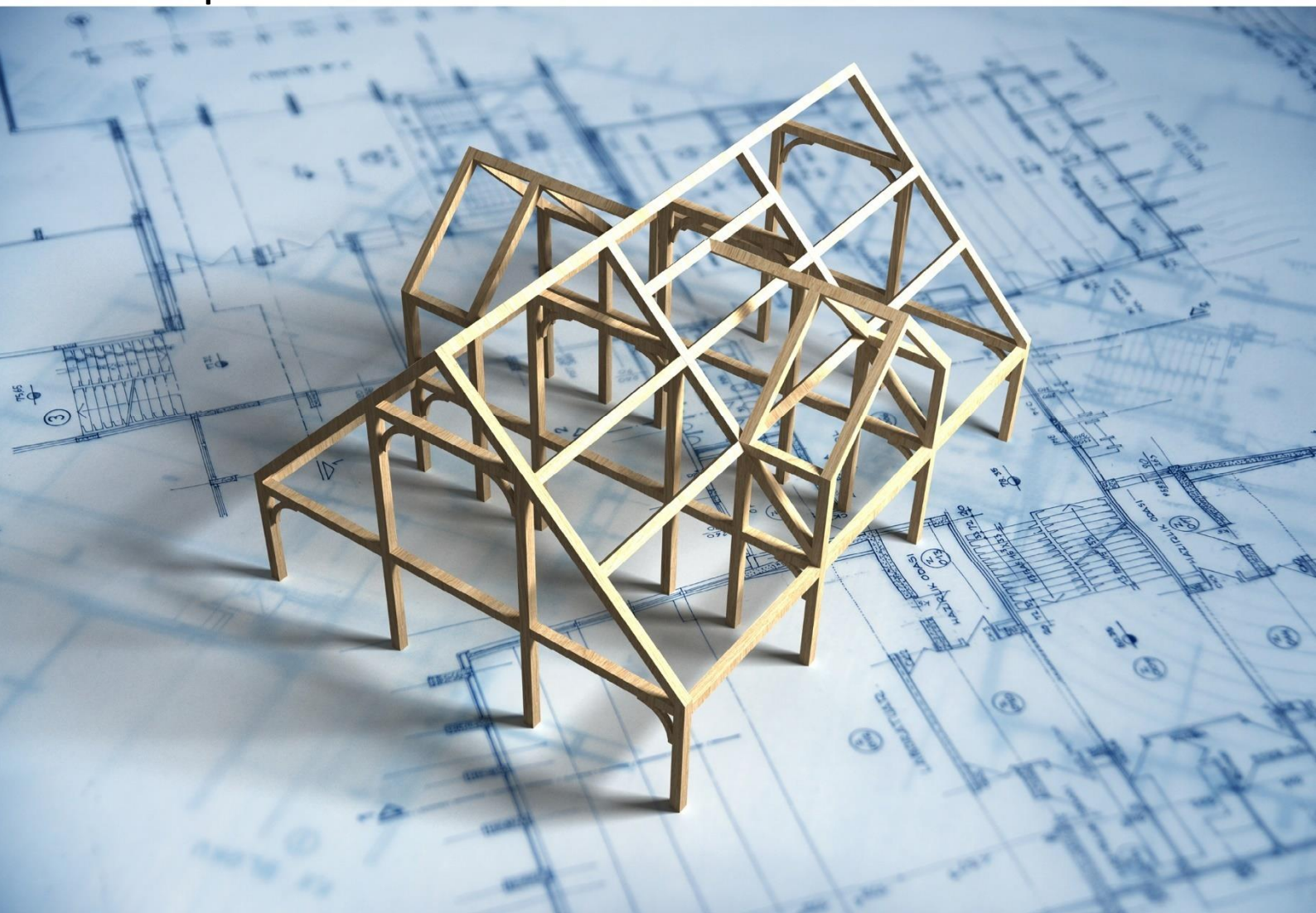


National Planning Reform Blueprint

Tasmania March 2025 progress
report



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Measure 2

Planning Ministers will report to National Cabinet on state, regional and local strategic plans before 1 March 2024 that reflect their jurisdiction's share of housing supply targets agreed by National Cabinet and links with infrastructure pipelines.

How Tasmania's strategic plans will deliver on housing supply targets

Review of Regional Land Use Strategies

Comprehensive reviews are in progress for all three regional land use strategies in Tasmania. The strategies have been in place since 2011 and strategically identify growth areas and redevelopment areas for housing, informing zoning in the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. New housing demand and supply studies have been undertaken for all three regions to inform the review. The Greater Hobart Plan (part of the Hobart City Deal) is also informing a new Greater Hobart Settlement Plan which will review the current areas identified for densification in Greater Hobart.

The Tasmanian Planning Policies will set a legislated framework for the settlement plans in each of these strategies to ensure adequate supply of land to address the existing and future needs of the community for a minimum of 20 years. The current reviews are at a stage where they can accommodate the specific housing supply targets that are set for Tasmania and coordinate a statewide response to ensure these are delivered in the most appropriate areas from a statewide and regional perspective.

The Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs has set a timeframe for the declaration of the revised strategies by mid-2026. Foundational data has been collected on housing supply and demand across the three regions in a consistent way to inform the strategic directions. In the meantime, the Minister has released updates to the Greater Hobart Urban Growth Boundary in the current Southern Tasmania Regional Land Use Strategy. The proposed updates will add a further 615 hectares to the land already identified for urban growth in Greater Hobart which may provide for up to an additional 10,000 homes following rezoning. This is in addition to the land already rezoned for housing and identified within the Greater Hobart Urban Growth Boundary.

Support to local strategic planning

On 4 July 2024, 3 successful projects were announced for Tasmania as part of stream 1 of the Australian Government's Housing Support Program, namely:

- Brighton Council's Boyer Road Precinct Structure Plan;
- Central Coast Council's Strategic Housing Master Plan; and
- Launceston City Council's St. Leonards Structure Plan and Infrastructure Funding Framework.

The funding for those projects will be funnelled through the Tasmanian Government and will support the delivery of additional housing in those municipal areas.

Furthermore, the Tasmanian Government has directly funded projects in other municipal areas that will also support the delivery of additional housing. The most recent are the Glamorgan-Spring Bay Township Structure Plans, which delivered new structure plans to provide for the housing needs of the key East Coast tourist towns of Bicheno, Coles Bay, Swansea, Orford and Triabunna.

Measure 3

Planning Ministers will undertake planning, zoning, land release and other reforms, such as increasing density, to meet their jurisdiction's share of housing supply targets agreed by National Cabinet.

Summary of planning reforms

Tasmanian Planning Policies

Update: In progress, due for implementation during 2025

The Tasmanian Planning Policies (TPPs) establish a consistent, overarching policy setting for the State's planning system that will guide planning outcomes mostly delivered through the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the Regional Land Use Strategies. The TPPs are also required to be considered in the declaration and assessment of the 'Major Projects' and housing land supply orders.

The TPPs provide policy direction in the following areas: Settlement, Environmental Values, Environmental Hazards, Sustainable Economic Development, Physical Infrastructure, Cultural Heritage and Planning Processes.

The Settlement TPP provides the policy setting for strategically guiding how and where growth will occur. The Settlement TPP prioritises a settlement pattern that locates people where they have access to employment, services, and transport networks to improve connectivity and liveability. It promotes the delivery of social and affordable housing and recognises that these types of housing are essential to improve social and economic resilience of our communities.

The Settlement TPP supports growth that will prioritise and encourage infill development, consolidation, redevelopment and intensification of under-utilised land in settlements that are well serviced by existing or planned physical and social infrastructure. It promotes liveable settlements, housing diversity, and well-designed built environments and public spaces.

Summary of zoning reforms

Review of State Planning Provisions (SPPs) – Improving Residential Standards in Tasmania Project

Update: In progress, due for implementation during 2025

A comprehensive review has been undertaken of the statewide planning requirements (the SPPs) in the single planning scheme (the Tasmanian Planning Scheme).

The Improving Residential Standards in Tasmania Project is a priority project from this review which will deliver amendments to the planning requirements for housing in the SPPs, including:

- Improved standards for a variety of housing types, including social and affordable housing.
- Standardised requirements for medium density housing in appropriate locations with accompanying design guidelines.

In February 2025, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Consumer Affairs released the final recommendations for improving the planning requirements for housing. These include:

- increased building heights for townhouses and apartments
- reduced car parking space requirements for social housing and apartments in well-located areas; and
- potential density and building height bonuses for social housing.

The recommendations are informing amendments to the SPPs. Implementation of amendments to the SPPs will ensure the planning requirements provide streamlined assessment pathways for a variety of housing types, particularly social and affordable housing, and medium density housing in appropriate locations.

Summary of land release reforms

Housing Land Supply Act 2018 reforms

Update: Extension enacted, further reforms being considered to further streamline the process

The Housing Land Supply Act was introduced in 2018 as a fast-track rezoning process for certain Government land for housing through Housing Land Supply Orders, guaranteeing a portion is provided as social and affordable housing. It also enables changes to the planning scheme requirements applicable to an area to better facilitate housing. Land subject to a Housing Land Supply Order is vested with Homes Tasmania (Tasmania's statutory body for delivering social and affordable housing) to deliver an appropriate proportion of social and affordable housing tailored to suit the site and the needs of the community. In September 2023, the Act was extended for a further 10 years to boost the supply of land for housing.

Extension of the Housing Land Supply Act is enabling more suitable Government land to be rezoned for social and affordable housing through a fast-track process. Other recent changes to the Act also enable Homes Tasmania to strategically purchase new land for rezoning under the fast-track process. Extension of the Act for a further 10 years aligns with the Tasmanian Government's 10-year plan for delivering more social and affordable housing. Further reforms to the Act are being considered to further streamline the process to enable suitable government to be rezoned for housing sooner.

Summary of zoning reforms

Streamlining subdivision approvals

In February 2025, the Tasmanian Government announced plans to further streamline the approvals for subdivisions by repealing the outdated *Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993*. The proposed changes will move relevant planning requirements to the Tasmanian Planning Scheme removing the current duplicated assessment process providing a more contemporary planning assessment. This is expected to be implemented during 2026.

Summary of zoning reforms

Reviewing third party appeal rights

In February 2025, the Tasmanian Government announced changes to the current third party appeals rights on discretionary development applications. Legislative changes will be introduced to ensure that appeals on planning decisions can only be lodged by those directly and adversely impacted by the decision. This will ensure a fairer planning system and avoid unnecessary delays on planning decisions.

Measure 4

Planning Ministers will identify well-located 'development ready' land before 1 March 2024, having appropriate regard to the protection of land with key attributes e.g. environmental or economic.

Key findings from a development ready land stocktake¹

The Tasmanian Government has recently funded residential demand and supply studies across each of the three regions. This work which was undertaken in collaboration with local government and is now complete, identified the quantum and distribution of vacant residential land in each municipality and its respective "development ready" status for the purpose of future supply. In partnership with local councils, the Tasmanian Government will undertake further analysis to prioritise specific sites.

¹ For the purpose of this report it is assumed that development ready means land with infrastructure that is ready to sell and/or construct

Measure 5

Planning Ministers will streamline approval pathways and prioritise planning control amendments to support diverse housing across a range of areas, including promoting medium and high-density housing in well-located areas close to existing public transport infrastructure connections, amenities and employment.

Zoning, planning and other amendments to support dense, well-located housing

Review of State Planning Provisions (SPPs) – Improving Residential Standards in Tasmania Project

Update: In progress, due for implementation during 2025

A comprehensive review is being undertaken of the statewide planning requirements (the SPPs) in the single planning scheme (the Tasmanian Planning Scheme).

The Improving Residential Standards in Tasmania Project is a priority project from this review which will deliver amendments to the planning requirements for housing in the SPPs, including:

- Improved standards for a variety of housing types, including social and affordable housing.
- Standardised requirements for medium density housing in appropriate locations with accompanying design guidelines.

This review will provide more streamlined approval pathways for the approval of quality housing in all areas of Tasmania and deliver standardised requirements for medium density housing types in well located areas.

Legislation for independent Development Assessment Panels

Update: The legislation is due for tabling in Parliament during 2025.

The Tasmanian Government has committed to introduce amended legislation into Parliament in 2025 that provides for redirecting planning approvals from local councils to independent Development Assessment Panels (DAPs), specifically to address the impact of local NIMBY issues on elected council decisions as opposed to compliance with the planning scheme rules.

The draft model being progressed provides for an assessment process, that does not allow further appeals to the Appeal Tribunal, for social and affordable housing projects, along with other developments over a certain value threshold.

The legislative model will provide social and affordable housing projects to be directly referred to the DAPs which will conduct a 98-day assessment which includes advice from the local council, third party consultation and capacity for all parties to participate in a hearing to argue issues and conditions. Other applications over a certain value threshold can also be assessed by a DAP..

Reforms to non-planning barriers preventing a diversity of housing

The Tasmanian Government is continuing to engage with the housing industry and other sectors to determine if there is a need to ensure that the design and construction sectors are capable and willing to deliver more diverse housing. The Department of State Growth, in collaboration with Homes Tasmania, is working to resolve shortages of workers' accommodation and workforce capacity in the construction sector including:

Workers' accommodation

Stakeholder engagement and industry led forums have been facilitated to assess the scale and nature of the requirement. Initiatives being considered currently include:

- Connecting existing supply with demand: Worker housing facilitator
- Strategically growing workforce housing stock: Portable housing, Container housing, Tiny house village pilot, Tourism Development Loan Scheme, Tasmanian Housing Strategy.

Workforce capacity in the construction sector

High-Vis Army

To deliver the significant pipeline of public and private investment projects, in the 2021 State Election the Tasmanian Government committed to establish a 'High-Vis Army' to grow the construction workforce by 25 per cent over four years. Skills Tasmania continues to work closely with key stakeholders through the High-Vis Army Working Group to implement the Building and Construction Industry Compact. This includes funds for training and workforce development in partnership with TasTAFE. An additional \$6 million has been invested into the High-Vis Army, this second wave is focussed on maximising student numbers, increasing the diversity of participants and attracting new vocational teachers to the training industry.

Tasmania's 10 Year Infrastructure Pipeline

The pipeline is an interactive database designed to improve the ability of businesses to plan ahead to resource tender applications as well as undertake the work. For businesses involved in designing, building and maintaining infrastructure, the pipeline can help to plan, prepare and recruit/train staff. Asset owners can use the pipeline to help plan and execute their infrastructure delivery schedule. Planned and/or funded infrastructure investment by all three levels of government and the private sector that are valued over \$5 million are incorporated into the pipeline.

In January 2025, the pipeline was updated and included 22 projects valued at \$1.06 billion for the housing industry. The next update is scheduled for release following the 2025/26 State Budget.

Expected impact

The combination of regulatory reforms, identification of areas for densification through strategic planning and increased demand will assist the housing industry to shift its products towards greater diversity. However, further incentives and government subsidies are likely to be necessary to deliver more permanent housing options to offset the substantial costs which are currently perceived as

being prohibitive. The potential for Developer contributions has been identified as an area of further work which could deliver a more sustainable source of funds for infrastructure and services.

Measure 6

Planning Ministers will create accelerated development pathways and streamline approval processes for eligible development types, particularly in well-located areas, including to support the rapid delivery of social and affordable housing.

Identifying barriers in development approvals

Key barriers to the timely issuing of development approvals

Tasmania has very efficient development approvals with average (median and mean) approval times across local councils below 40 statutory calendar days where there has been public notification and around 20 days where the proposal is complying. These timeframes do not include the considerable number of complying single dwelling developments that are 'as of right' and do not require the issuing of planning permits and can proceed directly to building approval. Regardless, the Tasmanian Government continues to monitor potential issues that may hinder the timely issuing of development approvals.

Barriers to delivering housing where development approvals have been granted

The delivery of social and affordable housing through Tasmania's statutory housing authority (Homes Tasmania) will ensure they are delivered following the receipt of the necessary development approvals. There is anecdotal evidence some approved private developments are not progressing in Tasmania due to economic factors which may be beyond the State Government's scope of influence. Further incentives and government subsidies are likely to be necessary to deliver some housing options to offset the substantial costs which are currently perceived as being prohibitive.

Reforms to development approvals

Reforms to social and affordable housing approval pathways

Legislation for independent Development Assessment Panels

Update: Revised legislation to be considered by Parliament during 2025.

Proposed legislation amendments were announced in 2023 to provide for an alternate assessment pathway for certain development applications, including social and affordable housing, to be determined by a Development Assessment Panel (DAP) established by the independent Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Applications for social and affordable housing or subdivision to facilitate the delivery of social and affordable housing can receive automatic entry into the process. The DAP assessment is a non-appealable determination being received within 98 days.

Revised legislation is expected to be considered in Parliament during 2025.

Reforms addressing barriers to the timely issuing of development approvals

To assist with the delivery of an even quicker development approval process, the Government introduced private certification of no permit required proposals by certified planners.

Planning reforms to address existing development approvals which have not been acted upon

Tasmania has recently introduced a process for the timely sign-off of post approval conditions.

In December 2024, the Tasmanian Government introduced legislative amendments to allow an additional extension of time to be granted for applicants to 'substantially commence' a development under a planning permit. Extensions of time can now be granted up to a maximum of 8 years. This provides additional time to commence a development including for more complex projects or for those experiencing difficulties with finance or supply chains.

Tasmania's position on planning and inclusionary zoning reforms to support permanent affordable, social and other specialist housing in developments²

Tasmania currently has a form of inclusionary zoning through the *Housing Land Supply Act 2018* which provides a fast-track process for Homes Tasmania (Tasmania's statutory authority for providing social and affordable housing) to rezone land for housing. This process ensures a portion is delivered as social and affordable housing with the proportion tailored to the site and the needs of the community. This provides an appropriate mechanism for delivering social and affordable housing in Tasmania without setting mandatory targets.

Tasmania's current reforms, specifically the Improving Residential Standards in Tasmania project, will also focus on optimisation for all housing types regardless of whether they are for social or affordable housing. Some density and height bonuses may be considered for social and affordable housing projects.

There will likely be difficulties in implementing mandatory inclusionary zoning in Tasmania for the following reasons:

² Where appropriate and where such zoning and planning does not add to construction costs e.g., through the use of incentives such as density bonuses

- Inclusionary zoning is most effective in large scale developments and Tasmania is traditionally characterised by small scale development so a mandatory inclusion of say 10-15% for small developments would be unlikely to deliver significant amounts of social or affordable housing.
- Unless adequately subsidised or delivered through government developments, private developers may not progress housing developments if they become unviable or may seek to underdevelop a site to avoid having to provide a portion of dwellings for social and affordable housing.

Inclusionary zoning requires ongoing ownership of the properties by housing providers otherwise the 'subsidy' is effectively one-off and the initial (subsidised) purchaser can sell at market value later. There is limited ability for the planning system to control the ownership of land following approval.

Other initiatives

In July 2024, the Tasmanian Government introduced the second round of the Residential Land Rebate program. The program allows applicants to claim up to \$15,000 per lot to help with the cost of infrastructure cost, such as power, NBN, water and sewerage. Half the amount claimed is paid upfront, with the other half available once the applicant has sold their lot for under an affordable land cap price. The program will close 31 July 2026, or when funding is fully allocated, whichever comes first.

In February 2025, the Tasmanian Government introduced the \$10 million Housing Density Incentive Grant Scheme. The scheme provides incentive grants of \$10,000 per unit for developers to build brand new medium or high-density developments (funding equivalent to a maximum of 50 units per grant). Applicants have six months from the signing of their grant agreement to substantially commence construction of their development and claim their incentive payment. The program will run until 31 March 2026, or when funding is fully allocated, whichever comes first. The potential for developer contributions has been identified as an area of further work which could deliver a more sustainable source of funds for infrastructure and services.

Measure 10

All levels of government will ensure the efficient use of government land, including the identification of surplus land suitable for housing and the delivery of best practice projects to support housing supply, diversity and affordability.

Well-located government land suitable for housing

The Tasmanian Government housing authority (Homes Tasmania) works to identify government land that can be repurposed for housing and utilises the *Housing Land Supply Act 2018* to deliver faster rezoning. It can also acquire land and utilise this process. The criteria set out in the *Housing Land Supply Act 2018* require the land to be suitable for use for residential purposes by virtue of its proximity to public and commercial services, public transport and places that may provide opportunities for employment.

Best practice examples of developing government land

The Tasmanian Government is also discussing the potential of the transfer of approximately 30ha of Commonwealth (Defence) land at Dowsing Point, Glenorchy which the State has identified as well-located with a development potential of at least 1,000 dwellings close to all services and employment opportunities.

The Government recently utilised the Housing Land Supply process to rezone 68ha of land at Huntingfield south of Hobart accompanied by a Master Plan setting out best practice staged development. <https://www.homestasmania.com.au/engage/land-release/huntingfieldlandrelease>