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Ms Helen Burnet
Member for Clark

By email: helen.burnet@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Burnet

Thank you for your Constituency Question on 16 October 2024 and your interest in our Government's landmark draft legislation to introduce Development Assessment Panels (DAPs) in Tasmania.

The Development Assessment Panel processes provided within the Bill will allow certain development applications, including those that may be overly complex or controversial, to be determined by an independent Panel, appointed by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. Importantly, the DAP will assess applications against the same rules that the council as planning authority would assess the application against.

Local government is also provided a specific function within the Bill, as one of the prescribed 'reviewing entities'. Once the Commission establishes a DAP in relation to an application, the DAP is to refer the application to the reviewing entities, including the relevant council, for the reviewing entity to provide their feedback in relation to the application, including how it may impact on local infrastructure and services. This is to ensure that local government have an appropriate say in what elements of the project will have impacts on infrastructure and other services demands.

Despite the incorrect comments and misinformation by the Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania and others in the public commentary regarding the Bill, members of the community are able to have their say, and have their voices heard, under a DAP process. The Bill makes clear that the DAP is to hold public hearings in relation to applications being assessed by it, providing significant opportunity for the community to provide input in relation to the application.

Yours sincerely

Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs

18/11/2024