

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania

Official Launch

5.30 – 7.30 pm, Thursday July 6 2017

SOPHIE UNDERWOOD

Welcome

Hello everyone. My name is Sophie Underwood and I am the coordinator of the Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania – also known as PMAT.

On behalf of our growing alliance of 46 community groups, I would like to warmly welcome you all here tonight, to this beautiful venue.

Housekeeping

Please turn off your mobile phones.

Toilets are located to the left – they can be accessed via the stairs or lift.

In an emergency situation, if you could please follow the directions of the members of staff.

Acknowledge traditional owners

Before we start I'd like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting.

I ask that we all pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and its elders past, present and future. I acknowledge that this land was stolen and never ceded.

Purpose of tonight

I would also like to welcome all members of State Parliament and elected members of Local Government who are with us tonight.

The main purpose of tonight is twofold:

Firstly - To officially launch the Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania and

Secondly, to formally launch our platform document – which outlines a positive agenda that we will take to the next state election.

Our planning platform outlines the six key principles we would like to see in Tasmania's planning system.

Hard copies of the platform document are available on the information table or can be downloaded from PMAT's recently launched website. So check out the PMAT online.

We will first hear from Gerard Castles, followed by Meg Webb and then our final speaker Essie Davis.

Each speaker will only talk for about five minutes. So the formal proceedings will not take long.

At the end of the speeches we will also hear from the Hobart Community Ensemble with their just released song "Don't Get Tall".

Who is the Alliance?

The Planning Matters Alliance started to form in around September last year, united with common concern regarding the proposed Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme is set to come into full effect in 2018 and PMAT is committed to making it better.

The scheme will affect every single land title in Tasmania.

The level of collaboration and commonality emerging within this planning campaign and the groups involved is unprecedented in Tasmania and is reflective of both the depth and breadth of all the issues.

The alliance brings together groups from across Tasmania that have not worked together before:

Examples include: social service, Community, ratepayers associations and friends of groups, field naturalists, Landcare groups, climate groups, groups concerned about our built heritage and environment.

A full list of the 46 groups can be seen on PMAT's website.

The planning campaign has got to where it is now based on essentially no budget, good will and hundreds of hours of voluntary work by many people.

I would like to thank all our volunteers, and all the people that have donated money to the campaign.

I would also like to formally thank the Tasmanian Wilderness Society, who has underwritten some of our activities.

We have a fundraising table here tonight and we would encourage you to support this campaign as we would like to generate enough funds to continue the campaign but also to run TV advertising leading up to the state election.

Our beautiful logo, which was created by Beverly Waldie of Coalface Design & Production free of charge (Beverly is here tonight – so please give her a massive round of applause to thank her for her wonderful work but also her patience in trying to appease over 40 community groups!).

The logo highlights what this campaign is about ([point to logo](#)).

Part of our logo is a road sign – which is symbolic of how planning should guide us on our way to a shared vision of the future.

Our logo contains several other important symbols which represent what's driving this campaign.

The symbols are about all the things that make Tasmania such a special place to live and visit.

Our community, our towns and backyards, our skylines, our coastlines and marine environment, our rural landscapes, our heritage buildings and places, our plants and animals, and our wild and inspiring landscapes.

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme will impact all the things we love about Tasmania.

For tonight, we have especially produced a brochure (which is available on the information table or can be download from the PMAT website) which explains in simple language why planning matters and the key issues that we consider are not being addressed under the new scheme.

I would encourage every one of you to take a brochure home and read it carefully.

Most people don't understand the crucial role that planning rules play in their lives until they are negatively impacted in some way.

An example of this right now facing our city is the Fragrance Group skyscrapers proposals which highlight the importance of planning laws.

As well as the east coast fish farm issue – where aquaculture sits outside the planning system.

The scheme encourages uniformity rather than a more creative approach and it makes everything else – other than a Development Application for a single residential house on a greenfield site - more difficult and expensive.

The scheme encourages bad planning outcomes.

Rather than delivering good innovative urban design and places.

Development pressure is coming to Tasmania like never before.

Now more than ever, we need certainty with our planning rules.

We need certainty for the community to have a voice and that our special places are respected for future generations.

We have gone from, in the last three years, 32 old planning schemes, to 29 interim schemes to one proposed stateside scheme, with 29 Local planning schedules – somehow making the whole system simpler.

Feedback from Councils and expert planners is that the planning system will be more complicated.

Introduce Gerard Castles

I would now like to introduce our first speaker, Gerard Castles.

Planning is an important tool of how we manage our brand.

Gerard is going to talk to us about why brand matters to a place like Tasmania.

Gerard grew up in northwest Tasmania coming to Hobart to study at the University of Tasmania before joining the international consulting firm McKinsey and Company.

Gerard works in Tasmania and all over the world as a business and communication consultant, helping clients in manufacturing, banking, telecommunications, construction and mining industries.

Thanks Gerard.

GERARD TO SPEAK FOR 5 MINUTES

SOPHIE UNDERWOOD

Thank Gerard

Thank you for your important voice in this campaign.

Introduce Meg Webb

Planning schemes aren't just about developments, buildings and regulations, they also offer a huge opportunity to make people's lives better.

Anglicare Tasmania is a community organisation that provides services to Tasmanians throughout the state.

Anglicare has a focus on social justice and is particularly interested in public policy that delivers better social outcomes for Tasmanian communities.

To talk about the connection between social outcomes and planning schemes, I am very pleased to introduce Meg Webb from the Social Action and Research Centre at Anglicare Tasmania.

MEG TO SPEAK FOR 5 MINUTES

Sophie to thank Meg

Thanks Meg for your very insightful speech.

Introduce Essie Davis

Our final speaker tonight and just fresh back from London where she has been filming *Electric Dreams* with Bryan Cranston, is Essie Davis.

Essie is a multi-award winning actress who was born in Tasmania.

Essie grew up on the eastern shore of the Derwent River at Bellerive.

Essie is best known for her 'unforgettable' leading role of 'Amelia' in *THE BUBADOOK*, highlighted by *TIME* magazine as an Academy Awards contender and in the top ten performances of 2014.

For television, Essie is best known for her internationally loved and hugely popular role of 'Frynee Fisher' in ABC's MISS FISHER'S MURDER MYSTERIES.

Essie has appeared in numerous films and television around the world from Play School to Game of Thrones from Australia to Charlotte's Webb.

Essie is also an established stage actress and has gained critical acclaim and awards in all mediums both in Australia and around the world.

Essie is advocating for retaining the beauty and charm and individuality of Hobart City.

Essie will also officially launch PMAT and our platform.

Thanks Essie

ESSIE TO SPEAK FOR 5 MINUTES

Sophie to thank Essie

Thank you Essie – it is fantastic to have someone of your profile in our campaign.

Thank the venue

I would like also to thank the Brooke Street Larder and the Brooke Street Pier team for having us all here tonight in this fantastic venue.

You have been a pleasure to work with.

We chose this venue – as it looks to the future – it says something about the Tasmania we want to be – and sets a great example about how development and investment can happen that complements our heritage.

The success of this campaign will depend on whether the people who care about planning get active and whether our politicians listen to the wishes of the community.

Please everyone enjoy the rest of the evening. This is a party and networking event – so please introduce yourself to someone you have never met before and ask them what their interest is in planning.

But before then, we are going to hear from The Hobart Community Ensemble with their new song “Don't Get Tall”.

Thank you.

(Hobart Not Highrise Inc - Public Meeting Wednesday 26th July 2017, 5:30pm, Hobart Town Hall)