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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:16 PM
To: NSW Productivity Feedback
Subject: The Independent Planning Commission must remain, independent of politics

Categories: Green category

Dear Productivity Commissioner,

I fully support 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 undue power of the mining and developer lobbies is well documented, often as a result of investigations by the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption. In the past we've seen what happens when special interests get their way at the expense of ordinary people and the environment.

To dissolve the IPC and return approval powers solely to the Planning Minister and Planning Department would significantly raise the risk of corruption.

Retention of the IPC would also reduce undue influence in the planning decisions of state agencies tasked with the protection of wildlife, bushland and water resources, and to manage pollution and bushfire risk.

People in mining-affected regions do not trust the Department of Planning or political representatives to take a balanced approach to managing land-use conflict. They rely on the IPC for an independent and objective consideration of highly damaging and controversial mining projects.

I thank you in advance for your wise, enlightened stance on this crucial issue.

Yours sincerely,

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