

15 April 2020

Planning Policy Unit
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Tasmanian Planning Commission Review

Dear Planning Policy Team,

I wish to make a couple of brief comments regarding the review of the TPC.

1. It is imperative that the TPC remains independent and that policies are in place that will ensure the decisions determined by the TPC are free of any perception of political interference.
2. The TPC must be appropriately funded to effectively fulfil its functions including its proposed participation in the assessment of Major Projects.
3. The role of the TPC should include leading a periodic review of the State's three Regional Land Use Strategies (RLUS's) and the associated municipal Local Structured Plans. Changes made to the RLUS's in order to reflect the evolving State strategic direction may require the TPC to bring forward amendment recommendations to corresponding municipal Local Provision Schedules.
4. I see no conflict with the TPC's current role of State of Environment Reporting. The TPC clearly articulates its understanding of this responsibility and how it furthers the objectives of Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning.

As the State's land use planning body, the Tasmanian Planning Commission (Commission) has an integral role in furthering the objectives of Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning System (RMPS). In very simple terms, the concept of sustainable development means that the wellbeing of our society and economy is dependent on a healthy environment. Society and its economy exist within the parameters of the natural environment. Supporting the overarching RMPS objectives are objectives specific to the land use planning process that essentially seek to:

- *require sound strategic planning and coordinated action by Local and State governments;*
- *establish a system of planning instruments to be the principal way of setting objectives, policies and controls for the use, development and protection of land;*
- *ensure that the effects on the environment are considered and provide for explicit consideration of social and economic effects when decisions are made about the use and development of land; and*

- *ensure that land use and development planning and policy is easily integrated with environmental, social, economic, conservation and resource management policies at State, regional and municipal levels.*

State of the environment (SoE) reporting has the potential to play a pivotal role in guiding policy development and management strategies, and furthering the RMPS objectives.

If there is a perception that this reporting obligation impacts upon other TPC activities, it should be addressed via resourcing.

The State of Environment Report is a document that must also be drafted by an independent body in order to be above political influence. A state body or agency better positioned than the TPC to deliver this report does not come readily to mind.

5. My last observation is that there may be an argument for the position of Executive Commissioner being a limited tenure contract position (3yrs + 2yrs?).

Kind Regards

Ross Irving

