



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET

Planning approvals & your say

How a data centre is approved in Tasmania — and how you can take part

How approval works

A data centre needs a planning permit under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and the *Tasmanian Planning Scheme*, assessed by the local council. The proposal is checked against the zone and a range of matters — energy, water, noise, heat, EMF, hazards, traffic and amenity — often with input from the EPA, the electricity and water networks and the fire service. Larger proposals also engage environmental approval under *EMPCA*.

Where the community comes in

Most larger proposals are “discretionary,” which means they are publicly notified for at least 14 days. During that time anyone can make a representation (a written comment) to the council, which must be considered before a decision. The council can attach binding conditions to an approval, and decisions can be appealed to the Resource and Planning Stream of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (TASCAT).

What good practice looks like

- Clear public notification, with accessible information and genuine time to respond.
- Good-faith community engagement that addresses concerns, not just informs.
- Binding, enforceable conditions covering the matters in this series.
- Transparency about how representations were considered.

Questions you can ask

- Is the proposal open to public comment, and by when?
- What conditions is the council proposing, and how are they enforced?
- How can I make a representation, and how will it be considered?

Want to know more? Your local council and the Tasmanian Planning Commission publish further information on the planning process. This sheet is general information, not medical, legal or planning advice; figures are indicative and a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.