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

**Your Submission to the TPC Review:** Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission and I hope that you consider all submissions by the people and ensure that our voices are not over-ruled or ignored.

Changes to the TPC fundamentally changes the planning system: how we the people are involved in the the resource management and planning decisions processes. This review limits the potential for the TPC to make recommendations to the government relating to panning policy or legislation, and limits its independence from government and limits its functions in other important areas. The government has failed to provide detailed explanation of the reason for this review, the terms of reference doesn't clarify what problems the TPC has, nor the scope of the changes being herein considered. The TPC must be protected as it is an independent statutory body carrying out important functions and is at the heart of Tasmania's planning system. It reviews and makes recommendations to the Planning Minister regarding State Planning Provisions, and Local Provisions Schedules, and draft amendments to interim planning schemes, and draft State Policies and Draft Tasmanian Planning policies and amendments and public submissions to draft reserve management plans. Most importantly the TPC provides the community with appropriate rights to formally be heard in respect of decisions it makes, or policy reviews it undertakes and runs its own processes, which have enabled public participation. The TPC acts independently from government. The Liberal government has selfishly reduced the TPC's role in planning, making the Planning Minister not the TPC responsible for approvals of State Planning Provisions. This government wants to further restrict the functions and independence of the TPC and expand the role of the Planning Minister and this is totally un-democratic by its very nature and unacceptable. I am concerned the TPC is at risk of losing its independence and its key functions. We cannot have politically influenced decision-making, we must have the TPC with evidence based/merits based decision-making. I do not agree with a Minister-centred model over a Commission model. The TPC'S independence is critical because with the community it makes decisions that affect our way of life and natural environment without government interference! The Minister must not be allowed to approve State Planning Provisions, the TPC must be the responsible independent authority entrusted by the community to do this. We cannot trust wayward vested interest politicians to make these decisions without independent consultation. The role of the Minister MUST NOT be expanded as this is undemocratic and I do believe last time I looked we were a democracy where the individual is encouraged to play part n government decisions and this can only be done via and independent TPC. Political bias in decision-making MUST NOT be allowed to fester and this review appears to try to do this in a sneaky manner. We must have integrity and centrality of evidence-based decision-making through the TPC restored tot he resource management and planning system, in Tasmania in both planning and environmental decision-making! the Draft Major Projects Bill sidelines the TPC to only appoint a Development Assessment Panel and we have no trust in re-invigorating a 'panel' system, when we already have a trusted Planning Commission that can do the job. So the TPC must ration its capacity to perform its current functions INDEPENDENTLY of government and these powers must be expanded with the TPC given powers to make and amend the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and the TPC MUST be free from Ministerial influence thus be totally independent. The government MUST NOT strip the TPC of its advocacy role on policy and it must retain its current policy function in regard to Draft

State Policies and Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies and expanded to Regional Land Use Strategies and approval of the State Planning Provisions. The TPC must have a greater role in public decision-making roles such as the review of reserve management plans and water management plans and be PROPERLY RESOURCED to carry out the critical State of the Environment Report! It must be resourced to develop a new State Policies to guide decision-making on issues such as transport and climate change! The TPC must retain its existing role to review and hold hearings and report to the Minister on draft State Policies and amendments as well as regarding the Draft Tasmanian Planning Policies and to amend any planning scheme to be consistent with those policies. We ask that it be made the body responsible for making planning scheme controls and amendments and we ask for the removal of Ministerial oversight for Local Provisions Schedules. Legislation must be altered to give the TPC the responsibility to develop, amend and approve Regional Land Use Strategies with public notice and hearings. That is democracy in action! It must maintain its function of assessing Projects of State and Regional Significance and the existing processes must not be undermined by the draft Major Projects Bill. The TPC must retain its function of Reviewing National Park and Reserve management plans by holding hearings, and reporting to the Environment Minister on public representation on draft reserve management plans and amendments. This role critically extends to the Wellington Park Management Plan. Given the state government's current push to exploit protect areas it is imperative that the process for writing/reviewing management plans remains independent! The TPC role is independent and transparent and must remain as such. the State of the Environment reporting is fundamental and must be independent and an SoE report must be done every five years at a minimum as this assists good planning! Finally and as importantly the TPC must be funded properly to enable it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the SoE report and new State Policies. It is totally undemocratic to allow a Minister of whatever political persuasion to make these decisions, they must be independent and transparent and done by the TPC not a politically biased Minister. Let's ensure that democracy prevails and the peoples' voice can be heard and not vested interests or lobby groups who pay to be heard via political donations!!!

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