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Subject: Form Submission - TPC Review
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Name: Colin Sumner

Your Submission to the TPC Review: I write to make a submission to the Review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission having experienced it's operations, skills base, broad appreciation of Tasmania's unique economy and environment and population and it's trusted position within the broader planning community.

The independence of the TPC is a measure of the level of sophistication of Tasmania's Planning Processes. It gives confidence to the whole assessment procedure that all arguments will be fairly and intellectually and independently considered. To that end it should receive improved funding so as to make it the most effective review body in Australia.

It's functions in Policy Development need to be retained as should it's existing role to review and hold hearings on representations, and reporting to the Minister on draft State Policies and amendments.

Regional Land Use strategies are important in that they permit cohesive planning across otherwise different land management proposals whilst maintaining public access to provide commentary and legitimacy for the end result.

The TPC must maintain its function of assessing projects of state and regional significance in just the same way that the TPC must retain its function of reviewing national park and reserve management plans. Both of these aspects of Tasmania's overall attractiveness and development need a consistent planning approach and only an expert body can provide such. These are vital for longer term prosperity and legitimacy and importantly to give approvals the necessary social licence that the public at large demand of such today.

State of the Environment reporting has never been so important to communities and the TPC's recommendations should, as a matter of urgency, be adopted and the whole responsibility for SoE reporting should be retained by this body as these matters cut across numerous jurisdictions and the TPC uniquely can bring it all together under it's umbrella function.

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