

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [NSW Productivity Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Independent Planning Commission Must Remain  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 1:18:24 PM

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Dear Productivity Commissioner

The NSW Independent Planning Commission must continue as the body responsible for assessing major projects in NSW.

It is absolutely crucial that an unbiased, corruption-proof body that is at arm's length of government and industry, applies planning law without prejudice.

Investigations by the NSW ICAC have shown in the past that mining and developer lobbies can and do exercise influence over what should be a completely objective and evidence-based process.

Returning approval powers solely to the Planning Minister and Planning Department politicises the process and would significantly increase the risk of corruption of the kind we witnessed in the Obeid case.

It seems that the NSW Government does not fully understand its role of protecting wildlife, bushland and water resources, and managing pollution and bushfire risk. Recent events and predicted environmental catastrophes make that role absolutely crucial to the future well-being of the flora and fauna of NSW.

Communities in mining-affected regions rely on the IPC for independent and objective assessment as those communities clearly have little trust in the Department of Planning or political representatives to take a balanced approach to managing land-use conflict.

I am not opposed to mining as such but simply want a proper umpire to make the necessary decisions to protect our environment wherever possible rather than allowing mining companies to hold sway regardless of the environmental cost.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]