

MEDIA RELEASE

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LACK OF ACTION ON PAL POLICY

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest called on the Attorney General to release his now overdue recommendations into the Review of the State's Planning Schemes, including the Protection of Agricultural Land (PAL) policy.

"The Attorney General, Minister Kons, must show leadership and immediately issue guidelines to local councils on the correct interpretation and implementation of the PAL policy to assist landowners and council planners alike, before any further investment is lost to this region" Ms Forrest stated.

The review of the PAL policy has had six months to form recommendations. "Minister Kons provided a promise of an outcome within 6 months of the close of submissions (November 4, 2006) and as yet there has been no indication of progress in this matter" stated Ms Forrest.

Local Council's interpretation and application of the Protection of Agricultural Land (PAL) Policy has been blamed for the loss of over several millions of dollars in lost investment in the North and North West Tasmania including potential lost development opportunities for small property owners.

"Minister Kons has repeatedly been made aware of the frustrations of land owners wishing to live in a rural community and build homes on small existing land titles as well as the lost investment to this region."

"Minister Kons must release recommendations and guidelines to Local Councils on the intention and the correct interpretation and implementation of this policy as a matter of urgency to avoid any further blame game between Local and State Government that is resulting in the region missing out on much needed development in appropriate rural areas, giving the local economy a financial and population boost" stated Ms Forrest.

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