

From: [Squarespace](#)
To: [Have Your Say](#)
Subject: Form Submission - TPC Review
Date: Friday, 15 May 2020 10:48:19 AM

Name: Elizabeth Smith

Your Submission to the TPC Review: I write as a former councillor on the Huon Valley Council from 2002 to 2014 with a particular interest in land use planning. I completed a Graduate Diploma in Environmental Planning in 2006 in order to better understand the processes required. In my experience the independence of the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) is critical to decision-making that is impartial and fair. There are not public concerns about the integrity of the organisation and the planners employed there have the necessary qualifications and experience to deliver planning decisions. The TPC is clearly the appropriate body to oversee regional land use strategies in consultation with local communities who are most familiar with the area in question. These responsibilities must be held by a professional and impartial body. Any system that gives responsibility to a minister is open to public concern that decisions have been influenced by developers, especially in view of the lack of government policy on donations to state politicians, since these do not have to be declared on a real-time basis. Elected members of councils rarely have planning experience or expertise and are required to rely on the advice of planning staff. The number and distribution of small councils in Tasmania must lead to a shortage of highly qualified planning staff in small councils, so oversight of a council's role in planning matters by the TPC is particularly important. When major projects are proposed the role of the TPC is of fundamental importance, especially because input from the public is sought and considered. It is therefore also essential the the TPC is adequately funded to employ well-qualified staff. The independence of the TPC is respected and a move to a situation where the minister of the day makes land use planning decisions would result in increased distrust in the decision-making process and potentially reduce trust in the State Government of the day.

Any move to decrease the powers of the TPC and increase the potential for decisions on land use to be politicised would be detrimental to the Tasmanian community and its future.

Land is not a renewable resource and it is critical that all land use planning decisions are overseen by an impartial and professional organisation. This is especially important when major projects are proposed

Email: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Suburb: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

(Sent via [REDACTED])