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**Name:** Sue and Tony Bell

**Your Submission to the TPC Review:** Our submission about the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) follows:

#### GENERAL CONCERNS:

We believe that the TPC must have its independence maintained, broadened and strengthened.

If Tasmanian citizens lose the TPC as an independent decision-maker and advisor we lose one of our basic democratic rights – that of public comment and input on planning decisions that affect our communities, environment, cultural heritage, nature and conservation and threatened species.

We believe that this bill (The Major Projects Legislation) needs more time for public exposure and discussion.

It is too important to fast track. It will change the transparency and independence of Tasmania's planning system. It is undemocratic to rush it through in this worrying time of COVID-19.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The TPC must retain its capacity to perform its current functions independently of government.

The TPC's power to act independently of the government should be expanded.

The TPC should be given the power to make and amend the Tasmanian Planning Scheme.

The TPC's governance should be free from Ministerial influence, and no changes should be made that undermine the public perception of the independent operation of the TPC. The TPC should develop Tasmania's Regional Land Use Strategies.

The TPC must maintain its function of assessing projects of State and Regional significance.

The TPC must retain its function of reviewing National Park and Reserve management plans.

State of the environment reporting should remain with the TPC.

The TPC must be properly funded.

#### CONCLUSION:

We are concerned that this review of the TPC is part of a broader move to a Minister-

centred model of decision-making, displacing the role of the TPC as an independent decision-maker and advisor.

This is important because the TPC is an independent expert body, which provides the community with a fair hearing on resource management and planning matters.

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