



Resource Planning and Development Commission

Planning Advisory Note 7

Subject: Consultation on Draft Amendments to Planning Schemes

Purpose: To provide guidance on when planning authorities should consult with the community, expert bodies and government agencies on draft amendments to planning schemes.

Background

Objective 1(c) of Schedule 1 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* (the Act) is to encourage public involvement in resource management and planning. Objective 1(e) of Schedule 1 of the Act is to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of government, the community and industry in the State.

Consultation on draft amendments

In order to further Objective 1(c), planning authorities can informally notify the public and/or the adjoining owners and occupiers of land where an amendment involves a particular area of land, before certifying a draft amendment. This is general practice of some planning authorities. Notification may extend to community groups that have a potential interest.

It is expected that expert bodies and government agencies will be consulted where they have an interest or expert advice to give that can assist assessment of the draft amendment against State Policies or the Schedule 1 Objectives. This could be appropriate where threatened species or vegetation, biodiversity conservation, aboriginal heritage, public infrastructure, land contamination, land stability, agricultural land, land capability or threat from climate change may be an issue.

Many draft amendments have implications for public infrastructure and particularly the transport network. Input from the affected road and transport authorities should be sought when the amendment is being drafted. This includes Metro within its operating areas, and the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and Resources for State roads.

Early consultation with neighbours and other interested parties and agencies can improve the quality of the draft amendment and avoid representations being made. Proponents should be encouraged to carry out their own pre-application consultation with all parties and groups who may be affected or have an interest.

Planning Advisory Notes are prepared by the Resource Planning and Development Commission to explain statutory provisions and provide guidance to planning authorities and others on the operation of the planning system.

It is expected that the planner's report on the draft amendment will include details of the steps taken to involve the public, the consultations carried out and the advice received.

Failure to consult where required or where necessary to ensure that the Schedule 1 objectives are furthered may cause delays in approval or adjournment of hearings while the necessary information is sought.

Further Information

Relevant legislation may be viewed at <http://www.thelaw.tas.gov.au>.

For further information, contact:

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