

Ignore the public at your peril, Minister

THE "Planning Matters" meeting at the Town Hall on November 8 was packed to capacity and overflowed into the foyer.

In contrast to Minister Gutwein's perception, the attendees were neither Lefties, greenies nor anti-development, tree-hugging radicals.

The message from the meeting was loud and clear — concerned Tasmanians from far and wide do not want the proposed statewide planning scheme in its current form foisted upon them.

They do not wish to lose their heritage, amenity, local character, quality of life and lifestyle to profit driven developers.

By Minister Gutwein choosing not to attend the public meeting he confirmed his current stance on implementation of the proposed scheme by stealth and without consultation with the community.

Come the next election Mr Gutwein may not be quite so gung-ho in his approach. Politicians who fail to listen to

the people who elect them, underwrite their political demise. The Liberal Government should halt the progress of the planning scheme, go back to square one and start again.

The "one size fits all" planning schemes have had disastrous results for other states. The same can happen, and is already happening, here in Tasmania.

So Minister Gutwein, ignore the community voice at your peril.

Chris Needham
Blackmans Bay

Merc 10 Nov 2016