

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NSW Productivity Feedback](#)
Subject: Submission to the Review of Independent Planning Commission
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The Independent Planning Commission should remain as is and not become subject to Ministerial control other than in relation to its procedure.

The independence of this committee is essential to our democracy.

It is in the public interest to maintain an Independent Planning Commission to prevent corruption of politicians and public servants from undue influence from lobbyists.

It has been reported the mining industry had 188 meetings with NSW Ministers over 4 years, dwarfing community and environmental groups which represent the interests of the Australian people and future generations.

The IPC is a crucial check on developments classified as "state significant" which don't require concurrence from any other agency of local government.

Former concurrence powers have been removed relating to water use, pollution control, heritage protection, fire risk and biodiversity. Leaving all this power with the Department of Planning and Minister vests an inappropriate amount of power such that important considerations may be ignored.

Communities in mine-affected or CSG drilling and fracking areas, have little trust in the Department of Planning or political representatives to take a balanced approach and represent their and citizens interests in land use. They, and we all, rely on the IPC for an independent and objective consideration of highly damaging and controversial mining projects.

The commission should be provided additional resources to undertake its role and to ensure it has access to all necessary scientific expertise.

The IPC must be free to differ from the Department of Planning's Assessment Reports which are frequently biased and treat immediate economic considerations with greater weight than permanent environmental effects.

The IPC should maintain its own independent, transparent secretariat. It is essential that it has the very highest standards of probity and independence.

The IPC must not become a rubber stamp for the Department of Planning.

There is a lack of policy that clearly indicates what level of impact is deemed unacceptable. For water, biodiversity, cultural heritage, air quality, there is no impact threshold that the community has certainty will not be permitted.

Stronger measures are needed to protect Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land, water resources and other attributes from impacts of mining so that it does not have to be left to the discretion of the Commission.

The processes of the IPC need strengthening to ensure any interested member of the public can attend and address public hearings. This must include consideration of aboriginal land, heritage and sacred sites. This is an important check on executive government.

Thank you for considering this submission to the IPC review.

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