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Subject: Form Submission - TPC Review
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Name: Catherine Sullivan

Your Submission to the TPC Review: I am I writing to make a submission to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. I believe the current Tasmanian Planning Commission should be maintained, or strengthened and not replaced by a "Development Assessment Panel". It is vital the the TPC be allowed to continue as an independent, professional commission and should be free from Ministerial influence.

I am particularly concerned that the The TPC may lose its existing responsibility to assess projects of State significance e.g. major projects like Gunns Pulp Mill and Ralphs Bay, and to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister. The role of the TPC in assessing and approving projects of State and regional significance through existing processes should not be undermined e.g. through the draft Major Projects Bill.

I am also concerned that the TPC may lose its function of reviewing national parks and reserve management plans. There appears to be a tendency to allow private developments to be allowed in crown land, much to the distress of many Tasmanians. An example is the decision to allow a development in the Walls of Jerusalem {Lake Malbena} that has been opposed by fishermen and women, bush walkers and the residents of the Southern Midlands municipaity. It is vital that the TPC remain in a position to assess the suitability of developments in the fragile Tasmanian wilderness.

It is important that the TPC is properly funded to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report and new State Policies and that it retain its existing role to review and hold hearings on representations, and report to the Minister on draft State Policies and amendments.

It must retain its existing role to report to the Minister for Planning regarding Draft Tasmanian Planning Polices and to amend any planning scheme to be consistent with a those policies.

I believe that the TPC should have its role restored as the body responsible for making planning scheme controls and amendments. The TPC should be the decision-maker for State Planning Provisions. Ministerial oversight for Local Provisions Schedules should be removed. This would provide the TPC with an important role in influencing planning policy. Professional, transparent and independent decision making is needed, for State Planning and the TPC should be strengthened and enabled to conduct its duties without fear or favour.

Yours faithfully
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