

Representation regarding the Tasman Council Draft Local Provisions Schedule

I write to express my concern at the lack of inclusions in the *Tasman Council draft Local Provisions Schedule* (LPS) under 6.1 (local heritage places), 6.2 (local heritage precincts), 6.3 (local heritage landscape precincts), 6.5 (significant trees), and 8.1 (scenic protection areas).

Tasman Municipality has within its borders many places of considerable historic cultural significance at a local level that do not meet the thresholds for entry on the Tasmanian Heritage Register (THR) and are not covered by existing THR listings. There are also a number of post-convict sites that would meet the THR thresholds but are not currently listed. Together, these places form a large part of the identity of the Tasman Municipality, which relies heavily on the aesthetic appeal of its convict and post-convict historic and rural landscapes to attract visitors and new residents to the region. A cursory glance around many other localities in Australia will demonstrate that without adequate identification and protection these valuable landscapes can be lost in the space of a few years.

One of the key focus areas identified for Tasman Council in its *Ten Year Strategic Plan 2015-2025* is to “strive for a balance between development, environment and lifestyle and retain natural, heritage and social values.” Without any inclusions in the Local Historic Heritage Code, places and landscapes of local historic value will have no protection under the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme and Tasman Council will have no legislative support to enable it to effectively manage the local historic values for which the municipality is recognised.

Regarding identification of local heritage places and features, there have been a number of lists for the Tasman and Forestier peninsulas compiled over the years which I believe the council has access to, and I am informed that the Tasman Peninsula History Society is currently compiling a heritage list that amalgamates all previously identified sites. Also, it was my understanding that Tasman Council had a number of historic precincts and landscapes identified which would become overlays on the management plan. I was disturbed to note that these are apparently no longer recognised in the draft LPS.

With such a wealth of previous information, the initial identification of sites for further investigation should be relatively straightforward. However, I do not wish to imply that preparation of an adequate local Provisions Schedule will be a simple or speedy matter as it will require considerable research, ‘ground truthing’ of known sites and further investigations of significance, as well as community and stakeholder consultation. It is essential that the process and documentation address the criteria for inclusion in an LPS, which will require specialist knowledge. I am aware that a number of other councils have been working on their local heritage lists for some years; hence my surprise that such a process has not apparently been underway for Tasman Municipality.

I strongly recommend that as a matter of urgency Tasman Council engages a heritage professional with a strong background in local government planning to review the existing material and commence development of an adequate Local Provisions Schedule for Historic Heritage. I do not believe that this is a process that can be effectively carried out ‘off the side of the desk’ for existing council staff. Lack of funds cannot be allowed to delay the process. At the very least, the consultant should start by reviewing the previously prepared historic precinct/landscape overlays and modify them as required to meet the criteria for inclusion in the LPS. It is also recommended that local heritage maps attached to the LPS should also list sites which are listed on the Tasmanian Heritage Register, National Heritage List and

World Heritage list (including buffer zones). With this approach it will be immediately obvious to developers and planners which legislation takes precedence for particular areas. It will also clearly identify any gaps which exist in acknowledged heritage precincts and landscapes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the LPS. Please contact me if you require further explanation of any of the points I have raised in this submission. I would appreciate being informed of the progress of the draft legislation and having the opportunity to comment on a draft Historic Heritage LPS when available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Rigozzi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Rigozzi.

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