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Your Submission to the TPC Review: Submission to the Tasmanian Planning Commission Review

1. The Structure of the commission and its functions and powers under the Act

a. It is of uttermost importance that the commission acts in a fair, efficient and effective manner when making decisions and giving advice. Their decision making must be independent and none of their members should have a connection to any projects they have to decide on. If a member happens to have a connected interest in a particular project he/she should stand down and not be involved in the decision making for this particular project.

b. Members from particular state agencies or bodies that are proponents of matters that the commission's function extends to, should – in case they are part of the commission - only have advisory function. They should not have decision making powers. Otherwise they can't be seen as independent.

c. It is agreed that the office of the Commission needs to be resourced according to its role, so that it can work efficiently.

d. The Commission should maintain the State of Environment Reporting function and needs to be resourced accordingly. The Commission also should maintain its role in policy development and in public participation in planning. The Commission's decision making process needs to be evidence or merit based and should not be influenced by political pressure or influence.

2. Conflict of Interest

The Commission's members need to be independent and should not have a conflict of interest. See 1.a

3. Ongoing Structure

It is important that the Commission is properly resourced financially and with staff. Insufficient staffing causes long delays in decision making which is unacceptable.

4. Roles, functions and appointment provisions

The Tasmanian Planning Commission must maintain its function of assessing projects of state and regional significance respectively major projects.

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