

12 COUNCILS ENDORSE SOUTHERN LAND USE STRATEGY

South Leads the Way for 25-Year Land Use Plan

4 July 2011

Chairman of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, Lord Mayor of Hobart, Rob Valentine today announced that the 12 member Councils have formally endorsed the final Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy.

“This is an historic and important milestone at a critical time for the future development of Southern Tasmania. Our choice is to either continue growing in an unplanned way or to be strategic about our future land use. We have chosen to adopt a strategic approach that will ensure Southern Tasmania is a better, more sustainable place to live into the future.” Ald. Valentine said.

“The Southern Tasmanian Region contains Tasmania’s Capital City. However, the Strategy acknowledges that Greater Hobart is a single settlement and that major land use planning decisions in one part of Greater Hobart have consequences that reverberate across the whole metropolitan area and often across the entire Southern region.”

“Our vision for Southern Tasmania is a vibrant, growing, liveable and attractive community.”

“I would like to pay tribute to the Councils within the region and the project team who have worked together to achieve the endorsement of the strategy through a genuine partnership approach – they share the vision for entire region and have worked cooperatively, consultatively and assiduously to reach this point.

“This is no small achievement. The development of a regional land use strategy for Southern Tasmania has not been attempted for 30 years and attempts prior to that ended in failure.” said Alderman Valentine.

“This plan has the added benefit of being completed in time to form the foundation for the Capital Cities Plan that the State Government has signed up to by the Council of Australian Governments.”

The Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy will now be submitted to the Minister for Planning, Bryan Green, with a recommendation that it be declared a formal regional strategy under the Land Use Planning and Approvals Act.

Ald. Valentine said all 12 Southern Councils and the members of the Southern Tasmanian Regional Planning Project Steering Committee, were very aware of the importance, relevance and responsibility conferred by the Strategy.

“This has been an important and challenging task for Local Government,” Ald. Valentine said.

“We have signed off on a Strategy that builds upon our unique natural and heritage assets and advantages as Australia’s southernmost region.

“Once declared the Strategy means that any new planning scheme, planning amendment or project of regional significance must demonstrate how it aligns with the Strategy. This will be overseen by the Tasmanian Planning Commission.”

The Draft Strategy underwent a three-month public consultation period last year, both online and with information panels on display at all Southern Councils offices, along with copies of the document and maps.

“Each year, Southern Tasmania – like the rest of the State, Australia and the rest of the world – is increasingly impacted by broader challenges:

- rising energy costs
- peak oil
- climate change & sea level rise
- competition for resources
- the need for greater social inclusion
- and the need for improved environmental sustainability

“Reorientating our cities and towns, and the infrastructure linkages between them, towards a more sustainable pattern of development is critical in addressing these challenges and ensuring our long-term prosperity.

“Southern Tasmania’s living environment and national & international competitiveness are dependent on a robust strategic land use planning system.

“We need to both proactively facilitate and manage sustainable development. We must protect and improve our quality of life. We need to provide greater certainty and direction to the community and to the development industry.

The voluntary adoption of a way to reduce urban sprawl and continue to ensure the availability of affordable housing within the Strategy by the metropolitan Councils, indicates the importance that Local Governments attach to their role as planning authorities,

“The leadership shown by Local Government in endorsing this Strategy and promoting its implementation, is significant, particularly in light of the stronger policy direction set by State Governments in other jurisdictions.”

“The completion of the Strategy now allows our focus to fall on the second major Project Output, being the suite of new, consistent planning schemes for all our

members Councils, who we will again be working in partnership with,” said Ald Valentine.

It is anticipated that drafts of the new planning schemes will be available for public comment early in 2012.

For further information, contact: A.Mark Thomas, CPR, 0422 006 732