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## **NEW GUIDE TO HELP COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN CHANGING PLANNING SCHEMES**

As local councils begin consulting communities over new planning system rules applying to land in their municipalities, the alliance advocating for better planning in Tasmania today released a free community guide to assist with public engagement and comment. The [Planning Matters Alliance of Tasmania \(PMAT\)](#), an alliance of 60 community groups, is releasing [Your Guide to Influencing the Development of Your Local Planning Rules \(Local Provisions Schedule\)](#).

The Local Provisions Schedule (LPS) is prepared by each council and determines where zones and codes apply across a municipality, influencing what can and can't be built and developed. The development of LPSs is the last stage in the implementation of the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, which will be operational once finalised. Seven Tasmanian councils are already going through the LPS public comment approval process with 22 Councils almost ready for exhibition.

“Every land title/parcel in Tasmania will be subject to new local planning rules through a Local Provisions Schedule so if you own land or care about what can happen on land special to you, then this is an important guide for you,” said spokesperson for PMAT, Sophie Underwood.

“Public comment on Council’s Draft Local Provisions Schedule can help protect your land and the places you care about and will help shape Tasmania’s future.

PMAT is concerned about the over-arching weakening of transparency and democracy within Tasmania’s new statewide planning system. Changes have delivered a reduction in the community’s right to have a say on local development decisions and, in many instances, the removal of third party appeal rights.

“With one planning expert describing the new statewide planning scheme as a ‘train wreck coming’, it’s important to understand that this guide is not an endorsement of the statewide scheme, but a guide to help locals make the best out of a flawed system.

“Together, we can ensure Tasmanians have a say in a planning system that prioritises the health and well-being of the whole community, the liveability of our cities, towns and rural areas, and the protection of the natural environment and cultural heritage.”

Even though the LPS affects every land title/parcel in a municipality, Councils are not required to personally advise ratepayers that consultation over the development their LPS is underway, making PMAT’s education campaign and the Guide even more important.

Natural justice would suggest landowners are informed of the opportunity to have a say about the future zoning of their property. This guide will help them do that.

**For Comment: Sophie Underwood**

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