

The Examiner

AUGUST 3 2020 - 3:08PM

The Tasmanian Conservation Trust is concerned major projects legislation could be used on Cambria Green

Stakeholders opposed to a development on the East Coast have called on the government to rule out using proposed major projects legislation to approve the project.

In 2018 Cambria Green Agriculture and Tourism Management applied for 3000 ha of land near Swansea to be rezoned in order to facilitate future development.

Council approved the rezoning but their decision was overturned by the planning commission because the proponent could not prove they had permission from land owners to apply for rezoning.

That decision is now in the Supreme Court but with only two weeks until Major Projects legislation is due to be tabled in the legislative assembly the Tasmanian Conservation Trust have called on the government to rule out using the legislation on the Cambria proposal.

TCT director Peter McGlone said it was important the government provide the assurance given the level of opposition.

"The Cambria proposal is stuck in the Supreme Court because of questions around the legitimacy of signatures and other evidence used on landowner consent documents," he said.

"If Cambria were declared a major project, it would solve the developer's problems overnight.

"The Major Projects Bill removes the hurdles that require a developer to demonstrate legitimate landowner consent."

"They've created a fast track for Cambria, a loophole that means Tasmanians might never find out who the real land owners are."

Anne Held from East Coast Alliance said they also wanted Minister to rule out using the legislation.

Planning Minister Roger Jaensch said the government had made it clear the major projects legislation would not provide fast-tracks.

He said any suggestion the legislation would be used to bypass normal processes to

approve controversial proposals was wrong and misleading.

"All the Major Project legislation does is coordinate the assessment of projects that involve multiple approvals and are 'major' in terms of their impacts and contributions, strategic importance and complexity," Mr Jaensch said.