

From: [ANNI MCCUAIG](#)
To: [Have Your Say](#)
Subject: Tasmanian Planning Commission Review
Date: Friday, 15 May 2020 2:08:46 PM

Dear Madam/Sir

I wish to make a submission to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Firstly, let me indicate broad support for the current role of the TPC. As a member of a community group that has had some interaction with the TPC, I wish to confirm that it plays a vital role for community engagement in development decisions and allows community members to be properly heard. Although, this may come at great financial cost and entail considerable fund raising by community groups for legal and expert representation.

My recommendations are as follows.

THE TPC MUST HAVE ITS INDEPENDENCE MAINTAINED, BROADENED AND STRENGTHENED

RECOMMENDATIONS

The TPC must retain its capacity to perform its current functions independently of government.

The TPC's power to act independently of the government should be expanded. The TPC should be given the power to make and amend the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The TPC's governance should be free from Ministerial influence, and no changes should be made that undermine the public perception of the independent operation of the TPC.

THE TPC MUST MAINTAIN ITS FUNCTION IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

The TPC must:

Retain its existing role to review and hold hearings on representations, and report to the Minister on draft State Policies and amendments.

Retain its existing role to report to the Minister for Planning regarding Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies and to amend any planning scheme to be consistent with those policies.

Restore its role as the body responsible for making planning scheme controls and amendments by making the TPC the decision-maker for State Planning Provisions and removing Ministerial oversight for Local Provisions Schedules. This would provide the TPC with an important role in influencing planning policy.

THE TPC SHOULD DEVELOP TASMANIA'S REGIONAL LAND USE STRATEGIES

RECOMMENDATIONS

Legislation should be changed to give the TPC the responsibility to develop, amend and approve Regional Land Use Strategies with public notice and hearings.

THE TPC MUST MAINTAIN ITS FUNCTION OF ASSESSING PROJECTS OF STATE AND REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS

The TPC must retain its existing responsibility to assess projects of State significance e.g. major projects like Gunns Pulp Mill and Ralphs Bay, and to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister.

The role of the TPC in assessing and approving projects of State and regional significance through existing processes should not be undermined e.g. through the draft Major Projects Bill.

THE TPC MUST RETAIN ITS FUNCTION OF REVIEWING NATIONAL PARK AND RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS

RECOMMENDATIONS

The TPC's role in independently and transparently reviewing reserve management plans must be retained and legislation should be amended to clarify that the TPC may make recommendations for changes to reserve management plans.

Improvements in the review process between the TPC and Parks and Wildlife Service should be made to make the process less cumbersome. There are many out-of-date reserve management plans that need to be thoroughly reviewed and replaced and there is a perception that this program is hampered by the time and cost of review of public comment on draft plans by the TPC.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORTING SHOULD REMAIN WITH THE TPC

RECOMMENDATIONS

The problems with State of the Environment (SoE) reporting identified by the TPC in 2013 (and reconfirmed in 2018) should be addressed and the TPC should continue to produce SoE reports each five years. These reports are vital for a range of reasons, including informing good planning.

THE TPC MUST BE PROPERLY FUNDED

RECOMMENDATIONS

Properly fund the TPC to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report and new State Policies.

I hope that you can take these recommendations on board in your review.

Yours sincerely

Ann McCuaig

