

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW PLANNING SCHEME?

In 1997 State Parliament introduced the new *Integrated Planning Act* (the IPA).

This Act is intended to make provision for modern ways of planning the use of land and of controlling development. It requires an entirely different approach to how we go about these things.

It is now necessary for local governments to introduce new planning schemes that match the IPA's way of doing things. A target date of June 2004 has been set for this to be achieved. This matches approximately the time in which most local governments were due to renew their planning schemes anyway. (Esk's old scheme was due for replacement just after June 2003.)

The first part of the process of preparing a new scheme was a Statement of Proposals. This was published in July 2001.

It set out in general terms what Council intended to achieve through the new planning scheme, and generally how Council proposed to go about achieving it. Interested people were invited to give their opinions, and these opinions were taken into account in preparing the new scheme.

Now the draft new scheme has been prepared.

Before it can be adopted, it must be considered by the public. It must be made available for consultation (and purchase if required) for three months.

During that time people are invited to make submissions about the draft scheme.