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Subject: Form Submission - TPC Review
Date: Thursday, 14 May 2020 4:46:18 PM

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Your Submission to the TPC Review: Submission to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission.

The absolute need for independent over-site:

I am deeply concerned that the review of the TPC is part of move to displace an independent expert body with to a minister centred model.

Such a move would replace expert advice and community input with non professional input that may be prone to unfair influence from the proponent or state government.

The danger here is not only one of bias, but also the perception of bias. It would completely erode trust in process.

No one will know if there has been undue influence or not. This is very bad for our society.

Also, although we prefer not to think it, such a move could even expose the minister to the pressure of well financed proponents threatening to finance the opposition.

Recommendations:

The TPC needs to have its independence strengthened, not weakened.

It must retain its current functions independent of government

The TPC must be free from Ministerial influence.

TPC requires adequate financing of its work

Policy Development requires properly qualified and independent input:

Recommendation

The TPC must have its current functions in policy development maintained and strengthened.

National Parks and Reserves:

I am really concerned that under the proposed changes any park or reserve could be 'developed'. It could be Rosny, or Taroona Beach reserve, or Mount Field or anywhere. No place will be safe or sacred.

Recommendation;

It is essential that TPC maintains its role in reviewing reserve management plans.

Legislation needs to be amended so that TPC can recommend changes to management plans.

Projects of State and Regional Significance:

Virtually any project could be labelled as such.

Recommendation

It is vital that TPC should be able to independently assess such projects, with full input from the public.

This must not be overrun by actions such as the Draft Major Projects Bill which would remove professional scrutiny.

Yours Sincerely Karuna Knights

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