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Subject: Form Submission - TPC Review
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Name: Jan Linehan

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

In view of the timing of this review, which coincides with the COVID 19 pandemic, and the lack of extensive public consultation, the Tasmanian government should not bring forward proposals to change the legislation without further opportunities for public consultation.

The TPC should be retained and its independent role enhanced. Equally importantly it should be properly resourced to enable it to perform its functions.

The TPC's mandate under the Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997 should be strengthened so it can play an independent and expert role to ensure both private land public use in then State is consistent with the principles of sustainable development and the interests of future generations.

In particular, the government should:

Retain the TPC's existing role to review and hold hearings on representations, and report to the Minister on draft State Policies and amendments.

Retain TPC's existing role to report to the Minister for Planning regarding Draft Tasmanian Planning Polices and to amend any planning scheme to be consistent with those policies.

Expand its role as the body responsible for making planning scheme controls and amendments by making the TPC the decision-maker for State Planning Provisions and removing Ministerial oversight for Local Provisions Schedules.

Retain the TPCs existing responsibility to assess projects of State significance, e.g. major projects, 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's role in independently and transparently reviewing reserve management plans must be retained and legislation should be amended to clarify that the TPC may make recommendations for changes to reserve management plans.

The State of the Environment reports should continue to be produced and the TPC and other government agencies should be resourced to undertake this work.

The TPC should be properly resourced to allow it to carry out its existing statutory roles.

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