

File No:

16 March 2023

Department of State Growth
4 Salamanca Place
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Sir/Madam

**Refreshing Tasmania's Population Strategy - Consultation Paper
January 2023 - City of Launceston Submission**

In January 2023 the Department of State Growth released a population strategy for consultation. The paper aims to better understand how Tasmania can better plan for and manage future population.

The following submission is provided at officer level and does not form an adopted view of City of Launceston.

In the next five to 30 years, what liveability related issues do you see impacting your sector, or the community you live in?

Primarily housing affordability and availability, and in particular the release of land suitable for subdivision. Consideration of infrastructure provision, and its capacity to upgrade for increased levels of accommodation will also be necessary. Further, natural hazards and the effects of climate change, such as landslip and flood will need to be managed to ensure areas are suitable for occupation. Finally, ensuring major infrastructure, such as the road network and associated pedestrian and cycle connectivity networks are able to be managed for the increase in population.

What in your view are the top two opportunities which have the potential to increase liveability? Please share potential partnerships and other approaches that could assist in progressing these opportunities.

Councils should ensure there is a monitored and staged release of land suitable for multi-use development. This will include the creation of structure plans for regions and specific areas to manage growth. It will require collaboration will all levels of government and landowners to ensure future subdivisions not only considered new residential land, but services for that land such as shops and education.

There should be a community based approach to public services such as pedestrian and cycle paths and increased active and affordable public transport. Investigation into motor vehicle reliance should be further researched, and if there is a desire to reduce vehicle trips, appropriate and useable alternatives should be established.

Any pathway forward should work in unison with all aspects of government and collaborate with relevant sectors. There should be a unified approach, and in particular consideration needs to be made to ensure state planning policies and regional planning strategies are aligning with population growth considerations undertaken by separate sectors.

How could all levels of government, business and community organisations work together to design and plan services to improve liveability?

There needs to be a clear and definitive definition of what liveability actually means, to alleviate any doubt on what is trying to be achieved. There need to be overarching collaborative strategic plans created with the input of community and stakeholders. The plans should make clear and achievable goals through objectives and processes that are easy to understand and interpret. It will be important to recognise the parallel linkages between liveability and the Tasmanian Planning Policies and the regional land use strategies, and acknowledge the role planning plays in liveable communities.

Separate to the questions raised within the consultation paper, Council also considers it appropriate to further consider the following questions.

What's the link between this consultation paper and the Tasmanian planning policies?

The paper, whilst Council are supportive of its creation and direction, appears to be a product of itself and the Department of State Growth. It is unclear how the paper, or its ultimate findings, will have any statutory status when considering land growth in the planning sector. Whilst there appears to be some correlation between the information presented and land use planning, it is not clear if the paper or its findings will inform any land use planning decisions. If a final paper is to be prepared, it is recommended that the conclusions are based at a state level and endorsed by all relevant sectors of state government.

Further, the paper does not appear to provide any information or evidence on how the objectives can be achieved.

What are you doing to collaborate with local government on this? Where is the strategy?

There needs to be clear collaboration across all levels of government. The paper itself did not appear to be well publicised or promoted. Does the Department of State Growth have a consultation strategy to ensure all levels of government are able to provide appropriate feedback, either through written responses or workshops?

Why do this independently to the planning policies, and not in parallel? Just have a single source of direction to the policy.

Council are supportive of the objectives of the paper, but it appears this is the wrong delivery tool. Collaboration will be key if the objectives of the paper are to be realised.

Why does the policy have land use planning goals within it that has not consulted with other state agencies such as the TPC?

The first objective of the paper to enable planning arrangements that improve liveability. It is unclear what stakeholders in the planning sector have contributed to the consultation paper, or what their role may be in the future. It is concerning that such an objective is within a paper without input from Council, the Commission, or the State Planning Office.

We would want to avoid a strategy that has been written in parallel to the planning system with its own set of objectives.

Why would we have two competing narratives? We are looking for consistency and simplicity.

The recently advertised State Planning Policies also focus on population. It is recommended that instead of competing strategies, that a consolidated approach is adopted.

In summary, Council officers are supportive of the strategy, however it will be vital that any future work is undertaken collaboratively with all sectors of government, including the Planning sector, to ensure a transparent process can be achieved.

If you have any queries in relation to this application, please do not hesitate to contact me on 6323 3382 or ian.more@launceston.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain More', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke above the name.

Iain More
Senior Town Planner - Policy & Projects