

Media Release

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Streamlining school and housing projects may cause costly mistakes

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust condemns the State Government's announcement that it intends to make Australian Government funded school and public housing projects exempted from the Land Use Planning Approvals Act.

"The Premier is willing to exempt these projects from the normal planning processes, including removing the public's right of appeal, merely to maximise the amount of funding the state can obtain", said TCT Acting Director, Peter McGlone.

"It is outrageous that the State Government will not allow appeals on major projects that could have very significant impacts on local communities if badly planned.

"It is equally outrageous and factually incorrect that the Government believes that local planning processes would hold up these projects when there is good evidence that Tasmania's approval processes are amongst the fastest in the country.

"As well as there being fundamental principles at stake, the Government must realise that these planning processes also exist for pragmatic reasons. By-passing long-established planning processes may cause mistakes that could be very costly and may result in schools and houses being built that are not functional or safe.

"Many parents complain that traffic congestion around schools is putting their children's safety at risk and these issues need to be carefully planned for, including allowing local communities to criticise and even appeal against bad school proposals."

Further information:

Peter McGlone
Acting Director
Tasmanian Conservation Trust
Phone: 03 6234 3552
Mobile: 0406 380 545