

Department of State Growth

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Ann Cunningham
Delegate (Chair)
Tasmanian Planning Commission
By email: tpc@planning.tas.gov.au

George Town draft Local Provisions Schedule – response to direction

Dear Ms Cunningham

Thank you for your letter dated 13 June 2023 providing further directions in relation to the sand resource issue previously discussed. Mineral Resources Tasmania (MRT) has reviewed the submissions listed and has the following comments.

Previous submissions from The Department of State Growth/MRT have noted the strategic value of the sand resource in the northern region of Tasmania in general. The submission dated 28 April 2023 also provided estimated sand resource for each of the three subject parcels as directed by the Commission on 31 March 2023.

The Landscape Conservation Zone does not provide any opportunity for extractive industries. As stated in the submissions, the subject parcels may only represent a small area of land compared to the overall area of potential resource in the northern region, however MRT is concerned with the cumulative impacts of land being removed from the potentially accessible resource base. In no way was the submission implying that the relevant parcels of land held the majority of the resource, MRT's focus is on a landscape scale and the future supply of critical materials into Tasmania's construction industry supply chain.

Conservation Landholders Tasmania's (CLT) submission refers to significant potential sand resources in the northeast. However, these areas of potential sand resources may not be suitable for extraction and as is the case with any proposed resource, utilisation would be subject to relevant assessments and approvals based on a specific proposal.

Any specific natural values that may occur on an area of land proposed for development would be considered at the assessment phase. The discretionary approvals process for any land use development application would then be the most appropriate process for those values to be considered regarding the potential benefits associated with economic development. Hence, it is considered that an Environmental Management Zoning is preferred to the Landscape Conservation Zone to provide for future decision making to be made on the balance of needs and values at that time. This approach would align with the Northern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy, specifically Action ED-A12.

The Department of State Growth and MRT do not have any further information to add on this matter and therefore will not attend the scheduled hearing on 20 July 2023.

If you require any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact Claire Armstrong, Senior Strategic Planner on (03) 6166 3397 or email planningpolicy@stategrowth.tas.gov.au who can coordinate engagement with relevant State Growth officers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Verrier', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Verrier
Director, Transport Systems and Planning Policy

10 July 2023