



**GRASSROOTS:** Sophie Underwood (centre) of Freycinet Action network with Jennie Churchill, left, and Anne Held of the East Coast Alliance, who campaigned against the Cambria Green project.

Picture: PETER MATHEW

# Victory for the community

THE Tasmanian Planning Commission has said it could not consider the Cambria Green planning scheme amendment to facilitate a large-scale tourism development at Dolphin Sands, near Swansea, because it was not satisfied landowners had given consent.

This is a momentous decision, an incredible win for community action.

It demonstrates the importance of a robust, transparent decision-making process. The Tasmanian Planning Commission is vital in making these strategically important decisions that affect the whole of Tasmania. Planning decisions affect communities, the environment and quality of life, often with long-lasting consequences. Which is why it is essential there is an independent body in Tasmania making decisions about land use rights across the state and rights to participate in decisions that affect our environment.

This decision by the commission highlights how an independent, inclusive process allowed a community to have a voice in a planning process, and to enable four members of the community, who were not experts in law or planning, to question, contest and cross-examine the applicant.

These community members must be acknowledged for their dogged forensic research into landowner consents and other jurisdictional aspects of the Cambria Green Draft Amendment. They appeared together at the commission's public hearing on August 30 to cross-examine the applicant's representative Ronald Hu. Their joint cross-examination was professional, informed and critical to this outcome and they must be thanked for the work they've

put into this case over many months.

The community now waits for the applicant: Cambria Green Agriculture and Tourism Management Pty Ltd to decide on what they do next.

**Anne Held**  
East Coast Alliance president