



King Island Council

Media Release

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LAND USE PLANNING

Several recent planning decisions have highlighted the need to identify the likely future demand on King Island's land use. The last few years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of proposed tourism developments and with plans for abattoirs, water treatment facilities and other enterprises emerging it is clear that consideration needs to be given to the best way forward.

For King Island and other North-West Coast Councils, all planning matters are governed by the interim planning schemes which indicate what land use and development is appropriate for each zone. For example, the Currie Football Oval is classified as Recreational meaning it would be inappropriate to submit an application to locate an industrial development on the site.

King Island Mayor Duncan McFie was clear about Council's position regarding planning, "All planning, whether for a garden shed or golf course, attempts to balance the demands of public interest against private interests," he said. "These decisions are not taken lightly and involve consideration of legal, aesthetic, environmental and economic issues."

King Island Council previously identified the need for a considered and long term approach to planning demands and engaged a Strategic Planning consultant to review current land use; particularly in the light of demand from King Island's burgeoning tourism industry. The strategic review has already commenced with the planner due to visit King Island, along with the Chairman of the Tasmanian Planning Commission, to discuss the implications of recent decisions and to chart a way forward.

Guidelines have recently been issued by the Tasmanian Planning Commission, which will allow work to commence on the drafting of local provisions for the new Tasmanian Planning Schemes. This work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Council have also been successful in gaining funding for Town Master Plans which will explore ways in which the streetscape of Currie, Grassy and Naracoopa can be enhanced. This project will also commence in the next few weeks.

Council's recent Community Needs Survey revealed a high level of community interest in the current condition of King Island's main settlements. The development of the Town Master Plans will involve consultation with the community to enrich the final report with suggestions, ideas and comments.

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