

# MEDIA RELEASE

RUTH FORREST MLC  
PO BOX 104  
WYNYARD TAS 7325  
TEL: 03 6443 8600  
FAX: 03 6443 8603

## FORREST BLAMES PAL MISAPPLICATION FOR YET ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT REJECTION

Murchison MLC Ruth Forrest again raised the need for the review of the Protection of Agricultural Land (PAL) policy in Parliament during an adjournment debate yesterday.

Ms Forrest said that the misapplication of this policy by some local councils was the key reason that regional North West Tasmania was missing out on development opportunities.

“Whilst all this confusion and uncertainty continues we are losing small scale developers at a rapid pace” said Ms Forrest.

“One doesn’t have to be Einstein to add up the collective value of these developments to conclude that this region is turning away a substantial amount of money in development and all the flow on benefits that would have come as a result of these developments” Ms Forrest stated during her debate in Parliament.

“I urge anyone who owns a small parcel of land to write to the Attorney General, Steven Kons who is currently conducting a review into this policy” said the Murchison MLC.

Submissions to the Review into the Protection of Agricultural Land Policy close in approximately two weeks time, on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

Ms Forrest’s office was again informed of yet another example of how the misapplication of this policy is stifling development to the region. Young Wynyard resident, Penny Clarke purchased a 32 acre block which is totally unsuitable for agricultural purposes, and has only just learned that she is unable to build her home on her land.

“I purchased my land in 2001 and at the time I was informed by the Waratah Wynyard Council that it was able to be built on” said Miss Clarke.

“This land is very steep, light scrub and with only 4 acres of cleared land on it – why can’t I build on it? I consider that building a house is the only practical use of this land. We are heart broken that we paid a lot of money for a block of land that is now devalued significantly” said Miss Clarke.

Miss Clarke believes that land owners should have been legally notified about the implications of this policy when it was being implemented and had they been aware that the law was to change they would have submitted plans to build immediately (back in 2001).

20 October 2006

For further information telephone 0419 879 524