

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Experts weigh in on proposed planning scheme

A panel of experts will discuss what the future of Tasmania will look like under the proposed new Statewide planning scheme, as part of a special panel discussion at the 2015 Geography and Spatial Sciences Conference today.

The Tasmanian Government has announced this week that it is fast-tracking the work on the Statewide scheme to bring forward the introduction of the single planning scheme from 2018 to 2017.

The Tasmanian Planning Reform Taskforce is currently preparing the State Planning Provisions that will form the single planning scheme.

Tasmania currently still has over 29 separate planning schemes although the majority have transitioned to interim planning schemes developed as part of the previous Government's regional planning initiative.

Dr Stewart Williams from the University of Tasmania's School of Land and Food will chair the panel session.

"Far-reaching changes are currently taking place in the Tasmanian land use planning system, in which the public have so far had very little involvement," Dr Williams said.

"The panel session is designed to inform audience members about what is happening with the Statewide scheme."

"The panel will discuss all aspects of the scheme including the legislative framework of planning, the implication of the changes for the role of Local Government in land-use planning as well as the process and expected outcomes of the scheme."

The panel comprises:

- Greg Alomes, Executive Commissioner, Tasmanian Planning Commission
- Emma Riley, Principal, Emma Riley and Associates, land use planning consultant, member of the Planning Reform Taskforce and previous Project Manager for the Southern Regional Land Use Strategy

- Tony McMullen Manager City Strategy, Glenorchy City Council

Emma Riley, Principal Planner at Emma Riley and Associates and University of Tasmania alumnus, says the changes will bring some much needed uniformity to the systems, which currently have about a 15 per cent level of consistency.

“Many of the differences between the interim planning schemes are there just because either they were drafted by different individuals or particular Councils had an established way of expressing things, rather than for planning reasons,” Ms Riley said.

“The Statewide scheme will resolve this inconsistency between the current schemes. So wherever you are in Tasmania if you fall into a particular zone or trigger the application of a code it has the same requirements as elsewhere.

“Statewide consistency provides for a fairer outcome across the State: the same rules for everyone, unless there is a genuine planning reason to have local provisions.

“It will also assist industry players and planning professionals who work across the State.”

**View the full program for the 2015 Geography and Spatial Sciences Conference [online](#).**

**Information released by:**

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