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Subject: Form Submission - TPC Review
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Your Submission to the TPC Review: Dear Sirs

It is important that the TPC be an independent decision-maker and advisor which provides the community with a fair hearing on resource management and planning matters, and is transparent in its dealings. All too often planning matters seem to be rushed through without community consultation. The present COVID-19 pandemic, confining us to our homes, should not be the moment to make important changes to the role of the TPC.

Careful, transparent and independent thought such as that provided by the TPC as it stands could well ensure that inappropriate developments are not allowed in Tasmania i.e those which detract from the international reputation of Tasmania as an unspoiled island State with amazing parks and wilderness, and with a small population of environmentally aware inhabitants. Such a place is unique. The TPC should continue to oversee plans for developments and no hasty approvals by a Minister or the Government should be allowed. Thus, I write to make a submission to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. Please see my list of recommendations below.

1 The TPC's governance should be free from governmental and Ministerial influence, and no changes should be made that undermine the public perception of the independent operation of the TPC.

2 The TPC's role as the body responsible for making planning scheme controls and amendments should be restored 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.

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

4 The role of the TPC in assessing and approving projects of State and regional significance through existing processes should not be undermined, for example. through the draft Major Projects Bill.

5 The TPC's role in independently and transparently reviewing reserve management plans should be retained and legislation should be amended to clarify that the TPC may make recommendations for changes to reserve management plans.

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Yours sincerely

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