

# Tasmanian Red T pe Audit Report 2022-23



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## Minister's foreword 2023



Good regulation protects people, places and products but red tape creates unnecessary barriers for small businesses to compete and grow.

The most common form of red tape is slow, paper-based government approval processes for permits, licenses, and other approvals imposed by government on small business to operate.

The Government remains committed to reducing the regulatory burden for small business and the wider Tasmanian community as evidenced by the cumulative work done since coming into government and the most recent reforms outlined in this report.

To address the impact of red tape on small businesses we are constantly seeking to simplify regulations, provide small business support and implement regulatory reform measures right across government.

Since we began the red tape reduction process in 2014, 187 unnecessary, outdated or excessive pieces of administration, legislation or regulation have been identified.

To-date we have found solutions or improvements for 156 of these.

This report is a summary of the red tape reforms that were either commenced, progressed or completed since the last report in 2022.

Among the highlights of this year's red tape reform work is the review of local government. This work has seen the stage 2 interim report released for consultation which includes 33 specific reform measures.

The Agritourism Regulatory Reform Project finalised 26 recommendations to improve the approval pathway for more than 10 agritourism sectors ranging from paddock to plate and farm stays through to distilleries, making it simpler to establish and maintain an agritourism operation.

We have also achieved significant reforms to streamline the dispute resolution process for the residential building sector with draft legislation tabled to allow TASCAT to resolve issues between consumers and builders to provide a timelier and cost-effective dispute resolution pathway.

This year's report shows the percentage of reforms completed has declined from 85 per cent last year to 83 per cent as a direct result of 25 new reforms initiated by relevant agencies generating a positive increase in work-in-progress cases.

We will again work towards an 85 per cent clearance by 2025.

A copy of this year's Tasmanian Red Tape Audit Report 2022-23 along with the Consolidated Report 2014-23 can be found on the Office of the Coordinator General website at [www.cg.tas.gov.au](http://www.cg.tas.gov.au).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett'.

Guy Barnett MP

**Minister for State Development**

# Executive summary: list of red tape issues (2022-23)

Red tape reforms	Red tape cut	Red tape work in progress	Completion Date
Future of local government review		✓	2023/24
Streamlining planning referrals to TasNetworks	✓		2022
Agritourism regulatory mapping and reform project		✓	2023/24
Streamlining dispute resolution for residential building work		✓	2023/24
Extension of family and sexual violence specialist service grant agreements to five years	✓		2023/24
Amalgamation of core and project funding for community development peak bodies		✓	2023/24
Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975		✓	2023/24
Automatic conversion of surrendered driver's license to personal information card		✓	2023/24
myServiceTas digital services portal developments		✓	2023/24
Fire and emergency service act reform		✓	2023/24
Mental Health Amendment Act 2023	✓		2023
Fuel cell electrical vehicle framework		✓	2023
Online lodgement of compliance certificates		✓	2023/24
Automatic mutual recognition of interstate shot-firing authorities	✓		2023
Improve the licensing and registration service provided to the firearms community and related industries		✓	2023/24
Improve the way in which the Tasmanian community can report minor crime and offences to Tasmania police		✓	2023/24
Making it easier for businesses to apply for loans assistance and ongoing management of loans	✓		2023
Digital public notification in the planning system		✓	2023/24
Consolidate and streamline land subdivision approvals		✓	2023/24
Review and enhance housing land supply process		✓	2023/24
Implementation of National Electronic Conveyancing (NECS)		✓	2023/24
Reduction of regulatory burden due to the landfill levy		✓	2023/24
Pepperberry (permit and license) system one to two years		✓	2023
Acceptance of electronic counterparts on contracts rather than wet ink signatures		✓	2023/24
Improved responsiveness of key stakeholders to support strategic property acquisition by Homes Tasmania		✓	2023/24
Enabling infill development and gentle densification		✓	2023/24
Expand on the administrative data exchange protocol for Tasmania to include an information platform		✓	2023/24
Online portal, accessible to Tasmanian government entities, to share infrastructure-related information		✓	2023/24
Foreign arrangements scheme – Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		✓	2023/24
Further reduction in the requirement for a heavy vehicle access permit	✓		2023

Red tape reforms	Red tape cut	Red tape work in progress	Completion Date
Automated water/sewerage/bushfire assessment as part of development application	✓		2023
Environment, public health and local heritage permit assessments	✓		2023
Online application lodgment and tracking of development related applications – planbuild Tasmania portal	✓		2023
Review of minor works requiring reporting to reporting authorities under the Building Act 2016		✓	2023/24

# Executive summary: Consolidated list of red tape issues (2014-23)

Red tape reforms by industry sector	Red tape cut	Red tape work in progress	Completion Date
<b>Agriculture, forestry and fishing</b>			
Extension of industrial hemp license period from one to five years	✓		2015
Increase the allowable tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) threshold for industrial hemp from 0.35 to 1 per cent	✓		2015
Special purpose legislation for the production of industrial hemp	✓		2015
Simplifying the dam works approval process, including abolishing the Assessment Committee for Dam Construction	✓		2016
Review of biosecurity legislation to develop a streamlined, coherent and integrated model	✓		2019
Simplifying the 'right to farm' law	✓		2016
Browsing animals reforms (crop protection permits)	✓		2016
Remove requirements for farmers to complete an annual statutory declaration to continue to receive a vehicle registration rebate	✓		2014
Amend the <i>Marine Farming Planning Act 1995</i> to abolish the Board of Advice and Reference	✓		2015
Amend and simplify the <i>Fisheries (Commercial Dive) Rules 2011</i>	✓		2014
Development of new fishing permits for commercial fishers to explore value adding to low-value species in Tasmanian waters	✓		2015
Amend the <i>Fisheries (Abalone) Rules 2009</i> to provide more flexibility in relation to over-catch	✓		2014
Amend the <i>Fisheries (Rock Lobster) Rules 2011</i> to reduce the penalty for failing to submit a telephone report	✓		2017
Exemption order to allow rock lobster fishers to traverse closed areas with baited pots on deck	✓		2014
Remaking the <i>Threatened Species Protection Regulations 2006</i>	✓		2016
Amendments to the <i>Natural Resource Management Act 2002</i>	✓		2018
Poppy regulation reforms	✓		2016
Approval to allow industrial hemp seed to be consumed as a food	✓		2017
Extension of the period of crop protection permits for deer from 1 to 5 years	✓		2020
Charter for working on private farm land (between Government Business Enterprises and the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association)	✓		2019
Extension of genetically modified organism moratorium from 5 years to 10 years	✓		2019
Fisheries Digital Transition Project: Phase I “Making Life Easier”	✓		2019
Improving efficiency in the regulation of forest practices	✓		2019
Review of <i>Industrial Hemp Act 2015</i>		✓	2023/24
Private Forests Service levy Rebate Scheme	✓		2021
Private Forestry (miscellaneous legislative amendments)	✓		2022
Transition to Tasmania’s commercial wild-capture fisheries to digital processes	✓		2020

Red tape reforms by industry sector	Red tape cut	Red tape work in progress	Completion Date
<b>Construction and property</b>			
Building regulatory framework review	✓		2016
Streamline the residential tenancy bonds process	✓		2018
Amend the <i>Residential Tenancy Act</i> to reduce the compliance burden associated with cooking facilities and restrictions on photographing rental properties	✓		2015
Review of rural properties entered on the Tasmanian Heritage Register	✓		2016
Review of Tasmanian Heritage Register to ensure it contains only entries that meet the criteria	✓		2016
Reform the <i>Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995</i> to streamline the works approval process	✓		2016
Extend building practitioner renewal period	✓		2017
Removal of net tangible assets regulations	✓		2017
Amendment of <i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i> to allow councils to extend permits by an extra two years reducing the need for developers to re-apply	✓		2015
Review <i>Property Agents and Land Transactions Act 2005 (PALTA)</i>	✓		2017
Duplication for bush fire plans removed	✓		2017
Streamlining occupational licencing	✓		2017
Risk based building and plumbing approvals	✓		2017
<i>National Trust Preservation Fund (Winding Up) Amendment Bill 2016</i>	✓		2017
<i>Historic Cultural Heritage Regulations 2016</i>	✓		2016
The <i>Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Act 1990</i> Reform	✓		2017
Landholder reforms to the <i>Duties Act</i>	✓		2016
First Floor CBD Development	✓		2017
Repeal of Section 146(2) of the <i>Land Titles Act</i>	✓		2018
Security deposits by instalment	✓		2019
Tasmanian development regulatory reform	✓		2020
Water and sewerage infrastructure spatial data capture	✓		2022
Bushfire prone area spatial data capture	✓		2022
Automated water/sewerage/bushfire assessment as part of development application.	✓		2023
Integrated/interface of licencing, registration and related systems.	✓		2019
Environment, public health and local heritage permit assessments	✓		2023
Online fire alarm/system permits	✓		2023
Activating a valid planning permit	✓		2020
Crown land leases and landholder consent	✓		2020



Red tape reforms by industry sector	Red tape cut	Red tape work in progress	Completion Date
Early issue of titles for new subdivisions	✓		2020
Electricity and power regulations	✓		2021
EPA review of case for assessment	✓		2020
Minor amendments to planning permits	✓		2020
Nature conservation and special permits	✓		2020
No permit required assessments	✓		2022
Planning permit conditions	✓		2020
Request for additional information (RFI) by councils	✓		2020
Sealing of plans	✓		2020
Strata titles	✓		2020
Water and sewerage regulations	✓		2021
Review of minor works requiring reporting to authorities under the <i>Building Act 2016</i>		✓	2023/24
Automatic mutual recognition for occupational licenses	✓		2022
Streamlining planning referrals to TasNetworks	✓		2022
Implementation of National Electronic Conveyancing (NECS)		✓	2023/24
<i>Strata Titles Act 1998</i> Review		✓	2023/24
Reserve activity assessment reforms		✓	2023/24
Online application lodgment and tracking of development related applications.	✓		2023
Review of categories of building and demolition work and categories of plumbing work	✓		2021/22
Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975		✓	2023/24
Streamlining dispute resolution for residential building work		✓	2023/24
Online lodgment of compliance certificates		✓	2023/24
Automatic mutual recognition of interstate shot-firing authorities	✓		2023
Digital public notification in the planning system		✓	2023/24
Consolidate and streamline land subdivision approvals		✓	2023/24
Review and enhance the housing land supply process		✓	2023/24
Reduction of regulatory burden due to landfill levy		✓	2023/24
Acceptance of electronic counterparts on contracts rather than wet ink signatures		✓	2023/24
Improved responsiveness of key stakeholders to support strategic property acquisition by Homes Tasmania		✓	2023/24
Enabling infill development and gentle densification		✓	2023/24
Expand on the administrative data exchange protocol for Tasmania to include and information platform		✓	2023/24

Red tape reforms by industry sector	Red tape ref	Red tape r	Red tape reforms by industry
Online portal, accessible to Tasmanian Government entities, to share infrastructure-related information		✓	2023/24
<b>Retail and wholesale trade</b>			
Motor traders red tape reforms (demonstrator and loan cars)	✓		2016
Security licensing administration	✓		2015
Amend the <i>Food Act 2003</i> to create a state-wide registration system for temporary food stalls	✓		2015
Removal of regulations in the <i>Firearms Act 1996</i> prohibiting paintball businesses from operating in Tasmania	✓		2015
Registrar of Motor Vehicles to authorise private sector driving instructors to undertake L2 driving assessments	✓		2014
Streamlined licensing and accreditation for passenger transport operators	✓		2015
Fireworks night retained	✓		2018
Hire and drive vehicle inspection program	✓		2016
Development of online training resource for stakeholders who conduct services on behalf of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles	✓		2016
Implementation of smart forms for vehicle inspection services	✓		2016
Simplifying the process for the disposal of uncollected goods	✓		2020
Enhanced PI assessment arrangements	✓		2019
Peer to peer car rental	✓		2020
Distillery (Whiskey & Spirits) regulatory review		✓	2023/24
Electric car imports	✓		2023
E-Scooters and other personal mobility devices	✓		2021
Fuel cell electrical vehicle framework		✓	2023
<b>Tourism, hospitality and racing</b>			
Review the on-course bookmaker regulatory arrangements	✓		2016
Review the appeal provisions of the <i>Racing Regulation Act 2004</i>	✓		2015
Amalgamate the Integrity Assurance Board and the Tasmanian Racing Appeal Board	✓		2015
Repeal the <i>Travel Agents Act 1987</i> to remove the duplication of regulation in the travel industry	✓		2014
Reduction of the public consultation process for wildlife imports from 20 days to 10 day	✓		2017
Streamline import of exotic animals for zoos, pet stores and animal exhibitors without compromising biosecurity	✓		2016
Introduction of online passes for national parks	✓		2014
Erecting temporary structures	✓		2017
Merger of Tasmanian Gaming Commission and Liquor Licensing Board	✓		2015
Simplifying gaming licence renewals	✓		2015
Extend duration of out-of-hours permits	✓		2016
Improved risk-related assessment of gaming licences	✓		2015
Airbnb and free market reforms	✓		2017

Red tape reforms by industry sector	Red tape cut	Red tape work in progress	Completion Date
Agritourism regulatory mapping of reform project		✓	2023/24
<b>Education and training</b>			
Review of the <i>Education Act 1994</i>	✓		2017
Review of the <i>Education Act 1994</i> – systems of non-government schools	✓		2017
Anti-discrimination amendment – reducing the administrative burden for faith-based schools	✓		2015
Traineeships and apprenticeships information system reform	✓		2018
2016 User Choice program	✓		2015
Change of eligibility criteria for the Student Assistance Scheme	✓		2020
<b>Health and Community services industry</b>			
Eliminating duplication of state regulations where community sector organisations have nationally accredited quality management systems in place	✓		2016
Introduction of an electronic grants management system	✓		2015
Charity and not for profit reporting requirements	✓		2016
Online tobacco seller's licence applications and renewals	✓		2020
Streamline regulatory processes for licensing of private health facilities and day procedure centres - reporting requirements	✓		2017
Simplification and standardisation of contracts and pre- qualification for community services providers	✓		2021
Reducing paperwork and administrative burden for radiation licence holders	✓		2019
Portfolio lease agreements with community organisations	✓		2019
<i>Poisons Amendment Act 2017</i>	✓		2017
Extension of family and sexual violence specialist service grant agreements to five years	✓		2023/24
<i>Mental Health Amendment Act 2023</i>	✓		2023
<b>General application across all industries and other red tape reforms</b>			
Review of workers' compensation arrangements	✓		2018
Local government traffic facilities approvals: remove the need for approval from the Department of State Growth	✓		2015
Pre-approve road networks for a suite of heavy vehicles to remove the need for operators to obtain heavy vehicle road permits	✓		2019
Planning reform - state planning provisions	✓		2017
Planning reform - major projects	✓		2020
A single civil and administrative tribunal	✓		2021
Reducing limitation on leasing and licensing Crown land	✓		2015
Reviewing model work health and safety laws	✓		2022
Making it easier for businesses to register for government events	✓		2015
Streamlined process for Tasmanian Government nominations for skilled migration	✓		2016

Red tape reforms by industry sector	Red tape cut	Red tape work in progress	Completion Date
Amendment of <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> to abolish 29 individual code of conduct panels and replace with an independent state- wide code of conduct panel	✓		2015
Simplifying Stamp Duty on corporate restructures	✓		2016
Provision of online forms for external clients for mineral tenement processes	✓		2021
<i>Professional Standards Act</i> amendments to remove s.27 and introduce mutual recognition provisions	✓		2016
National business simplification initiative	✓		2021
Abolition of registration labels from heavy vehicles	✓		2017
Cutting red tape for the mining industry	✓		2017
Review of Tasmania's local government legislation		✓	2023/24
Refining the lease and licensing functions for Parks and Wildlife		✓	2023/24
Wildlife regulations review	✓		2021
Further reduction in the requirement for a heavy vehicle access permit	✓		2023
Small Business Regulatory and Process Reform Project	✓		2023
Reduction in the requirement for road network access permits for the ADF heavy vehicle fleet	✓		2021
Reduction in the requirement for a SPV access Permit	✓		2021
Reduction in the requirement for an Oversize Over mass heavy vehicle access permit	✓		2021
Quicker turnaround for processing of prospecting license applications and extension of license period from one year to five years	✓		2021
Making it easier for businesses to apply for loan assistance and ongoing management of loans	✓		2023
Pepperberry (permit and license) system one to two years		✓	2023
<b>Community</b>			
Reduced place of assembly licensing requirements	✓		2015
Removing duplication of regulatory requirements in the child care industry	✓		2015
Introduced online transfer of vehicle service for clients, removing the need to attend a Service Tasmania shop to undertake this transaction	✓		2014
Abolish the requirement for drivers over the age of 75 to have compulsory medical assessments if they do not have a medical condition that could impact on their ability to drive safely	✓		2014
Electronic Service of Police Infringement Notices (ESOP)	✓		2016
Simplifying the quarantine procedures for passengers arriving in Tasmania on the <i>Spirits of Tasmania</i>	✓		2015
Improve Fitness-to-Drive management processes	✓		2016
Introduce a new driver assessment booking system	✓		2016
Holders of permits to keep reptiles to be able to increase the number of animals they keep	✓		2017
Removal of the moratorium on bird and reptile imports while maintaining biosecurity	✓		2017
Review of small passenger vehicle regulation	✓		2021/22

Red tape reforms by industry sector	Red tape ref	Red tape r	Red tape reforms by industr
<i>New Place Names Act</i>	✓		2020
Streamlining legislative provisions relating to Anzac Day activities	✓		2019
Removal of library fines for late returns	✓		2018
Fire and emergency service act reform		✓	2023/24
Airports and Protection of airspace regulations	✓		2023
Future of Local Government Review		✓	2023/24
Automatic conversion of surrendered driver's license to personal information card		✓	2023/24
myServiceTas digital services portal developments		✓	2023/24
Improve the licensing and registration service provided to the firearms community and related industries		✓	2023/24
Improve the way in which the Tasmanian community can report minor crime and offences to Tasmanian police		✓	2023/24
Foreign arrangements scheme – Commonwealth – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		✓	2023/24
Amalgamation of core and project funding for community development peak bodies		✓	2023/24

# Future of local government review

## Red Tape Burden

The role of local government is becoming more important amid growing evidence that many complex social, economic, and environmental problems require local solutions. Communities want their councils to succeed, but the current system and structures make this increasingly difficult for many councils, particularly in regional and rural communities.

## Regulator/agency

Local Government Board

Councils

Department of Premier and Cabinet (Office of Local Government)

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Local Government Act 1993*

## Background/consultation

In December 2021, the Government established the Local Government Board to review the way Tasmanian councils work and make recommendations about how the current system needs to change so that councils can meet the future challenges and opportunities the community will face. The scope of the Future of Local Government Review included “the optimal future design for the Tasmanian local government sector to support the delivery of local government’s proposed roles, functions, features and capabilities, individually and collectively, across representative and administrative roles and functions”.

The Review is due to finish in September 2023. It has involved significant consultation and engagement, including through regional workshops with councils and the community. At the end of the Review, the Government will consider the Board’s recommendations and decide how it wants to respond.

## Red tape reforms

In its December 2022 Options Paper, the Board identified 33 specific reform options for the key pressure points councils are facing now and in the future. The Options Paper also identified structural reform pathways for ensuring councils have the necessary scale, resources, capability, and capacity to deliver their critical functions.

A number of the options being considered have implications for red tape reduction. These include:

- Establish a public-facing performance reporting, monitoring, and management framework with performance-based benchmarks and review ‘triggers’;
- Establish ‘virtual’ regional teams of regulatory staff to provide a shared regulatory capability;
- Transfer councillors’ responsibility for determining development applications to council planning officers or an independent panel;
- Increase transparency and consistency of councils’ resourcing and implementation of regulatory functions; and
- Increase State Government support for the implementation of regulatory processes.

## Status of the red tape reform

The Board will present its report to the Minister by September 2023. As well as any recommendations on revised boundaries and administrative structures for local government, the final report is likely to include specific reform recommendations for red tape reduction initiatives. Any legislative amendments needed would then be developed and progressed with those already agreed by the Government through the Review of Tasmania’s local government legislation.

# Streamlining planning referrals to TasNetworks

## Red Tape Burden

Planning approvals processes often require referral to TasNetworks. There are some classes of work that should be exempted from referral to TasNetworks.

## Regulator/agency

TasNetworks/Department of Treasury and Finance

## Act/regulatory instrument

Electricity Supply Industry Regulations 2018

## Background/consultation

“The Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Act 2020 introduced a requirement for local councils to refer development applications to TasNetworks in case the proposed development might have an adverse impact on its infrastructure. There was a provision that classes of works could be exempted from this requirement, but no guidance was given at the time.

We are currently working with TasNetworks (and through TasNetworks to the Local Government Association of Tasmania) to outline the classes of works where referrals do not have to be sent to TasNetworks. This will present a saving to both TasNetworks and those undertaking the planning approvals process to remove applications that are not required.

## Status of the red tape reform

The *Electricity Supply Industry Act 1995* (ESI Act) was amended in 2020 and ESI Regulation 7A came into effect on 17 August 2022.

# Agritourism regulatory mapping and reform project

## Red Tape Burden

The project was established based on feedback through the Minister for Tourism's Office and Office of the Coordinator-General that many businesses get caught in a "rabbit warren" regulations when navigating agritourism approvals. Phase I of the project (now complete) undertook engagement and research to produce 26 recommendations aimed at addressing the burden.

## Regulator/agency

Department of State Growth

## Act/regulatory instrument

The recommendations involve the development and implementation of a number of changes to legislation, statutory guidelines, internal service standards, fees, licencing, technical requirements, systems, processes, policies, and the development and implementation of business support initiatives and guidelines for industry.

## Background/consultation

The outputs and recommendations from Phase I of the project were produced by an independent consultant following engagement with agritourism business owners, regulatory bodies (including councils), regional tourism organisations and primary industry associations, based on their experiences in navigating the regulatory approvals process. The engagement findings underpinned the development of the 26 recommendations.

## Red tape reforms

To make sure the regulatory environment is fit for purpose and appropriate for encouraging and regulating agritourism projects – recommendations include promotion of agritourism specific planning policies, requesting planning provisions emphasise the role of agritourism in supporting agricultural activities in the Agriculture and Rural zones, requesting changes to Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS) technical requirements, working with State Roads on signage accessibility and road access upgrade requirements, supporting the trial of an updated Australian Standard for fire protection in distilleries, requesting review of Dangerous Goods Handling Reports and Hazard Area Reports for alcohol production facilities, introducing legislation to allow licencing of mobile abattoirs, supporting changes to fishing licences, requesting changes to Department of Health guidelines that support better classification of agritourism activities, requesting updates to liquor licencing fee structures, and introducing service standard timeframes for all permits, licences and approvals relevant to agritourism.

Provide easily accessible information to support agritourism businesses in the regulatory process – recommendations include delivery of approvals masterclasses for agritourism businesses, growing specialist agritourism support services in Business Tasmania, creating a technical support panel comprising private sector experts for agritourism businesses, providing easier access to relevant Australian Standards, and encouraging councils to establish pre-application support services.

Create greater awareness of the agritourism industry and the policy context with regulators – recommendations include facilitating 'understanding agritourism' training sessions for regulatory staff, private certifiers and other regulatory decision-makers, facilitating sessions about this project for regulators, and providing regulator access to the new specialist support services in Business Tasmania.

Increase the capacity of regulators and experts to assess agritourism proposals – recommendations include preparing Department of Health guidelines, working with the Department of Health to deliver training for councils on how to interpret and apply food preparation requirements for agritourism businesses, and requesting CBOS strengthen its professional certification review and auditing program.

## Status of the red tape reform

Phase I of the project (research and recommendations) is complete.

Phase 2 (delivery of recommendations) is being progressed.



# Streamlining dispute resolution for residential building work

## Red Tape Burden

The current mediation and adjudication process for building disputes occurs under the Residential Building Work Contracts and Dispute Resolution Act 2016 (the Contracts Act).

Under the Contracts Act, a party to residential building work may lodge a notice of dispute relating to the residential building work contract or the performance of the work under such a contract. This notice then commences the mediation process. The Contracts Act also provides that an owner may make an application for adjudication in relation to a work-completion claim if the owner is of the opinion that the residential building work has not been satisfactorily completed.

The adjudication processes within the existing Act have not functioned as intended. Due to the limited opportunities for recourse relating to the disputes, affected consumers have instead chosen to pursue civil action against the building contractor, often resulting in costly and protracted legal arguments.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Justice

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Residential Building (Miscellaneous Consumer Protection Amendments) Bill 2022*

## Background/consultation

The Residential Building (Miscellaneous Consumer Protection Amendments) Bill 2022 (the Bill) amends Tasmania's building regulatory framework to strengthen consumer protections, increase accountability of certain statutory office holders, and provide for streamlined dispute resolution for residential building work.

Consultation on the proposed Bill was undertaken from July 2022. The Bill was made publicly available and briefings were provided directly to key stakeholder bodies including Master Builders Tasmania, Housing Industry Association, Australian Institute of Architects, Office of Local Government and the Director of Local Government, Law Society of Tasmania and Local Government Association of Tasmania and Tasmanian Permit Authorities.

## Red tape reforms

The Bill provides that residential building work disputes between consumers and building contractors under the Residential Building Work Act will be within the original jurisdiction of Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT) following mediation.

This aligns Tasmania with other jurisdictions and provides consumers with a more timely and cost effective dispute resolution pathway.

TASCAT has significant order making powers, including orders for the payment of monies (including for damages and restitution); the payment of monies for the completion of residential building work; the completion or rectification of residential building work; varying or voiding terms of contract that are unjust or unconscionable; and any order TASCAT considers fair or reasonable.

## Status of the red tape reform

The Bill has been introduced to Parliament. It has been passed through the House of Assembly, and has had its first reading before Legislative Committee.

# Extension of family and sexual violence specialist service grant agreements to five years

## Red Tape Burden

Five year contracts for specialist family and sexual violence services will provide not only funding certainty but reduce the requirements and resource burden on community sector organisations to re-bid for funding that they rely on to remain viable and provide critical services to the community. Frontline family and sexual violence services have been funded by the Tasmanian Government for over a decade. In addition to being able to fully utilise resources to deliver services, rather than undertaking administration associated with re-bidding for funding and executing new grant deeds, five year contracts also enables these services to enhance their employment desirability, build their workforces, ensure continuity of employment, and reduce staff turnover.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet.

## Act/regulatory instrument

Nil.

## Background/consultation

This proposed red tape reduction initiative aligns with recommendations in:

- The Premiers Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council Final Report;
- The State Service Review Final Report; and
- Community Services Industry Plan 2021-2031.

Five year contracts for specialist family and sexual violence services were announced as part of the 2022-23 State Budget. This announcement was received positively by family and sexual violence specialist services.

## Red tape reforms

See below 'Status of red tape reform' section.

## Status of the red tape reform

Committed to by the Government in the 2022-23 State Budget. The extended term arrangements will be implemented when funding is delivered through the 2023-24 State Budget enabling five years of funding, and the execution of five year contracts. The relevant budget allocation was agreed at Budget Committee on 23 November 2022.

# Amalgamation of core and project funding for Community development peak bodies

## Red Tape Burden

Currently Community Development Peak Bodies are required to enter into two grant agreements with the Tasmanian Government – core, and project funding, to finance their peak body functions. However, the core funding is inadequate to support the operational requirements of peak bodies, and project funding supplements core funding. Peak Bodies are required to report separately on each grant agreement. This arrangement is illogical and creates unnecessary administrative burdens for Community Service Peak Bodies. Rolling these two streams of funding together more accurately reflects a reasonable level of operational funding for Community Service Peak Bodies, reduces administration in executing and managing two grant deeds, and enables some flexibility for Peak Bodies in how they allocate their funding. Accountability can still be maintained through one combined Grant Agreement, by collaboratively identifying projects that the Peak Body will deliver in addition to funding their operations.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet.

## Act/regulatory instrument

Nil.

## Background/consultation

This proposed red tape reduction initiative aligns with recommendations in:

- The Premiers Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council Final Report;
- The State Service Review Final Report; and
- Community Services Industry Plan 2021-2031.

Extensive consultation through TasCOSS and directly with community sector and peak organisations indicates universal support for long-term contracts for community sector organisations, and the reduction of grant agreements, and unnecessary reporting requirements.

## Red tape reforms

See below 'Status of red tape reform' section.

## Status of the red tape reform

Proposal will be put to the Minister for Community Services and Development for consideration.

# Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975

## Red Tape Burden

An authorisation under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* is required before Aboriginal heritage can be impacted. The Act is outdated and provides no guidance or certainty for how an authorisation can be obtained or how long it will take. Consideration of Aboriginal heritage tends to occur late in the planning process, and unexpected and unaccountable delays in obtaining authorisations to impact Aboriginal heritage can result in significant delays to project timeframes.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975*

## Background/consultation

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975* was reviewed in 2019-20. A Review Report and associated Government Response was released in July 2021. The review found a high level of dissatisfaction with the Act. Among the feedback, land managers and developers raised the concern that a lack of certainty of process resulted in delays, negative sentiment and additional costs. In its response, the Government committed to develop comprehensive new legislation. In the 2021-22 State Budget the Government committed \$970,000 over two years for the Support for the Major Aboriginal Policy Reform Initiatives to ensure adequate resources are available to draft the new legislation.

A consultation paper detailing the Government's proposals for a new Act was released in March 2022 to support public consultation.

## Red tape reforms

Feedback from consultation is currently informing the Government's drafting of new legislation.

A consultation Draft Exposure Bill is planned to be released later in 2023.

## Status of the red tape reform

Office of Parliamentary Counsel is drafting the legislative reforms.

# Automatic conversion of surrendered driver's license to personal Information card

## Red Tape Burden

Drivers who surrender their driver's licence card when they are no longer able to drive a vehicle lose a valuable form of identification. Service Tasmania staff currently recommend that the driver applies for a Personal Information Card, however this requires additional application forms and a \$29 application fee.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet

## Act/regulatory instrument

## Background/consultation

To improve the customer experience, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of State Growth are investigating the feasibility of establishing an automatic conversion process from a driver's licence to a Personal Information Card at the point the driver's licence is handed in.

This would remove the requirement for customers to complete additional forms and identity checks. As part of the proposal, the \$29 fee would be waived.

## Red tape reforms

This would streamline the process for 800 drivers per year and ensure that these Tasmanians still have a valid form of identification for future uses.

## Status of the red tape reform

Scoping and feasibility assessment is underway between the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of State Growth.

# myServiceTas digital services portal developments

## Red Tape Burden

Finding and accessing government services can be difficult for a number of Tasmanians. Many services require people to fill in paper forms, attend a Service Tasmania shop and present hard copies of identity documents. Services are not connected, so Tasmanians can expect to present the same information to different government agencies at different times.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet (Service Tasmania)

## Act/regulatory instrument

N/A

## Background/consultation

The Independent Review of the Tasmanian State Service (TSS) recognises Service Tasmania as an asset to the TSS and all Tasmanians, whilst advocating renewal of the organisation to keep pace with contemporary service approaches. Key recommendations included:

- organising services around 'life events'
- enhancement of service delivery partnerships with all levels of government
- investing in digital services to become the single digital service delivery agent for the TSS.

## Red tape reforms

Government has committed \$4.3m over four years from 2021 to begin development of a digital Service Tasmania portal (myServiceTas) to provide Tasmanians with a secure and easy-to-use access point for Government services, accessed through a single login.

Specific actions are:

- Service Tasmania released a new website in July 2022, which makes it easier to find and access government services.
- Service Tasmania published the first two basic 'life events' in 2022, around 'moving to Tasmania' and 'what to do when someone dies', organising services around citizen needs.
- Develop Stage I of the myServiceTas portal, through a Request for Tender process to procure key foundational tools such as client accounts and citizen login, and develop the first digital services (driver licence renewals and vehicle registration).
- Development of the Customer Service Transformation business case which proposes further investment in the myServiceTas platform and associated enablers including:
  - Evolution of digital identity – including individual and business identities
  - Digital licensing and certification – foundations for digital driver and other licensing
  - Forms digitisation – allowing a consistent application experience reducing duplication and allowing greater visibility of the status and timeframes involved in applications
  - Life/business events – streamlining workflows for applications and renewals
  - Integration of existing government services with the portal to provide a joined-up customer experience.

## Status of the red tape reform

The new Service Tasmania website was delivered July 2022 and included two pilot life events – “Moving to Tasmania” and “What to do when someone dies”

Stage I of the myServiceTas Digital Services Portal has been out to tender and contract negotiations are underway with the preferred vendor.

It is anticipated that Stage I of myServiceTas will be released to the public in November 2023.

The Customer Service Transformation business case is under development which proposes funding for future stages of the myServiceTas portal and the associated whole-of-government customer service transformation. The business case will be submitted in support of a budget bid for the 2023/24 budget cycle.

# Fire and emergency service act reform

## Red Tape Burden

Some existing arrangements for the funding, governance and operation of the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and State Emergency Service (SES), and associated emergency management activities, are complex. This can make it difficult to understand fees, approvals processes and other matters.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management  
Department of Premier and Cabinet

## Act/regulatory instrument

Forest Practices Act 1985  
Threatened Species Protection Act 1995  
Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993  
National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002  
Wellington Park Act 1993  
Weed Management Act 1999  
Nature Conservation Act 2002  
Environment Management and Pollution Control Act 1994  
Aboriginal Heritage Act 1975  
Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995  
Crown Lands Act 1976  
Fire Service Act 1979  
Emergency Management Act 2006

## Background/consultation

In 2016 the House of Assembly Standing Committee on Community Development's Inquiry into the State Fire Commission recommended a review of the Fire Service Act 1979. After around six years of comprehensive reviews and public consultation the Government is establishing new legislation to replace the Fire Service Act. The new legislation will unite the TFS and SES as the Tasmania Fire and Emergency Service (TFES) and implement appropriate governance and funding arrangements. The development of the new legislation will also consider the range of important matters raised in the public consultation on the draft Bushfire Mitigation Measures Bill 2020.

## Red tape reforms

The new legislation to replace the Fire Service Act 1979 will establish a sustainable, stable and equitable funding system. It will also consider opportunities to improve operational activities and approval processes.

## Status of the red tape reform

Legislative reform is currently being drafted.

# Mental Health Amendment Act 2023

## Red Tape Burden

Separate formal offices of the Chief Civil Psychiatrist and Chief Forensic Psychiatrist, which have historically only been held by one person, led to duplicative guidelines, standing orders, forms, and arbitrary processes.

Processes for patient leave and patient transfer and readmission have been unnecessarily bureaucratic.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Health

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Mental Health Act 2013*

## Background/consultation

A review of the *Mental Health Act 2013*, concluding in 2020, included a nine-week public consultation during which 33 submissions were received and incorporated into the Mental Health Act Review Implementation Review Outcomes report.

The feedback stressed the importance of simplifying the framework, specifically identifying applications for assessment orders and patient leave as unnecessary. Patient transfer provisions are restricted to medical purposes only and the readmission of a forensic patient who requires ongoing inpatient treatment (following the expiry of their sentence or order) was also found not to be operating effectively.

A consultation version of a Mental Health Amendment Bill, which proposed the merging of the Chief Psychiatrists as a significant simplification measure, was subject to four weeks of public consultation in 2022. 10 written submissions were received.

## Red tape reforms

The Mental Health Amendment Act 2023 will make the following changes:

- establishing a new role of Chief Psychiatrist to replace the current statutory roles of Chief Civil and Chief Forensic Psychiatrist;
- removal of the requirement for the application of leave to be made in writing;
- facilitate intra-state patient transfers between approved hospitals;
- removal of the requirement to transfer a patient located in a Secure Mental Health Unit to an approved hospital in the first instance if they are assessed as needing to remain at that facility; and
- removal of the requirement for an Assessment Order application.

## Status of the red tape reform

The Mental Health Amendment Act passed the Third Reading of the House of Assembly without amendment on 30 March 2023. Work is progressing to revoke, simplify and/or update all the forms, clinical guidelines, and standing orders that will be impacted by the amendments. The Act is currently expected to be proclaimed to commence in Spring 2023.



# Fuel cell electrical vehicle framework

## Red Tape Burden

The current *Gas Safety Act 2019*, *Occupational Licensing Act 2005* and associated regulations do not efficiently regulate hydrogen fuel cell vehicle gas fitting because they are established on vehicles being powered by traditional internal combustion engines.

Under this existing legislation, there would be a need to treat each hydrogen fuel cell vehicle as a type B gas appliance, which will require an application for acceptance and approval from CBOS, Director of Gas Safety for each vehicle.

## Regulator/agency

Consumer, Building and Occupational Services, Department of Justice.

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Gas Safety Act 2019*

*Occupational Licensing Act 2005*

Gas Safety Regulations 2021

Occupational Licensing (Gas-fitting Work) Regulations 2021.

## Background/consultation

This matter was highlighted as part of the National and Tasmanian hydrogen regulatory reviews.

Preliminary consultation has been undertaken with Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania, Metro Tasmania and other stakeholders interested in future hydrogen transport industry initiatives.

## Red tape reforms

Draft a Bill that contains minor amendment to automotive gas fuel system definitions to ensure the regulatory framework affords fuel cell electrical vehicles the current efficiencies and safety outcomes experienced by traditional gaseous fuels; LP gas, liquid natural gas and compressed natural gas. Subsequently removing the requirement for an application for acceptance and approval from CBOS, Director of Gas Safety for each vehicle.

## Status of the red tape reform

A Cabinet Minute seeking authority to draft an amendment Bill has been drafted and will progress during 2023.

## Online lodgement of compliance certificates

### Red Tape Burden

The *Gas Safety Act 2019* and the *Occupational Licencing Act 2005* invoke requirements for practitioners to provide compliance certificates stating that installations comply with regulatory and safety standards.

At present, these processes are largely manual and rely on hard copy paper forms, sent by traditional post.

### Regulator/agency

Consumer, Building and Occupational Services, Department of Justice

### Act/regulatory instrument

*Gas Safety Act 2019 and Occupational Licencing Act 2005*

### Background/consultation

Industry stakeholders have raised this matter with Consumer, Building and Occupational Services.

Development and implementation of on-line services will include comprehensive consultation with relevant licenced practitioners, energy suppliers, and industry associations.

### Red tape reforms

The project will deliver a new software-based system to facilitate compliance activities including the ability for practitioners to lodge their compliance obligations online and remove the need for posting of certificates and the associated delays and need for manual intervention.

### Status of the red tape reform

Negotiations with the successful software developer are in process.

# Automatic mutual recognition of interstate shot-firing authorities

## Red Tape Burden

Applying Automatic Mutual Recognition to adults who hold a valid interstate shot-firing authority. This will remove the need for people to apply to the Secretary to have their existing authority recognised. Other opportunities to harmonise Tasmania's *Explosives Regulations 2012* with National explosives laws, where this can be done safely, have also been adopted in the remake of the Regulations.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Justice (WorkSafe Tasmania)

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Explosives Regulations 2022 (the Regulations)*

## Background/consultation

Both Orica and AEISG highlighted difficulties with recognition of interstate permits during the consultation to remake the Regulations.

Feedback included that Regulations 54 and 55, dealing with the recognition of interstate shot-firing authorities is of no benefit or practical use. It is potentially more onerous to apply for recognition of an interstate authority rather than simply applying for the Tasmanian authority.

It is thought that the agreed SIG-Explosives proposal for recognition of occupational licences will be implemented within the Regulations, as there is no justification for duplicating occupational authorities issued by other jurisdictions under corresponding laws.

## Red tape reforms

Applying Automatic Mutual Recognition to adults who hold a valid interstate shot-firing authority. This will remove the need for people to apply to the Secretary to have their existing authority recognised.

## Status of the red tape reform

Consultation is complete and Regulations have been drafted.

# Improve the licensing and registration service provided to firearms community and related industries

## Red Tape Burden

Services provided by Firearm Services are mostly paper based with accompanying manual processes. Firearms licence holders, owners and dealers can become frustrated at the lack of consistent and contemporary services.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management (DPFEM)

## Act/regulatory instrument

These reforms are achieved through technology and business process improvements, and do not require any legislative or regulatory change.

## Background/consultation

Several reviews and inquiries have been conducted over many years seeking solutions to improve the effectiveness of firearms management in Tasmania. Most recently the House of Assembly Select Committee on Firearms Legislation and Policy in 2019 recommended that the Tasmanian Government, through Firearm Services, investigate the efficiencies, accountability, privacy and security risks involved in an online licencing system.

Under the auspices of Project Unify, Project Recharge was formed in response to this recommendation and aims to:

- improve interactions between DPFEM Firearm Services and firearms owners and those involved in the firearms community and related industry
- improve the timeliness and consistency of advice and decision making
- provide better reporting to highlight areas of risk and the accompanying police response

Project Recharge undertook a survey of the firearms community which has shown overwhelming support for the introduction of an online portal to improve transactions with Firearms Services.

Project Recharge will implement a new firearms management system, including an online portal for licence holders and dealers, which will provide an accessible, consistent and contemporary service to the firearms community. The transition of existing manual processes to a contemporary system will also decrease the administrative burden on Firearms Service staff, allowing more timely responses to the community.

## Red tape reforms

Project Recharge has

- completed an extensive workshop process with Firearms Services to develop comprehensive process mapping and business requirements.
- undertaken firearms community engagement to establish stakeholder interest in an online portal, and the functionality it may provide
- engaged with the market to establish vendor capability to implement a suitable firearms management solution, the anticipated effort and an estimate of costs.

The project is currently preparing an options paper to obtain Steering Committee approval to proceed to procurement. Pending approval, it is anticipated that the procured firearms management solution will be implemented during 2023/2024.

## Status of the red tape reform

Project Recharge is preparing options analysis and accompanying funding allocation request to be submitted via internal governance arrangements.

# Improve the way in which the Tasmanian community can report minor crime and offences to Tasmania police

## Red Tape Burden

Reporting minor crime is generally limited to face-to-face interaction with police, a process which is not commensurate with community expectations in a digital world and is generally an inefficient experience for both the community and police.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management

## Act/regulatory instrument

These reforms are achieved through technology and business process improvements, and do not require any legislative or regulatory change.

## Background/consultation

DPFEM currently has minimal online engagement, generally offering static information, downloadable documentation and printable forms. Most application processes require the manual completion of hard copy forms obtained at the counter or, at best, downloaded from the Tasmania Police website. This model assumes community access to 'bricks and mortar' services. Modern communities are accustomed to conducting business online and at their convenience, with government and private services alike.

Under the auspices of Project Unify, Project Link will address this situation by:

- implementing a publicly accessible online platform that delivers, at a minimum, an online portal for the public to report minor crime
- providing an improved and trusted experience for the public when reporting issues, providing information and undertaking transactions
- facilitating faster, simpler and more efficient management of public requests and reports to reduce the resourcing impacts on operational policing and administrative burden on transactional business units.

## Red tape reforms

Project Link has:

- completed workshops with relevant stakeholders to develop process mapping and business requirements
- examined opportunities to strategically align and deliver consistent and contemporary services
- consulted with national jurisdictions to understand the benefits and challenges of other online reporting portal implementations
- engaged with other government agencies to identify and evaluate opportunities for whole-of-government collaborative solutions

The project is developing an approach to market to determine market capability, solution cost, and options for a solution procurement. An options paper will then be submitted to the Policing and Justice Solutions Steering Committee for approval to proceed with procurement.

Pending approval it is anticipated that the procured online crime reporting solution will be implemented during 2023/2024.

## Status of the red tape reform

Project establishing solution options and cost requirements, prior to seeking approval to procure.

# Making it easier for businesses to apply for loans assistance and ongoing management of loans

## Red Tape Burden

Previously, businesses requiring loan assistance needed to ring or email Business Tasmania who would manually manage loan applications. Borrowers with existing loans receive instalment and other notices by mail and have limited options for making loan repayments.

## Regulator/agency

Tasmania Development and Resources (TDR) and Department of State Growth

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Tasmanian Development Act 1983, Cultural and Creative Industries Act 2017*

## Background/consultation

Manual processes, primarily the use of word documents and spreadsheets, have previously been used to compile and present loan application information to approving authorities. This methodology was time consuming and inefficient, both from the borrower's and the lender's perspectives. Feedback received from borrowers indicated the need for a wider range of loan payment channels such as direct debit, and electronic access to loan information.

## Red tape reforms

An interim solution to inefficiencies in loan application handling was provided by adapting the electronic grant application system for loan applications. During 2022 a new modern electronic loan system was procured and current loans are being migrated to that system, which will provide for electronic communication with borrowers and additional loan repayment options through direct debit and BPay. Early in 2023 on-line loan applications will be made available, along with a borrower portal for real time access to loan status and information.

## Status of the red tape reform

Interim loan applications through grant system enacted

New loan system procured, configured and tested

Migration of existing loans to new loan system currently under way

New loan system on-line applications and borrower portal to be introduced early 2023

## Digital public notification in the planning system

### Red Tape Burden

The Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, associated Regulations, and other planning related legislation, have for decades relied upon and specified public notification processes which are based around public notices in newspapers, and on site posting of signs. Increasingly, digital and information system advances are being used by Governments and Councils to augment this. The placing of newspaper notices is a significant cost burden for applicants and represents an increasingly irrelevant method of advising the public of proposed developments.

### Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet (State Planning Office)

### Act/regulatory instrument

*Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993, Housing Land Supply Act 2018 (HLSA), and associated Regulations.*

### Background/consultation

The planned introduction of the PlanBuild portal (Dept of Justice) will move further towards the digitisation of planning applications. Other jurisdictions across Australia and around the world are exploring how information technology can improve public access while streamlining notifications and cutting costs. No direct consultation has taken place in Tasmania although the issue has been peripheral to the PlanBuild project.

### Red tape reforms

PlanBuild will substantially reform the process for lodging and assessing planning, building and other applications to local councils. However, the notification requirements remain unchanged. Moreover, there is confusion around the legality of information sharing of development applications electronically (current practice of many councils) with respect to copyright and intellectual property.

### Status of the red tape reform

A new project needs to be commissioned noting that this project aligns to the current Department of Justice PlanBuild project and is supported by DOJ.

# Consolidate and streamline land subdivision approvals

## Red Tape Burden

While planning approvals for houses have been significantly reformed over recently, subdivision approvals have remained a complex and poorly integrated process over the last 30 years, with the majority of issues managed within planning schemes but some aspects remaining within the Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 which means all subdivision applications are deemed discretionary and subject to vague and poorly defined standards. This is recognised as a major block to the efficient delivery of housing.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet (State Planning Office)

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993 (LUPAA), Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1993 (LGBMPA)*

## Background/consultation

The issue is widely recognised amongst the construction and development industry, local government, and State agencies. Various attempts have been made over several years to reform but these have not completely resolved the matter.

## Red tape reforms

Previous work has resulted in partial shifting of parts of the LGBMPA controls into planning schemes but some issues still remain. Analysis has identified other parts of LGBMPA that require consideration as part of the issuing of titles, which has been addressed by some of the previous Building and Construction Regulatory Reforms.

## Status of the red tape reform

Initial review work carried out and a new project needs to be commissioned.



# Review and enhance of housing land supply process

## Red Tape Burden

The Housing Land Supply Act 2018 provided a more direct way of rezoning Government owned land but was provided with a 5 year sunset provision. The scope of land that can be included in an order was recently expanded and the notification process was aligned to the normal planning requirements. The ability to make Orders that rezone land will cease in mid-2023. The Government has indicated a desire to expand the rezoning process to include subdivision approvals. The approval process also requires review to improve efficiencies.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet (State Planning Office)

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Housing Land Supply Act 2018 (HLSA)*

## Background/consultation

The HLSA has proven to be a useful reform in increasing the supply of residentially zoned land in appropriate locations for social and other housing. However, despite modifications over recent years it has residual inefficiencies and the sunset provisions will exclude future rezoning. The scope of the HLSA is limited to approving rezoning in a manner that effectively duplicates the role of the Tasmanian Planning Commission, but in the wake of the Huntingfield development delays through the Kingborough Council, Communities Tasmania has requested consideration of including subdivision approvals as a concurrent approval.

## Red tape reforms

The HLSA was enacted in 2018 with a 5 year life span to address the immediate housing crisis.

A new project is required to review and improve the operations of the Act

## Status of the red tape reform

A new project needs to be commissioned

# Implementation of National Electronic Conveyancing (NECS)

## Red Tape Burden

Tasmania has commenced the process of implementing the National Electronic Conveyancing System (NECS) that is in place across most jurisdictions in Australia. Until the NECS is in place, consumers are required to participate in a paper based property settlement and transaction environment, causing significant inefficiencies and time delays.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania / Land Titles Office

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Land Titles Act 1980 (enabling)*

## Background/consultation

In 2011, Tasmania signed the Intergovernmental Agreement for an Electronic Conveyancing National Law and passed legislation adopting the Electronic National Conveyancing Law in 2013.

The Recorder of Titles is an active member of the Australian Registrars' National Electronic Conveyancing Council (ARNECC), which was established under the Intergovernmental Agreement. ARNECC is responsible for developing and maintaining the regulatory framework for national electronic conveyancing operations. The entry of Tasmania into the NEC system has been widely discussed and consulted with relevant industry bodies including legal practitioners, conveyancers, financial institutions, mortgage processors the Law Society of Tasmania and the Australian Institute of Conveyancers (Tas).

## Red tape reforms

The reforms will allow a convenient electronic way for legal practitioners, conveyancers, financial institutions, and mortgage processors to:

- prepare dealings and related instruments to register changes in land ownership and interests;
- settle financial transactions, including the ability to pay disbursements, duties and tax;
- comply with State Revenue Office requirements;
- lodge their dealings and instruments with the Land Registry; and
- receive confirmation of the lodgement of dealings and instruments.

## Status of the red tape reform

Implementation of National Electronic Conveyancing received funding of \$1 million over two years in the recent Tasmanian State budget. A Senior Project Manager has been employed and has commenced within the Heritage and Land Tasmania Business Unit. Additional resources including a comprehensive project plan are presently being assembled. It is expected that the first transactions utilising National Electronic Conveyancing will be occurring in mid-2024, with this timetable dependent upon the readiness of parties external to Tasmania.

# Reduction of regulatory burden due to the landfill levy

## Red Tape Burden

Introduction of the Landfill Levy in July 2022 brought with it requirements for landfill and resource recovery facility operators to record and report movements of waste on a monthly basis. Despite a grants program offered to operators to help prepare to meet these requirements, data recording and reporting requires new and ongoing effort which may be challenging especially for smaller operators or those with less well-developed infrastructure of their own.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (NRE Tas)

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Waste and Resource Recovery Act 2022*

## Background/consultation

NRE Tas officers have been in consultation with facility operators since before the commencement of the Act and are aware of small operators who struggle to achieve compliance with their reporting requirements due to resourcing and other operational issues. Feedback will continue to support further developments and ensure the most benefit for operators while improving the efficiency of the system as a whole.

## Red tape reforms

- The Waste Levy and Data Section within the Environment, Heritage and Land Division of NRE Tas is currently working on improving the data collection and processing system so as to streamline the process of data collection and reporting for all operators. This may include improved data reporting tools such as a web portal, a data collection app and other measures. The result will be that waste facility operators will be able to meet their reporting obligations with less effort and cost.
- In recognition of the ongoing work by facility operators to comply with the new requirements under the Act, the team will also seek to add value by providing them with regular benchmarking data for their own operation, to allow comparison with the aggregated monthly waste data collected across the state.

## Status of the red tape reform

This work is currently in the planning stage with preliminary consultation undertaken. Commencement is expected in 2023 and will be undertaken with funds already allocated for the landfill levy implementation.

# Pepperberry (permit and licence) System one to two years

## Red Tape Burden

Applicants can currently print, complete and post the requisite application form or complete and email a web enabled form. An application made via a public interface directly to the permitting or licence system would reduce processing steps (both internally and externally) and reduce assessment timeframes. In the instance the holder of a permit or licence is authorised to allow another person to undertake activities as if they were the permit holder, the format is hard copy only, even if the permit or licence has been dispatched electronically.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Nature Conservation Act 2002 and supporting regulations*

*Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 and supporting regulations*

*Whales Protection Act 1998*

## Background/consultation

Technological advancements have resulted in more clients wishing to apply online and receive their permits and licences online, particularly via an app suitable for use on a mobile phone. Clients have also indicated they would like to authorise another person to undertake activities electronically (via a paperless process).

NRE Tas is introducing a new software system called Pepperberry to facilitate electronic issuing of licences and permits. Development of a public interface has not yet occurred.

## Red tape reforms

Resources are required to support the development of a public interface and supporting websites and applications. The Pepperberry Project to date has focused on the integration of permits and licences to cease reliance on previous software (Filemaker) databases for the issuance of permits and licences. The new system has significantly benefited the public through improved processing times for these permits and licences.

## Status of the red tape reform

Work has commenced on the single remaining Filemaker database, anticipated to be completed during 2023. Additional resourcing will enable the development of the public interface, website and app.

# Acceptance of electronic counterparts on contracts rather than wet ink signatures

## Red Tape Burden

The requirement for wet ink signatures on contracts.

## Regulator/agency

Office of the Crown Solicitor

## Act/regulatory instrument

There has been a legal insistence on wet ink signatures, which is built into contract templates, rather than permitting electronic counterparts.

## Background/consultation

Most record-keeping has moved to electronic only, with the soft copy being considered the original. The move to working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted issues with wet ink signatures and, with the abolishment of the Department of Communities Tasmania and the novation of some contracts to Homes Tasmania, the issue has again been noted.

## Red tape reforms

There does not appear to be any use of electronic counterparts across Tasmanian Government agencies. The templates (on [www.purchasing.tas.gov.au](http://www.purchasing.tas.gov.au)) still do not specify electronic counterparts as the preferred signature method.

## Status of the red tape reform

Homes Tasmania will progress this reform with relevant agencies.

# Improved responsiveness of key stakeholders to support strategic property acquisition by Homes Tasmania

## Red Tape Burden

The time taken to receive advice from key stakeholders to inform decisions relating to the strategic acquisition of property is impacting the capacity of Homes Tasmania to satisfy the housing targets of the Tasmanian Government.

## Regulator/agency

Local government, TasNetworks, TasWater

## Act/regulatory instrument

N/A

## Background/consultation

The strategic acquisition of vacant land to support land supply primarily via subdivision requires Homes Tasmania to undertake a range of due diligence activities to ensure the commitment of Government funds is fair, reasonable and transparent, and that the development is commercially viable.

A key component of pre-purchase due diligence is understanding the development risks, constraints and opportunities as they relate to services provided by local government, TasNetworks and TasWater. The viability of a development is heavily influenced by the development solutions and in-turn, costs associated with approval for and provision of critical infrastructure. This information is considered in conjunction with valuations provided by the Office of the Valuer-General to determine, firstly, if Homes Tasmania will make an offer to purchase and, secondly, the value of any offer it makes.

The challenge experienced by Homes Tasmania is that in a competitive market, the time taken to undertake reasonable due diligence often renders Homes Tasmania uncompetitive. This challenge is exacerbated in a competitive property market where vendors typically receive multiple offers in a quick timeframe from developers that have a greater appetite for risk than Homes Tasmania.

## Red tape reforms

Reforms will be considered by Homes Tasmania.

## Status of the red tape reform

Homes Tasmania will progress this reform with relevant agencies.

# Enabling infill development and gentle densification

## Red Tape Burden

Multi-dwelling development applications take longer to receive planning approvals than greenfield development applications. Infill developments and any projects that contribute to gentle densification will, by nature, be more complex than single-dwelling projects. Development applications for infill housing projects would benefit from a simpler and more transparent planning approval process.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Premier and Cabinet – State Planning Office

## Act/regulatory instrument

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

Land Use Planning and Approvals Regulations 2014

Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997

The Tasmanian Planning Scheme

## Background/consultation

In addition to delays in development approvals for social housing properties in Tasmania, there have been significant delays in approvals for capital works associated with specialist homelessness services. The Local Government Association of Tasmania has suggested these delays could be related to the complexity of these projects as they do not relate to a single dwelling on a greenfield site. Currently single dwellings make up more than 87 per cent of all housing in the state.

Forms of ‘missing middle’ housing that could utilise existing sites within urban boundaries include duplexes, ancillary dwelling units, townhouses and live/work units. The resulting densification would support broader community desires, including walkable communities, greater amenity and public transportation. Walkable neighbourhoods may then support sustainability, health, and affordability goals by reducing reliance on personal vehicles.

Missing middle housing options may also:

- allow seniors to downsize without leaving their neighbourhood. For example, ancillary dwelling units can enable multi-generation households to have privacy while all living on the same property
- enable a wider range of families to achieve homeownership by offering a wider range of housing options and prices
- support mortgage repayments through rental income obtained from ancillary dwelling units.

Ultimately, missing middle housing options can create housing at a wide range of prices for a range of family types.

Tasmania is lagging its mainland counterparts in providing diverse housing options. On census night, only 73 per cent of Victoria’s occupied dwellings were separate houses, whereas semi-detached dwellings, flats and units made up over 25 per cent of the dwelling occupied. The number of separate houses in New South Wales was even lower at 66 per cent of all occupied dwellings. This shows that Tasmania (at 87%) has some room to adopt more diversity in housing stock, particularly considering the prospect of an increasing population size.

At the local level, the Greater Hobart Committee has set a 70/30 split target for infill versus greenfield development as a part of the Greater Hobart Plan, which will see 30 000 new homes supplied to the market within the next 30 years. This means 21 000 new dwellings in the Greater Hobart area will be medium or high density and will contribute to greater housing diversity.

It is also worth noting that encouraging higher population density around designated transit corridors (such as the Main Road Transit Corridor and the growth of major urban centres) is a key focus in the Department of State Growth’s Tasmanian Urban Passenger Transport Framework.

## Status of the red tape reform

Homes Tasmania will pursue this reform with relevant agencies.

# Expand on the administrative data exchange protocol for Tasmania to include an information platform

## Red Tape Burden

There is currently no dedicated data analytics centre in Tasmania or mechanism for data and information sharing across Tasmanian Government departments, businesses and statutory authorities. This affects ongoing monitoring and analysis of performance to inform future policies and programs. A data exchange protocol would facilitate data sharing for quality assurance purposes and the development of effective policies and programs.

## Regulator/agency

- Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPAC)
- State Service Management Office
- Digital Strategy and Services (previously the Office of eGovernment)
- Tasmanian Audit Office

## Act/regulatory instrument

*State Service Act 2000*

*State Service Regulations 2011*

*Audit Act 2008*

*Personal Information Protection Act 2004*

*Archives Act 1983*

## Background/consultation

There is currently no mechanism for data and information sharing across Tasmanian Government departments, business and statutory authorities. This is largely due to the many different systems and networks utilised by Government organisations resulting in data not being easily accessible.

An independent review of Tasmanian State Service, published in July 2021 noted that ‘other governments are ... investing in data sharing and linking capabilities. All states and territories, with the exception of Tasmania and the Northern Territory, have dedicated data analytics centres and whole-of-government data warehouse facilities. All other states have, or are developing, dedicated data-sharing policies and legislation.’

The independent review made several suggestions to enable better data sharing that could strengthen the Tasmanian State Service’s ability to provide contemporary advice to Government, continuously improve service efficiency and innovate. One of the key recommendations was to develop and fund a stronger whole-of-government capability for sharing, linking and analysing data and to assign a functional leader to deliver services to, or build capability across, all agencies.

## Red tape reforms

The Tasmanian Government, through DPAC, facilitate the Administrative Data Exchange Protocol for Tasmania (ADEPT). ADEPT was developed in response to the need for a shared understanding of privacy responsibilities and practical guidelines for the collaborative exchange and integration of data within and across Tasmanian Government agencies. However, ADEPT does not provide a mechanism by which information is shared.

## Status of the red tape reform

Homes Tasmania will pursue this reform with relevant agencies.



# Online portal, accessible to Tasmanian Government entities, to share infrastructure-related information

## Red Tape Burden

Infrastructure Tasmania (ITas) provides a coordinated, state-wide approach to the planning and delivery of infrastructure in Tasmania, including rail, major roads, energy, ports and water and sewerage. Their aim is to ensure the right infrastructure is built at the right time, in the right place, and as efficiently as possible to support productivity, economic growth and community amenity. However, Homes Tasmania does not have access to information regarding the capacity of existing infrastructure or the planned delivery of new infrastructure, which impacts Homes Tasmania's ability to provide new housing supply in line with adequate infrastructure. It would be helpful if an online portal, like PlanBuild, was available to all Tasmanian Government entities, which provided access to infrastructure-related information.

## Regulator/agency

Department of State Growth – Infrastructure Tasmania (iTas)

Department of Premier and Cabinet – State Planning Office

Department of Justice – Consumer, Building and Occupational Services (CBOS)

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*

*Land Use Planning and Approvals Regulations 2014*

*Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997*

*National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002*

*Water Management Act 1999*

*Wellington Park Act 1993*

*State Policies and Projects Act 1993*

*Major Infrastructure Development Act 1999*

## Background/consultation

Leveraging a Government-wide shared system such as PlanBuild could provide information on completed, underway and planned infrastructure and could be leveraged to conduct infrastructure capacity assessments for the purposes of settlement planning.

This would:

- provide a comprehensive, cohesive overview of all existing infrastructure and infrastructure development projects
- aid planning and delivery of infrastructure to align with housing and other demand
- aid the consultation and appeals processes in approvals – providing transparent and clear evidence to support needs-based assessment
- support current and future review of Regional Land Use Strategies, including any amendments to urban growth boundaries
- support the 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy and 10-Year Infrastructure Pipeline
- be supported by work already being done by the State Planning Office.

## Status of the red tape reform

Homes Tasmania will pursue this reform with relevant agencies.

# Foreign arrangements scheme – Commonwealth – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Red Tape Burden

The Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery (TMAG) is a 'core' entity under the Foreign Arrangements Scheme. It is therefore required to report 'arrangements' between TMAG and foreign government entities, which predominantly capture incoming and outgoing loans for exhibition and research. The result is additional internal administration, delay in despatch of artefact loans and reputational risk.

## Regulator/agency

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)/Department of State Growth

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020*

## Background/consultation

The scheme imposed obligations on the Tasmanian Government to notify the Minister of Foreign Affairs of pre-existing arrangements, and from 10 March 2021, all prospective arrangements. TMAG is advised it is required to report as a State Government Authority and a statutory authority. However, other state-run museums and cultural institutions are statutory authorities (e.g. the Australian Museum) and are not required to report.

Consultation with and advice regarding the scheme was provided by the Department of State Growth in conjunction with DFAT.

The scheme's purpose is to support a systematic and consistent approach to Australia's international engagement to ensure arrangements are aligned with Australian foreign policy.

We believe that TMAG is the only cultural institution in Australia required to be part of the scheme. The greatest volume of items impacted are scientific reference specimens with no commercial value and the main aim is to exchange scientific knowledge.

## Red tape reforms

This red tape issue is still progressing.

When advised of the scheme, TMAG consulted with DFAT in conjunction with the Department of State Growth but was unable to reach agreement that it should be exempt under the scheme. TMAG also consulted colleagues from museums and galleries, and the Council of Australasian Museum Directors (CAMD).

TMAG understands that the Business and Trade unit of the Department of State Growth will continue ongoing liaison with DFAT, DPAC and regular state and territory forums regarding interpretation and implementation of the legislation.

CAMD has agreed in principle that an exemption for the museum and gallery sector from this scheme should be sought.

TMAG continues to raise this issue with government agencies, CAMD, Commonwealth Heads of Australian Faunal Collections, and colleagues from museums and galleries, highlighting the following points:

- The inconsistency that other National Collecting Institutions / museums are not subject to any notification obligations under the Act but arrangements between TMAG and foreign entities are required to be reported.
- Possible impact on applications for research grants which depend on unhindered passage of specimens between researchers in other countries.
- Possible reputational risk, due to delay in sending loans as an allowance for the possibility of non-approval of arrangements must be factored in.
- The possibility and impact of an arrangement (loan) not being approved.
- Should there be a review of this legislation, DFAT should be advised that museums, galleries and collecting institutions should not have to report and question whether this was an 'unintended consequence' of the legislation due to the corporate governance of TMAG as a State Authority.

## Status of the red tape reform

This Red Tape reform is being processed by the Department of State Growth with relevant agencies.

# Further reduction in the requirement for a heavy vehicle access permit

## Red Tape Burden

Heavy vehicles are a key enabler of the Tasmanian economy, providing essential services to industries including agriculture, communications, construction, defence, energy, forestry, manufacturing, mining, retail, and transport systems. The ability to efficiently optimise access for heavy vehicles to navigate safely and productively across the state's road network is critical.

## Regulator/agency

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator/Department of State Growth/Local Government

## Act/regulatory instrument

Heavy Vehicle National Law (Tasmania) Act 2013

## Background/consultation

Permits induce delays to the efficient servicing of heavy vehicle industry clients and reduce the potential for optimised heavy vehicle productivity. Permit based access frameworks, perversely, also support the business models of those operators who are prepared to evade the permit request and consent process, thus enabling them to immediately respond to a client's request, albeit unlawfully.

Extensive consultation and strong collaboration and alignment with the heavy vehicle industry and its associations, as well as with local road managers and their association is occurring to facilitate the significant reduction of this red tape burden. The Department of State Growth is working with several other mainland jurisdictions with a view to enabling Tasmania's Heavy Vehicle Access Management System (HVAMS) to be implemented outside of Tasmania. This collaboration includes ensuring that the next iteration of HVAMS accommodates the requirements for this wider implementation.

## Red tape reforms

The Department of State Growth has developed an online and on demand self-serve access system. The system, known as HVAMS is available 24/7 and is the first of its kind in Australia.

The HVAMS has been developed in collaboration with local governments and industry. HVAMS is an end-to-end system designed to assist road managers to manage heavy vehicle access and to provide industry with access certainty. It has been in operation since 2016 for Overs Size Over Mass (OSOM) vehicles, and currently provides for 80 per cent of OSOM and 95 per cent of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) e.g. mobile cranes, concrete pumps, drill rigs and the defence fleet, access across all state and local roads with no requirement for a permit.

Tasmania is working on the next version of HVAMS, which will provide automatic access assessment for all restricted heavy vehicles, for both existing and future vehicles e.g. electric heavy vehicles fleets. This will aim to take OSOM and SPV to 98 per cent access, and freight vehicles, including Performance Based Standards (PBS) vehicles, and future vehicles to the 95 per cent access mark with no requirement for a permit.

HVAMS also facilitates network access for Australian Defence Force (ADF) vehicles without the need for a permit (except in a few extraordinary cases), by utilising a robust, data-driven approach that displays networks that are matched/suited to ADF vehicles. The system will also be ready to use when the amendments to the ADF Road Transport Exemption Framework commence, further reducing red tape and optimising the effectiveness and intent of the Commonwealth's Defence (Road Transport Legislation Exemption) Act 2006.

A report prepared for the Department of State Growth in November 2022 by HoustonKemp (transport economists) found that there were significant economic benefits, beyond the initial red tape permit reductions, for the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) service industry operators. Over the evaluation period and in present value terms, it is estimated that by extending HVAMS to SPVs, the improvements are expected to:

- deliver economic benefits of between \$74.1 million and \$212.2 million;
- cost \$4.6 million
- deliver a net present value of between \$69.5 million and \$207.6 million, with a benefit cost ratio of between 16.2 to 46.3.

## Status of the red tape reform

HVAMS is now the established and accepted heavy vehicle access management system operating in Tasmania for load carrying heavy vehicles across the State and Local Government road network, uniting multiple road managers to effectively present one road network to the Heavy Vehicle Industry for the following heavy vehicles:

Over Size Over Mass (OSOM) load carrying heavy vehicles

Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV), e.g. mobile cranes and ADF land 121 fleet

HVAMS provides for 80 per cent of OSOM access under a Notice, harmonised across all State and Local roads since 2016, and is available in real time self-serve 24/7 i.e. there is no permit requirement for 80 per cent of OSOM activity.

HVAMS provides for 95 per cent of SPV access under a Notice, harmonised across all State and Local roads since August 2019, and is available in real time self-serve 24/7 i.e. there is no permit requirement for 95 per cent of SPV activity.

HVAMS currently provides real time self-serve 24/7 harmonised access for the ADF fleet across all State and Local roads. This is particularly important when considering the emergency management and disaster recovery role that the ADF can be called upon to fulfill anywhere across Tasmania.

Release of the Economic evaluation of the impact of this initiative shown in the release of the HoustonKemp report "Cost benefit analysis of extending the Heavy Vehicle Access Management System to Special Purpose Vehicles – November 2022".

# Automated water/sewerage/bushfire assessment as part of development application

## Red tape burden

Currently a large number of development applications require referral to Taswater or Tasmanian Fire Service which causes delays and additional costs to developments across the state.

## Regulator/agency

Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS)

## Act/regulatory instrument

N/A

## Background/consultation

The data indicates that approximately 30 per cent of development applications require referral to Taswater or Tasmanian Fire Service for assessment.

A centralised and coordinated referral process will reduce delays in referral requests from permit authorities and ensure the rules which apply to a referral request, are consistently applied across Tasmania, making the process more consistent and transparent for small business.

## Red tape reforms

The PlanBuild Tasmania portal will provide a central online referral process that will allow faster referral processing time. PlanBuild Tasmania will allow a developer to use the automated enquiry service to be informed about their responsibilities and any approvals that may be required prior to lodging an application. This service will allow small businesses and developers to understand the assessment process and the infrastructure or bushfire requirements that can be submitted with a development application.

## Status of the red tape reform

The project is currently being delivered by the PlanBuild Tasmania project. PlanBuild Tasmania will allow development application referrals to internal and external referral authorities resulting in a more efficient and coordinated online application and assessment process.

Phase two of the portal, 'Application Services', will allow for application lodgment, payment and tracking. This will be rolled out starting mid-2023. The first adopters of the solution are TasWater, Heritage Tasmania and an early adopter council. Following this first go-live, the portal will be rolled out across the State to other councils in line with Council readiness.

## Environment, public health and local heritage permit assessments

### Red tape burden

Environmental, Public Health and Heritage Permits are all separate permits issued by local government and Heritage Tasmania.

These permits are required to be integrated into development applications which can cause duplication and additional cost in the process.

### Regulator/agency

Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS)

### Act/regulatory instrument

N/A

### Background/consultation

The ability to have permits automatically integrated into development applications will speed up application processes, minimise rework caused by entry errors and enable compliance checking to be completed automatically resulting in significant labour cost savings for these small businesses.

### Red tape reforms

These permits and assessments will be available to small businesses and developers by using the PlanBuild Tasmania portal. The Portal will allow these applications to be pre-populated and lodged online via the central system.

### Status of the red tape reform

The PlanBuild Tasmania 'Enquiry Service' provides guided information on what permits, approvals and associated licences are required for environmental and public health applications, based on the property location (e.g. heritage listed) and the type of business they wish to operate (e.g. cafes, mobile food vans etc).

The PlanBuild Tasmania 'Applications Service' will allow for parties to lodge, pay and track environmental, public health and heritage applications online. Assessing bodies can refer applications to local Heritage officers, Heritage Tasmania and Environmental Health Officers.

The PlanBuild project team has worked with council environmental health officers, Department of Health and Heritage Tasmania to develop the necessary forms in the portal. The ability to lodge these applications will be reliant on adoption of the portal by Councils.

# Online application lodgement and tracking of development related applications – PlanBuild Tasmania portal

## Red tape burden

PlanBuild Tasmania is an online portal which will allow for the lodgment of all planning, building and other related applications associated with development and construction in Tasmania.

The project aims to deliver on the Governments strategic objectives to reduce the regulatory burden on the planning and development community and provide a faster, fairer, simpler planning system for Tasmania by providing greater access to development approval rules, reducing administrative delays and increasing transparency of the approvals process.

## Regulator/agency

Consumer Building and Occupational Services (CBOS)

## Act/regulatory instrument

N/A

## Background/consultation

Public perception of the regulatory system for development is that it is complex, confusing and difficult to understand. Information on the rules for new development is fragmented across various state and local government authorities. Applications are lodged with different authorities, with varied methods for lodgment and tracking of applications.

This can be complex, confusing and time-consuming, particularly for those involved in development across the state, such as building surveyors and designers, who all lodge applications in a variety of ways across the state, depending on the council area where the development is taking place.

## Red tape reforms

The overarching PlanBuild Tasmania project has been funded by the State and Commonwealth, the latter through reforms under the Small Business Regulatory Reform Agenda. The project will deliver a state-wide online process for applying for development related applications.

Applications will be available to the Tasmanian community, including small businesses and developers using the PlanBuild Tasmania portal.

The Portal will allow these applications to be pre-populated, lodged and tracked online.

## Status of the red tape reform

The PlanBuild Tasmania project has delivered phase one enquiry functionality which provides access to planning and building rules. For properties operating under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme, enquirers can work through a series of questions and determine who to consult, who can do the work and what they may need to apply for.

Phase two of the portal, 'Application Services', will allow for application lodgment, payment and tracking. This will be rolled out starting mid 2023. The first adopters of the solution are TasWater, Heritage Tasmania and an early adopter council. Following this first go-live, the portal will be rolled out across the State to other councils in line with Council readiness.

# Review of minor works requiring reporting to reporting authorities under the Building Act 2016

## Red Tape Burden

The Building Act 2016 requires the relevant building surveyor to request a report from a reporting authority if the work relates to certain prescribed matters. The prescribed authorities are:

- The Chief Officer of the Tasmania Fire Service if the work relates to the operations suitability of fire safety requirements;
- The Environmental Health Officer for the relevant municipal area if the work relates to food safety; and
- The Anti-Discrimination Commissioner if the work relates to disability access.

Building industry stakeholders have raised concerns regarding a significant number of referrals required under the Act for work which is considered minor in nature.

Making a referral to a reporting authority takes time for the building surveyor and time for the reporting authority to assess and report on the proposed work.

## Regulator/agency

Consumer, Building and Occupational Services, Department of Justice

## Act/regulatory instrument

*Building Act 2016*

## Background/consultation

Industry stakeholders raised this matter with Consumer, Building and Occupational Services.

This review will include comprehensive consultation with building and construction stakeholders, regulators, local councils and industry associations.

## Red tape reforms

To provide a more timely assessment of notifiable and permit building work, the Director of Building Control is to draft and provide for consultation a new Determination. This Determination will set out what work is considered minor in nature and therefore will not need to be referred to reporting authorities.

This reform may reduce administrative burden and time delays for notifiable and permit building work that includes minor work relating to reporting authorities.

## Status of the red tape reform

Preliminary draft determination - New Director's Determination – Minor Works for Reporting Authorities has been drafted and significant work is currently being undertaken with the Tasmanian Fire Service in relation to the preliminary draft. Once this work has been completed the Director Building Control will be in a position to undertake broader consultation as appropriate.



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