This and previous Annual Reports document the Commission's core roles and performance in assessing and determining often challenging and complex policy, planning or development matters referred to it for consideration.

The Commission owes a debt of gratitude to past and present Commissioners and staff for their commitment and hard work in tackling these matters fairly, professionally and in accordance with statutory requirements.

Specifically for 2007/08, the Commission records its appreciation for the contribution made by former Executive Commissioner, Simon Cooper, who assumed the role of Executive Commissioner and Chair at short notice on a part time and temporary basis and provided leadership for Commissioners and staff at a difficult time in the Commission's history.

The Commission also pays tribute to the contributions of Commissioners Catherine Nicholson and Helen Locher. Catherine Nicholson resigned in September 2007 after 2 years of service while Helen Locher resigned in June 2008 after 5 years of service.

The Commission welcomes the extension of Helen Hudson's term as a Commissioner and the appointment of Roger Howlett, an experienced planner and former General Manager of the Clarence City Council as a Commissioner.

The ten year anniversary has coincided with the State Government's review of the Planning System. The Commission has taken this opportunity to assess its own performance and proposed internal changes to be implemented in 2008/09 to improve the timeliness and consistency of decisions, conduct of public hearings and related processing matters. The main change will be to introduce a case management system to oversee processing of Planning Schemes, amendments and other relevant applications.

The Commission has also considered the performance of the overall Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS) and highlighted three disturbing facts, namely that:


- More than 70% of all Council Planning Schemes are ten years or older and increasingly outdated and limited in their ability to deal with and manage current and likely future planning challenges without 'spot' amendments;

-
- Between 60% and 70% of all Planning Scheme amendments submitted by Council Planning Authorities are rejected or changed by the Commission; and
 - There is not a comprehensive State planning framework that enables Councils to review and update their Planning Schemes with only three State Policies produced by the State Government in the last 14 years.

The consequence is that planning is becoming increasingly reactive, piecemeal and focused on site specific development control rather than engaging the community and stakeholders in a more strategic focus on enabling sustainable development and building sustainable communities.

The Government's Regional Planning Initiative is intended to assist Councils in the State's three regions prepare coordinated land use strategies and draft new Schemes.

While the Commission is not involved in this Initiative at this point, it is prepared to take a proactive approach, consistent with its broad powers and functions, and work with Councils, the Land Use Planning Branch (within the Department of Justice) and State Agencies to ensure the RMPS issues are addressed.

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Greg Alomes
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

3.0 Overview 2007-2008

3.1 *Projects of State Significance*

The declaration by Parliament of a project of State significance takes a major development proposal outside the planning process established under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. Part 3 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* sets out the statutory assessment process for a project of State significance. The Premier is the Minister responsible for administering the Act in respect of projects of State significance.

The effect of the order declaring a project of State significance is that all statutory functions of various agencies that would otherwise have been involved in assessing or approving the proposed development vests in the Commission. All approvals, licences and permits that are required to enable the project to proceed are dealt with under the project of State significance process. However, the Commission's role is not to determine the matter. It is to make recommendations to the Government. It is the Government that finally determines whether the project proceeds, and if so, on what terms and conditions.

A project is eligible to be a project of State significance if it possesses at least two of the following attributes:

- significant capital investment;
- significant contribution to the State's economic development;
- significant consequential economic impacts;
- significant potential contribution to Australia's balance of payments;
- significant impact on the environment;
- complex technical processes and engineering designs;
- significant infrastructure requirements.

An integrated assessment of a project of State significance involves the consideration of all environmental, social, economic and community issues relevant to that project. This is consistent with the Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System of Tasmania as set out in Schedule 1 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* (as amended).

The assessment of a project is an open and transparent process, designed to encourage public participation and input throughout the assessment. Public consultation is vital in allowing community, conservation, industry, local government and State government agencies the opportunity to contribute to the overall assessment process.

Activities for 2007-2008

Lauderdale Quay Development -Walker Corporation Pty Ltd

On Monday, June 18, 2006 the Tasmanian Government determined that the proposal by Walker Corporation Pty Ltd (the proponent) was eligible for project of State significance status, under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* (Tas). The proposal, known as Lauderdale Quay, is for a mixed waterfront housing and marina development in Ralphs Bay, southern Tasmania. On 11 July 2006 the Governor made an order declaring the proposal to be a project of State significance and the then Tasmanian Premier, the Hon. Paul Lennon, directed the Commission to undertake an integrated assessment of the Lauderdale Quay proposal. The order has been approved by both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament.

For this particular assessment the Commission has an additional statutory responsibility to perform. If the Commission recommends that the project proceed it is required to determine that part of the land specified as part of the Ralphs Bay Conservation Area, shown under Schedule 1 of the *Ralphs Bay Conservation Area (Clarification) Act 2006*, which is necessary or convenient for the project to proceed.

A delegate of the Federal Minister for the then Department of the Environment and Heritage (now the Department of the Environment and Water Resources) determined that the controlling provisions (aspects of the environment likely to be impacted) for this proposal under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) are:

- sections 16 and 17B, Wetlands of international importance;
- sections 18 and 18A, Listed threatened species and communities; and
- sections 20 and 20A, Listed migratory species.

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments have agreed that the project will be assessed by an accredited process. This means that the Commission will undertake the assessment in accordance with the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* and provide the Federal Minister for the Department of Environment and Water Resources with an assessment report on the impacts of the action. One assessment will be undertaken to meet the statutory requirements of both the Australian and Tasmanian Governments.

- Draft Scope Guidelines for the Integrated Impact Statement (IIS) were prepared by the Commission in consultation with State and Australian Government agencies and with the assistance of independent consultant, Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd. These guidelines were placed on public exhibition in June 2007 and public comment invited by 9 July 2007. Submissions received were analysed and evaluated, the Draft Scope Guidelines for the IIS were finalised and provided to the proponent in August 2007.

Activities for 2008-2009

Lauderdale Quay Development -Walker Corporation Pty Ltd

- As soon as the proponent submits the Draft Integrated Impact Statement (IIS), the Commission will proceed to assess the proposal. Steps in the process are:
 - - public exhibition of the draft IIS;
 - public hearing (discretionary);
 - preparation of a draft integrated assessment report (by the Commission);
 - public exhibition of the draft integrated assessment report;
 - public hearing (discretionary); and
 - submit a report to the Premier of Tasmania and the Federal Minister for the Environment and Water Resources recommending whether or not the project should proceed and, if so, on what conditions.
- Ensure that the integrated assessment process is open and transparent and that information about the process is easily accessible to interested persons and groups.
- Continue to ensure that the assessment is carried out in a timely and expeditious manner but noting that some matters are beyond the Commission's control.
- Ensure that the assessment process meets the requirements of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999* as set out in accordance with the agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Tasmania.

3.2 Public Land Use

The functions of the Resource Planning and Development Commission include two important aspects of public land use. One is the conduct of inquiries into the use of public land and the making of recommendations for its future use and management, and the other is in respect of management of reserved lands.

Public land use inquiries

The conduct of public land use inquiries is prescribed in Part 2 of the *Public Land (Administration and Forests) Act 1991*. Inquiries are initiated by a reference from the relevant Minister. The terms of reference are exhibited publicly and may be changed as a consequence of submissions received.

In the conduct of each inquiry, the Commission is required to prepare and seek public comment on a background report and a draft recommendations report. A background report describes all the known environmental, social, economic, industrial and recreational resources of the public land under investigation. A draft recommendations report contains any additional information gained from the public consultation process, the Commission's response to the issues raised in public submissions and proposed recommendations. The final recommendations report is presented to the Minister who must table it in both Houses of Parliament and make copies available to the public.

In making public land use recommendations, the Commission must further the objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System and seek balanced outcomes.

Activities for 2007-2008

Inquiry into the establishment of marine protected areas within the Bruny Bioregion

In accordance with the terms of reference issued to the Commission by the then Minister, the Hon. Judy Jackson to conduct an inquiry into the establishment of marine protected areas within the Bruny Bioregion the Commission published and exhibited a Background Report (June 2006) and an Interim Report (March 2007). Public comment was invited on both these reports. Following analysis and evaluation of submissions received in response to the reports, and presentations at a public hearing, the Commission published and exhibited a Draft Recommendations Report (August 2007) for six weeks. One hundred and ninety-one submissions were received in response to the invitation to comment on the Draft Recommendations Report. A public hearing was held in November 2007 over four days to assist the Commission to consider the issues raised in submissions. The final report was submitted on 28 February 2008 to the then Minister for Planning, the Hon. Steve Kons.

Management of reserved lands

Review of representations and report of the Director of National Parks and Wildlife regarding Port Arthur Historic Sites Draft Management Plan 2007

By letter dated 3 April 2008 the Minister, the Hon. Michelle O'Byrne MP, directed the Commission to review the representations received on the Port Arthur Historic Sites Draft Management Plan 2007 (Draft Plan) and the Director's report. The review has been conducted in accordance with Part 3 – Management of reserved land, sections 21–24 of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*. As required under section 23(1) of the *National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*, the Commission gave public notice in the State newspapers that copies of representations received and the Director's report were available for public inspection. On 16 June 2008 the Commission determined not to hold a hearing on representations made in relation to the Draft Plan (in accordance with s.22(2) of the Act).

Initiatives for 2008-2009

- Finalise the Port Arthur Historic Sites Draft Management Plan 2007 review and submit a report to the Minister in July 2008.

3.3 Water Management Plans

The *Water Management Act 1999* requires the Commission to review the representations and the report of the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries and Water relating to draft water management plans.

Activities for 2007-2008

At the conclusion of the reporting period, the Commission had not received any references requiring review under the *Water Management Act 1999*.

Initiatives for 2008-2009

The provision of the necessary resources if and when the Commission receives a reference requiring review under the *Water Management Act 1999*.

3.4 State of the Environment Reporting

State of the environment reporting is one of the key features of the Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS) of Tasmania. State of the Environment reports are prepared as a requirement of section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.

This legislation requires the Commission to produce a consolidated State of the Environment Report as soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of the Act and thereafter at intervals of 5 years relating to:

- the condition of the environment;
- trends and changes in the environment;
- the achievement of resource management objectives; and
- recommendations for action to be taken in relation to the management of the environment.

State of the environment reporting provides a way of assessing how well Tasmania is progressing in terms of achieving the sustainable development objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System. It aims to provide information to support an effective management cycle: assessing condition; recommending actions; and then reviewing their implementation.

Activities for 2007-2008

- The panel of Commissioners continued their work on the State of the Environment Report during 2007/08. This work has focussed on the selection of priority issues and indicators and revisions to the report framework. The Panel has been closely involved in oversight of the process, project management and timelines. The Panel has continued the process of reviewing draft outputs.
- Drafting of chapters, issues and indicators continued for the third State of the Environment report. This has been supported with significant ongoing development of the content management and web publication system in preparation for the release of the Report.
- Through formal liaison processes and protocols with State agencies, access to data, information and professional advice continued to be provided by agency staff. Negotiation continued on access to datasets and a number of key sources were secured during 2007/08.
- Presentations to the Commission and agencies continued during 2007/08 to support the process of information exchange and dialogue.
- Geographic information systems continued to support the presentation of mapped and tabular outputs in the State of the Environment Report.

Initiatives for 2008-2009

- Completion of all remaining chapters in the 2008 State of the Environment Report will be required to meet statutory obligations.
- Work will continue with the program to negotiate and access data updates for the 2008 State of the Environment Report, although this process will taper off prior to publication.
- Work will continue in relation to the analysis and interpretation of data and information for the remaining priority issues and indicators.
- Work will continue on the development of recommendations based on the evidence contained in the body of the draft 2008 State of the Environment Report.
- The review and validation processes will continue for the draft 2008 State of the Environment Report.
- Development work will continue on the State of the Environment System (content management system) to support final web publication including establishing a search facility.
- The graphic design concept will be finalised to support the web-based publication and supporting hard copy as required.
- A review and evaluation process for the 2008 State of the Environment Report will commence.

3.5 *State Policies*

State Policies represent the government's overarching position on certain policy matters and may contain matters relating to one or more of the following:

- sustainable development of natural and physical resources; land use planning; land management; environmental management; environment protection; and
- any other matter that may be prescribed.

A State Policy must:

- must seek to further the objectives set out in Schedule 1 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* (the Act); and may be made only where there is, in the opinion of the Minister, a matter of State significance to be dealt with in the State Policy; and must seek to ensure that a consistent and co-ordinated approach is maintained throughout the State with respect to the matters contained in the State Policy; and
- must incorporate the minimum amount of regulation necessary to obtain its objectives.

The Commission is required to prepare a report on a draft State Policy or a draft amendment to a State Policy that has been submitted to it by the Minister. Such a report is prepared after the Commission has assessed the draft State Policy by placing the draft on public exhibition, inviting representations and conducting a hearing (if required).

Activities for 2007-2008

On 21 December 2007 the then Premier, the Hon. Paul Lennon MP, directed the Resource Planning and Development Commission (Commission) to advise whether the proposed amendments to the State Policy on Protection of Agricultural Land 2000 constituted a significant change to the current policy. In accordance with section 15A of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993* the Commission advised the Premier that the proposed amendments to the Policy constitute a significant change to the current Policy.

In a letter dated 28 May 2008, the Minister advised that he had determined that the proposed Policy amendments constitute a significant change to the *State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2000*. Pursuant to section 15A(8) of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*, the Minister directed the Commission to prepare a report on the revised Draft State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2007, which incorporates the proposed amendments.

In addition, the Minister provided documentation supporting the revised draft Policy (“Implementation Guide” and “Model Planning Scheme Provisions”) and requested that the Commission assess these documents concurrently (**outside of the statutory process**) in the preparation of the Commission’s report on the proposed amendments.

Initiatives for 2008-2009

- Give public notice that the Draft State Policy on the Protection of Agricultural Land 2007 (Draft Policy 2007) is on public exhibition and available for inspection at the Commission’s office and on its website;
- At the same time, publicly exhibit the Implementation Guide and Model Planning Scheme Provisions (Supporting Documentation);
- Invite written submissions on the Draft Policy 2007 and the Supporting Documentation;
- Analyse and evaluate submissions received in response to the reports;
- Hold a public hearing to assist the Commission consider the issues raised in the submissions (discretionary);
- Determine whether the Draft Policy 2007 requires modification and whether such modification warrants re-assessment under the Act; and
- Submit a report on the Draft Policy 2007 and Supporting Documentation to the Premier.

The Commission also commits to:

- Ensuring that the assessment process is open and transparent and that information about the process is easily accessible to interested parties and the community.
- Continuing to ensure that the assessment is carried out in a timely and expeditious manner.
- Providing the necessary resources if and when the Commission receives a direction from the Minister requiring it to prepare a report on other draft State Policies.

3.6 *Planning*

The main functions of the Commission in regard to Tasmanian land use planning are set out in the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA)* and comprise the certification and approval of draft planning schemes, the approval of draft amendments to planning schemes and the consideration of planning directives.

Approval of planning schemes

The certification stage of the approval process involves the assessment of the draft planning scheme against section 20 of *LUPAA* to determine whether it furthers the objectives of the Act and has been prepared in accordance with State Policies.

Once the planning scheme is certified it is placed on public exhibition for a minimum of two months. Representations made in relation to the planning scheme are then assessed by the Council and a report detailing its position on each representation is forwarded to the Commission.

The Commission, after considering the report submitted by Council and any hearings conducted in respect to the draft planning scheme, can either approve, modify or reject the planning scheme, or require a part or parts of it to be done again.

Hearings are conducted under Part 3 of the *Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997*. In the conduct of hearings the Commission pays particular regard to procedural fairness and ensures that the process delivers decisions that are arrived at in an open and transparent manner.

Approval of planning scheme amendments

The approval process for amending a planning scheme is similar to that of a new planning scheme, with two major exceptions. First, the time lines vary, and second, the responsibility for certification rests with Councils.

In assessing a draft amendment, the Commission must ensure that it furthers the Objectives set out in Schedule 1 of *LUPAA*, is in accordance with State Policies and is technically sound and consistent with the planning scheme and its underlying strategies. If the Council has received representations in relation to a draft amendment, the Commission must hold a hearing.

Planning Directives

Part 2A of *LUPAA* provides for planning directives and states that a draft planning directive may be prepared by the Commission, a planning authority, a State service agency or any other person. A draft planning directive is required to be lodged with the Commission, which provides a recommendation to the Minister as to whether or not an assessment of the draft planning directive should be undertaken.

If the Minister directs the Commission to undertake an assessment of the draft planning directive, the Commission must publish notice of that fact and invite representations from the person who prepared the draft planning directive (other than the Commission), and any planning authority and State service agency likely to be affected by the draft planning directive.

On the completion of an assessment, the Commission must provide to the Minister a report of its findings and its recommendations as to whether or not a planning directive in the terms of the draft planning directive, or the draft planning directive modified as recommended by the Commission, should be issued.

Amendments to Part 2A of *LUPAA*, effective from 1 August 2007, clarified the application of planning directives to both use and development, and inserted a provision giving the Minister the ability to dispense with certain requirements of that Part which apply to the preparation, public scrutiny and assessment by the Commission of a proposed planning directive, and issue a modified planning directive.

During the reporting period the Commission was not called upon to consider any proposals for planning directives.

Activities for 2007-2008

Planning Schemes

	Number	Scheme	Relevant Date
Certified	0		
Direction to Modify or do part again	1	Tasman	24 September 2007
Hearings Held	3	West Tamar Clarence Central Coast	Various dates in November 2007 Various dates in November and December 2007 Various dates in July, August and October 2007
Approved	2	Clarence Central Coast	2 April 2008 20 June 2008
Rejected	0		

Planning Schemes in Progress

Draft Scheme	Current Status as at 30 June 2008
George Town	Awaiting advice from the relevant planning authorities in relation to anticipated lodgement dates. In all cases, extensions of time for that purpose have been requested and granted.
Devonport	
Huon Valley	

Amendments Finalised by the Commission During 2007-2008

	2006-2007	2007-2008
Total number of amendments finalised	134	132
Number of finalised amendments accompanied by a Section 43A Application	31	27
Number of finalised amendments presented as a Specified Departure	Included in above – not reported separately	14
Number of amendments that attracted representations	67	59
Number of amendments that required a hearing	50	45
Number of amendments modified or altered prior to approval	69	51
Total number of amendments refused	37	24
Number of refused amendments accompanied by a Section 43A Application	10	9
Number of amendments that lapsed (i.e. on hand and not completed on commencement of new planning scheme)	Not reported	10
Percentage of finalised amendments that required change or were refused	79.10%	56.82%

The table above illustrates the fact that of the 132 amendments finalised by the Commission during the reporting period, 51 (38.6%) required changes and 24 (18%) were refused. This improvement over the last reporting period is attributed to the work of the Commission's Extension Service, the success of which relies on approaches from planning authorities for assistance at the beginning of the amendment process, and prior to consideration by Council for the purpose of certification.

Nevertheless, the fact that in excess of 50% of amendments presented to the Commission for assessment required change highlights the ongoing concern on the part of the Commission that the competence of planning authorities in certifying amendments to their planning schemes needs to be re-examined.

In addition, the increase in the number of applications for specified departures and section 43A permits indicates that planning schemes generally are out of date and require urgent attention to achieve land use planning that is in step with the resource management and planning system (RMPS), community, State and environmental expectations. It is pertinent to note that 10 active planning schemes (27%) that were prepared and approved prior to the current legislation, the *Land use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*, coming into operation.

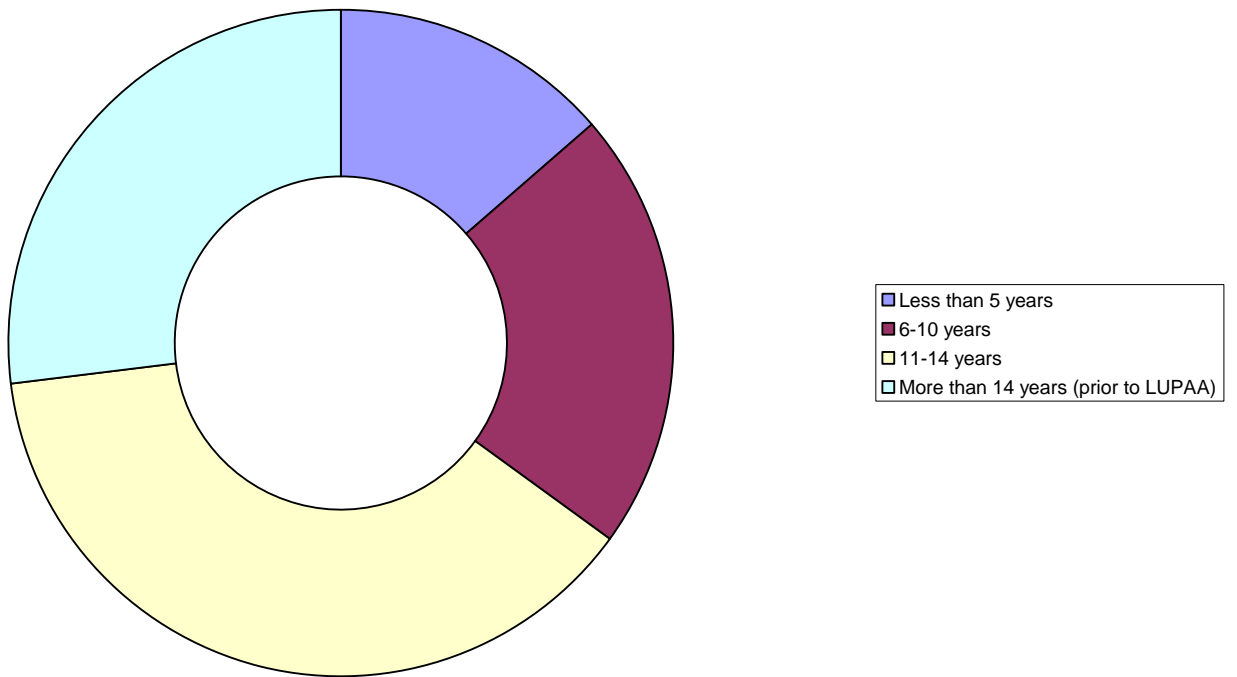
The following Table and Chart illustrate:

Active Planning Schemes

Age of Planning Schemes (Based on Date of Approval)	No of Schemes	Planning Authority / Planning Scheme	Date Scheme Approved
5 years or less (1 July 2003 to 30 June 2008)	5	Brighton Council Brighton Planning Scheme Central Coast Central Coast Planning Scheme Clarence City Council Clarence Planning Scheme Kentish Kentish Planning Scheme Kingborough Council Kingborough Planning Scheme	7 June 2004 20 June 2008 2 April 2008 29 August 2005 1 July 2004
6-10 years (1 July 1998 to 30 June 2003)	8	Break O'Day Council Break O'Day Planning Scheme Central Highlands Council Central Highlands Planning Scheme Flinders Council Flinders Island Planning Scheme Glamorgan-Spring Bay Council Glamorgan-Spring Bay Planning Scheme Southern Midlands Council Southern Midlands Planning Scheme Sullivans Cove Waterfront Authority Sullivans Cove Planning Scheme Waratah Wynyard Council Waratah Wynyard Planning Scheme West Coast Council West Coast Planning Scheme	8 May 1999 31 August 1998 18 December 2000 17 September 1999 14 April 2003 21 December 1998 22 July 2002 11 February 2002

<p>11-14 years (1 January 1994 to 30 June 1998)</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Burnie City Council City of Burnie Planning Scheme Circular Head Council Circular Head S.46 Planning Scheme No.1 Derwent Valley Council New Norfolk s.46 Planning Scheme Dorset Council Dorset Planning Scheme George Town Council Municipality of George Town Planning Scheme Glenorchy City Council Glenorchy Planning Scheme King Island Council King Island Planning Scheme Latrobe Council Latrobe S.46 Planning Scheme No.1 Launceston City Council Launceston Planning Scheme Meander Valley Council Meander Valley Planning Scheme Northern Midlands Council Northern Midlands Planning Scheme Sorell Council Sorell Planning Scheme Tasman Council Municipality of Sorell S.46 Planning Scheme No.2 West Tamar Council Westbury S.46 Planning Scheme No.1</p>	<p>12 January 1995 1 January 1996 1 January 1996 8 April 1998 21 November 1994 8 April 1994 3 November 1997 1 January 1996 8 December 1997 8 November 1997 9 December 1997 15 November 1995 1 January 1996 1 January 1996</p>
<p>> 14 Pre LUPAA (Prior to 1 January 1994)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>Devonport City Council Devonport and Environs Planning Scheme Latrobe Port Sorell, Tarleton Planning Scheme Glenorchy City Council New Norfolk Planning Scheme (Substitute Plan) Hobart City Council Battery Point Planning Scheme City of Hobart Planning Scheme Huon Valley Council Esperance Planning Scheme Huon Planning Scheme Port Cygnet Planning Scheme Tasman Council Tasman Planning Scheme West Tamar Council Beaconsfield Planning Scheme</p>	<p>27 March 1985 21 October 1963 22 August 1988 5 June 1979 9 December 1991 3 November 1993 8 March 1983 13 January 1993 22 February 1982 9 March 1990</p>

AGE OF ACTIVE PLANNING SCHEMES



Planning Advisory Notes

The Planning Advisory Notes prepared by the Commission are designed to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to planning authorities and others on the operation of the statutory planning system, and are revised from time to time to ensure relevance. During the reporting period, the Planning Advisory Notes were substantially revised, numbered and re-issued in February 2008

The Planning Advisory Notes issued to date cover the following topics:

- 01 Standard Letters
- 02 Section 23
- 03 Supporting Information for Planning Schemes
- 04 Section 32
- 05 Section 35
- 06 Section 37
- 07 Consultation on Draft Amendments to Planning Schemes
- 08 Public Exhibition for Site Specific Amendment
- 09 Section 39
- 10 Section 43A Combined Permit
- 11 Integrated Land Use Planning and Transport
- 12 Contaminated Land
- 13 Common Key Elements Template Guide
- 14 Format of Draft Amendments
- 15 Rezoning Land from Public Purposes
- 16 Incorporated Documents
- 17 Meaning of Road and Access in s.109

The Planning Advisory Notes are available on the Commission's website.

Extension Service

As an integral part of the State's resource management and planning system (RMPS), the Resource Planning and Development Commission has an obligation to further the objectives of that system, as set out in Schedule 1 to the *Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997*.

The Commission's Extension Service strives to make planning authorities, government agencies and the general public aware of the Commission's processes and procedures in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities, and thereby assist the delivery of effective land planning outcomes.

The Extension Service is coordinated by a senior member of the Commission's staff and is operated on a rolling program basis, and on the basis of need. All planning staff contribute to the service, and during the reporting period, advice and assistance was provided predominantly in relation to the preparation of draft planning scheme and planning scheme amendment provisions, and in providing speakers for workshops and seminars relating to the Commission's processes and procedures and land use planning.

Cadet Planning Officer

The Commission continues to offer a position of Cadet Planning Officer, which provides a person currently undertaking an approved course of study with relevant experience and training. It is anticipated that the next round of recruitment will take place during the first half of the 2008-2009 reporting period. The position has traditionally been keenly contested and has assisted in training a number of new planners who have proved an asset to planning in the State.

Liaison with University of Tasmania

The Commission continues to offer professional placements to students of University of Tasmania (the UTAS) - School of Geography and Environmental Studies whose study units contain that requirement. During the reporting period, the Commission accommodated three students in Hobart and provided exposure to a variety of the Commission's functions.

In addition, at the invitation of the UTAS, Senior Staff have presented to the post graduate students on a number of topics.

Initiatives for 2008-2009

- Regular contact with planning authorities through the Extension Service
- Continuation of the provision of a Cadet Planning Officer position
- Continuation of liaison with UTAS regarding professional placements for post graduate students undertaking study in the School of Geography and Environmental Studies and ongoing guest lecturing