

20 September 2016

URGENT Freycinet Update: RACT + Statewide Planning Scheme+ proposed ferry service between Dolphin Sands and Swanwick

Dear All,

Sorry you have not heard from me for so long.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your support and many emails congratulating the Freycinet Action Network with regards to the fantastic decision by RACT to withdraw its proposal to expand into our beautiful Freycinet National Park.

STATEWIDE PLANNING SCHEME

HEARINGS - The last time you heard from me I was just about to present at the full Hearing regarding the Draft Statewide Planning Provisions (SPP's). Even though it had no standing in the Hearings, I did state that I was representing 70 people, who through the Freycinet Action Network, asked me to speak on their behalf.

THE ISSUE - Under the SPP'S significant tourism developments within Tasmanian National Parks and Reserves will be approved by a Reserve Activity Assessment – an internal government process that does not guarantee opportunities for public comment, and which is not subject to rights of appeal. While the Freycinet National Park Management Plan provides for public comment on developments within the Park, there is no legal requirement to take account of comments and no chance to challenge any future expansions approved under the new planning system.

In summary, The Government has expanded what is permitted in all our National Parks and Reserves, has taken away appeal rights and limited public comment. It is totally undemocratic. For example, if RACT were to submit their Development Application after the new State-wide Planning Scheme has come in, then we could all comment on it, but there is no legal requirement to take account of comments and we could not appeal the decision.

Essentially, there is a train wreck coming and most Tasmanians have no idea.

TIMELINES - Peter Gutwein, Minister for Planning and Local Government, is aiming to sign off on the Statewide Planning Scheme by December 2016. The hearing program for Codes in the draft SPPs is also being held from the 22 September until the 25 October 2016. View the hearing program here: http://www.planning.tas.gov.au/planning_our_future/draft_state_planning_provisions

We need to escalate the campaign to place pressure on the Government to ensure our planning system is democratic.

Watch this space.

RACT

The RACT petition is still live. This is only because we have not had a formal response from the Tasmanian Government regarding changes to the Freycinet National Park Management Plan. We are

anticipating that the Government response will be favourable but we won't know for sure until a formal announcement is made. We are not sure when that will be. Watch this space.

Just FYI, RACT has dropped a second tourism proposal, which was submitted through the Expression of Interest Process, for a development south of Macquarie Harbour.

COLES BAY FERRY PROPOSAL

There is a proposal for a ferry service between Dolphin Sands and Swanwick.

Please see attached

1. Proposal (apparently no formal Development Application has been submitted)
2. Letter of opposition from the Swanwick Progress Association.
3. Letter of 'strong' support from the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council as well as letters of support from Siffire Freycinet, Melshell Sea Farms and The Swansea Chamber of Commerce and Tourism. Plus other correspondence.

If anyone hears that a Development Application has been submitted or is about to be submitted to Council, then please let me know as soon as possible.

FAN FACEBOOK PAGE

Please encourage all your friends and family to like the Freycinet Action Network Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/FreycinetActionNetwork/>

Also, consider placing the FAN Facebook link in your email signature on your phone and/or your computer.

I would love to grow to 1000 Likes – we are at 956!!

HELPFUL TIP

Sometimes my email might go to your junk folder, so to make sure this doesn't happen in future, simply mark this email as 'safe' or save my address to your contacts.

Kind regards,

Sophie Underwood
Mobile: 0407 501 999