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Subject: Form Submission - TPC Review
Date: Thursday, 14 May 2020 8:28:45 PM

Name: Lorne Kriwoken

Your Submission to the TPC Review: I write to make a submission to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. I strongly object to this draft Major Projects Legislation. It will give the Planning Minister unchecked power to declare any developments as a major project to be fast tracked for approval by a Development Assessment Panel. This will exclude the opportunity for the community, local government councilors and nongovernmental organisations to appeal any major development application. This Minister-centric model, fast tracking controversial developments, will favour the profitability of developers, invite interference and manipulation from lobbyists with no community oversight or opportunity for the public to exercise their democratic rights to assert community interests. I therefore wish to express my strong objection to this draft legislation in the public interest. I recommend:

The TPC must

- retain its capacity to operate independently of government and free from Ministerial influence.
- retain its existing role to review and hold hearings on representations and recommendations to the Minister on state policies and amendments
- retain its existing responsibilities to assess projects of state significance and not undermined through the draft Major Projects Bill.
- be funded to continue to produce the State of Environment reports each five years.

It is critical to our democratic process that the TPC maintain its independence.

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