

MEDIA RELEASE

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

PLANNING SYSTEMS IN A SHAMBLES

Murchison MLC, Ruth Forrest is extremely disappointed by the decision of the Resource Planning and Development Commission (RPDC) to reject the rezoning of land on the foreshore in Camdale from industrial to residential. "With the continued growth and expansion of Burnie and surrounds, it is unfathomable to think that a picturesque part of our foreshore could be seen to be better utilised by industry, rather than a well planned, environmentally considerate and ideally located residential development" Ms Forrest said.

This decision may see the Burnie City Council forced into a position that will only allow an industrial development on this site. "Burnie deserves so much better than this and I am concerned that the general public will ever appreciate just what an opportunity has been lost" Ms Forrest warned.

"What we are seeing here is an unelected, unaccountable group of individuals making decisions on future planning applications, that are destroying the plans and dreams of not only the bigger developers such as the Blackley's, who have spent in the vicinity of half a million dollars, but also the individual land owners who wish to build a home on their land, with absolutely no right of appeal" Ms Forrest said.

The proximity of other industrial business, on the other side of the Bass Highway, and the stated shortage of level industrial site possibilities, which have been identified as the reason for this decision and the possibility of residents of the proposed residential development may object in the future to this industrial activity.

"Proximity of residential and industrial land uses are common, especially when divided by a highway, and should hardly be used as an excuse to reject this rezoning" Ms Forrest said.

"Commonsense would suggest that a boundary fence and highway between the industrial businesses, that don't appear to generate much noise or other industrial nuisance, and the residential development, would negate the issue of nearby industrial activity and the likelihood of future resident complaints, especially when the ambience of these residences is considered" Ms Forrest stated.

"I call on Minister Kons to step in and review this decision, the only option now available, and to ensure that decisions such as these are not repeated. If decisions made in other areas show the same level of misinterpretation of the facts and evidence presented, how can Tasmanians reasonably trust the RPDC to accurately

assess the Pulp Mill Project or the Walker Corporations Ralph's Bay proposal?" Ms Forrest suggested.

"The fact that all issues of concern to DPIW, site contamination, climate change, traffic and access and the presence of a little penguin colony and other foreshore nesting birds, were all addressed to the satisfaction of requirements, further demonstrates that the planning systems are in a shambles and urgent review is needed more than ever" Ms Forrest said.

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For further information, please phone 0419 879 524.