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Subject: Form Submission - TPC Review
Date: Thursday, 14 May 2020 10:21:09 AM

Name: Dieter Nikolai

Your Submission to the TPC Review: I write to make a submission to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Please see my list of recommendations below.

The TPC performs a range of statutory and advisory functions for land use which together shape Tasmania's future. It also sets down how we, the public, are involved in the resource management and planning decisions/processes.

As it is the only forum for the community to be heard about their concerns on planning and environmental matters – without needing a lawyer or a body of experts, it is of the utmost importance not to weaken, dilute or reduce the functions of the Tasmanian Planning Commission

The TPC gives communities the right to have input into strategic planning matters.

The TPC must be independent to be able to make evidence based/merits based decision , free of political influence.

If the TPC is changed to become more under the control of the Minister then it could lead to

decisions such as appointments to panels of inquiry or assessment being made on a political basis.

it is undemocratic and erodes public confidence in the honesty of the minister as an elected member of the government.

I want the integrity and centrality of evidence-based decision-making through the TPC restored to the resource management and planning system in Tasmania – this means in both planning and environmental decision-making.

I oppose any changes to the governance structure, powers or functions of the TPC that would

alter its independence from government or its expertise. I want the integrity and centrality of

evidence-based decision-making through the TPC restored to the resource management and

planning system in Tasmania – this means in both planning and environmental decision-making.

The government's Draft Major Projects Bill proposes to sideline the TPC to only appointing a

Development Assessment Panel, and displaces existing processes for which the TPC is the decision-maker. These include Projects of State Significance and the combined planning scheme

amendment and permit process. While the Panel system is provided for under the existing Projects

of Regional Significance process – that process has never been used.

I have no trust in re-invigorating a 'panel' system, when we already have a trusted Planning Commission that can do that job.

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.

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Suburb: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

(Sent via [REDACTED])