

Department of Justice
Office of the Secretary
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Tasmanian Planning Commission Review Submission

I am writing to make a submission to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC). Overall, I feel that the role and function of the TPC is vital to an open and independent planning process in Tasmania and that the TPC needs to be retained and in fact, its scope needs to be broadened and strengthened. To this end:

The TPC must have its independence maintained, broadened and strengthened

The TPC must be free to continue to provide its current functions independently of government and free of ministerial influence. This is important to both maintain a process open and transparent to the public as well as a consistency despite which government is in power or who is minister. To this end, not only should this independence be maintained, it should in fact, be broadened and strengthened. The TPC should also have the power to amend the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The TPC must maintain its function in policy development. The TPC must:

- Retain its existing role to review and hold hearings on representations, and report to the Minister on draft State Policies and amendments.
- Retain its existing role to report to the Minister for Planning regarding Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies and to amend any planning scheme to be consistent with those policies.
- Restore 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. This would provide the TPC with an important role in influencing planning policy.

The TPC should develop Tasmania's Regional Land Use Strategies

- Legislation should be changed to give the TPC the responsibility to develop, amend and approve Regional Land Use Strategies with public notice and hearings.

The TPC must maintain its function of assessing Projects of State and Regional Significance

- The TPC must retain its existing responsibility to assess projects of State significance e.g. major projects like Gunns Pulp Mill and Ralphs Bay, 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 must retain its function of Reviewing National Park and Reserve management plans

- 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.

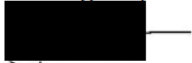
State of the Environment Reporting should remain with the TPC

- The problems with State of the Environment (SoE) reporting identified by the TPC in 2013 (and reconfirmed in 2018) should be addressed and the TPC should continue to produce SoE reports each five years. These reports are vital for a range of reasons, including informing good planning.

The TPC must be properly funded

- Properly fund the TPC to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report and new State Policies.

Kind Regards,



Gillian Basnett