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**To:** [Have Your Say](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - TPC Review  
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**Name:** Janiece Bryan

**Your Submission to the TPC Review:** An Independent Planning Commission is critical to preserving our community's democratic rights.

I oppose the Draft Tasmanian Major Projects Bill (MPB) and recommend that this undemocratic legislation is abandoned.

1. The ongoing amendments to the Planning System have already eroded the democratic rights of the community.
2. Coupled with this are serious issues caused as a consequence of massive political donations driving public policy with no ability for the community to prevent it. We have great cause for concern and the future of our democracy.
3. The interference of foreign countries into our political processes for their own motives that are designed to benefit themselves and not respect the Tasmanian Community's culture and values and environment.
4. The Government sites delays in the current process, however, there are reasons in that the projects do not comply with laws and acceptable standards. Many of these delays are not caused by the Council or reviewing Authority but by the applicant's failure to address issues of compliance in a suitable timeframe. This is not the fault of the Planning Authorities.
5. Does this mean it is therefore open slather and important compliance and community ideas (which are often very legitimate) will be ignored for a quick approval? If the issues of compliance and community concerns were to be properly addressed the timeframe would not be reduced as it would still be dependent on the applicant's response to these matters.

There is no justification for this Bill and the concentration of power is totally undemocratic and does not respect the democratic rights of Tasmanian individuals. Public notice and Hearings must be retained.

6. The politicization of Councils has been another attempt to erode the community's right to have their say. Many of the Councils have politically aligned aldermen or a team of aldermen who do not debate issues, do not respect the community's right to have any input into decision-making and stifle the voicing of opinion against their predetermined political agenda and direction. I have observed this closely with no respect for considering the range of community views put forward. Indeed there are attempts to shutdown debate with no credible community input. Certain Right to Information requests have been denied and when submitting an appeal to the Ombudsman, there is a 1041 day wait for a ruling at the present time.
7. In conjunction with the Government pushing through this undemocratic and unbelievable law, they have demonstrated a lack of respect for the democratic functioning of Government. For example they have disabled existing Government authorities whose responsibility it is to review community concerns related to Government matters. This has been achieved through under-resourcing and ensuring there are legislative restraints that delay and prevent investigation. It is therefore likely that this will occur with the Development Assessment Panel and it is proven to be a perfect mechanism to disallow democratic rights for the Tasmanian Community.
8. We are a small State and there is a network of like-minded political people who will not and do not respect the importance of community opinions, values and expectations. Where

will the Tasmanian Planning Commission/Government find a suitably qualified panel that is not politically aligned? I suggest that is an impossibility just like the impossibility that the Major Projects Bill will deliver any semblance of democratic process for the people of Tasmania.

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