

**From:** [James Boyce](#)  
**To:** [Have Your Say](#)  
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I am writing as a Tasmanian historian to affirm the absolute importance of the community and local government remaining centrally involved in approving major projects. The history of this island demonstrates the power that can be exercised by large corporations, wealthy individuals and vested interests in a small jurisdiction (further exaggerated at the present time as Tasmania is the only jurisdiction in the nation with no electoral donation disclosure laws of its own). The main check on the power of corporate influence has been the strong tradition in Tasmania of community action which is rooted in a love of place. Tasmanians care about their home, and this care has been the major protection for the natural environment, built heritage, non-human species, neighbourhood amenity and open space. Local government has also been vulnerable to vested interests but this has been less of a problem than the long term issue of what has been categorised by most expert analysts, as corruption in state government policy and planning processes once large vested interests are involved (this is not a reflection on the current government in particular, but until major reform is initiated and new checks and balances instituted, systemic within the system). Reforms in planning that reduce community and local government influence should not proceed until a wider review and reform of governance (involving at the very least, high level disclosure laws) is undertaken.

Yours Sincerely

James Boyce

Sent from [REDACTED] for Windows 10