

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:33 PM
To: NSW Productivity Feedback
Subject: Independent Planning Commission must stay

Categories: Green category

Dear Productivity Commissioner,

The IPC was established to shield important and far reaching decisions on mining applications from political interference. Recently it has duly delivered on this by denying the Rocky Hill Mine and the Bylong Valley Mine to go ahead. It's almost a first in this state and since then, the Mineral Council has been pushing hard and loud in its objection to this important independent body. We can not afford to bend to the pressure by one mining lobby group. It is well established, that carbon emissions cause climate change. Now that the country is on fire, we must wake up and do even more to protect the world from this catastrophe. AS a country with the largest coal export, i would hope that we can play a vital part in securing the worlds future and still deliver a marvelous outcome to the Australian Government. The economist Ross Garnaut has outlined a pathway to just that in his book "Superpower". Australia has the resources to flourish in a zero carbon economy, with major gains in jobs and growth. But this means, we must leave coal and gas in the ground.

I am fully supportive of the NSW Independent Planning Commission continuing as the body that assesses major projects in NSW.

The IPC is an unbiased, corruption-proof body that operates at arm's length of government and industry, applying planning law without prejudice.

The excessive influence of the mining and developer lobbies is well documented, often as a result of investigations by the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Abolishing the IPC and returning approval powers solely to the Planning Minister and Planning Department would significantly increases corruption risk.

It would also diminish the influence in planning decisions of government agencies whose duty protection of wildlife, bushland and water resources, and to manage pollution and bushfire risk.

Communities in mining-affected regions have little trust in the Department of Planning or political representatives to take a balanced approach to managing land-use conflict.

These communities rely on the IPC for an independent and objective consideration of highly damaging and controversial mining projects.

Yours sincerely,

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