

## Submission to the Review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission

### Introduction

I question why the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) is happening at this time, especially as the focus of the Tasmanian public is elsewhere during all the disruption and uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

I also question why the review is happening at all, particularly as the TPC is a body that is trusted by the Tasmanian public for its independence and expertise. If there is a problem it is not obvious to us, the Tasmanian public.

Therefore I would like to emphasise that any changes to the TPC are for the purpose of strengthening it in its current roles and to restore functions that it previously had, such as preparing regular Tasmanian State of the Environment reports.

As a member of the Tasmanian public I would like to see the following: -

- The TPC must continue to give the community a voice in regard to planning decisions that affect us, particularly as opportunities for input from the public will be reduced under the proposed new Planning laws.
- The TPC must continue to be independent, at arm's length from Government. This is crucial.
- The TPC must retain its current role of reviewing representations and holding hearings.
- The TPC must continue to review and report on draft State Policies and draft Tasmanian Planning Policies and amendments.
- The TPC must assess and report to the Planning Minister on amendments to SPP's.
- The TPC must assess and make decisions on LPS's to convert local planning schemes to the new Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- The TPC must assess and make decisions on land rezoning.
- It must amend any planning schemes that are inconsistent with State policies.
- The TPC must review, hold hearings and report to the Environment Minister on representations on draft reserve management plans and amendments e.g. to National Park Management Plans.
- The TPC must draft water management plans and amendments and report to the Minister for Water.
- The TPC must conduct enquiries into the use of public land, where referred by the Environment Minister.
- The TPC must plan for the coordinated provision of transport and infrastructure for land development (e.g. the planned Huntingfield subdivision in Kingborough where there is a clear case of 'the cart before the horse'. The Kingborough Council is not responsible for this failure.)

The TPC must be properly funded so that it can carry out its existing statutory roles, along with additional ones, some of which are listed above.

