

**From:** [Squarespace](#)  
**To:** [Have Your Say](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - TPC Review  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2020 4:02:18 PM

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**Name:** Robin Thomas

**Your Submission to the TPC Review:** I wish to register my comments towards the review of our Tasmanian Planning Commission.

Regarding the health of such basic infrastructure to our State, to guarantee proper mechanisms for fairness, and welfare for people and Nature, it seems obvious that we safeguard our existing authority which appears at the moment to use a relatively transparent and accountable design, with appropriate cautions and checks, and properly-assigned relevant regulators' inputs.

Surely we need to recognise these best attributes of its function for our State, but build upon and further invest in our Commission's accumulated experience and expertise from its years, properly valuing the structure's collective expansive knowledge of the State as a whole and of its interdependent sectors. If we support our existing structure with deserved respect, always safeguarding its independence from government to guarantee its objectivity of advice to it, then we are being wise with managing our collective gifts.

If we choose to ditch the guts of our Commission, contract the real power to one or two Ministers, who cannot possibly responsibly do their job without a reliable, expert, objective, balanced advice structure, that is seen properly and believed by all Tasmanians as fair and just, then our island will degrade for its people, with loss of health and beauty of its natural gifts, and subsequent loss of work and businesses dependent upon them. We will lose our integrity of uniqueness and our pride that we are able to look after and manage our most important things (our people, their histories and our natural environment), so that visitors will still want to come and be able to enjoy them too. To choose to divest our Planning Commission of its real power and put it virtually in the hands of a few with big money (via a possibly misguided or biased individual Minister of any persuasion of government), then we lose our own good home and means of livelihoods.

We obviously need to further fund the existing TPC and strengthen its powers, it being our seminal arbiter for safeguarding and managing the gifts of our beautiful home. We need it to be properly respected as our democratic and collective voice for looking after ourselves and others properly, rather than succumbing to the everpresent challenge of selling ourselves and quality of life to those of short-sightedness and selfishness with greed.

(No worries re publishing and name etc)

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