

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NSW Productivity Feedback](#)
Subject: Powerful mining interests are not the voice of all
Date: Thursday, 14 November 2019 5:54:52 PM

Dear Productivity Commissioner,

I am very concerned that the NSW Independent Planning Commission (IPC) will be dismantled pending the inquiry into this body.

The fact that the NSW State Government has established an inquiry into the IPC, in close proximity of time to the sustained pressure from The Minerals Council almost answers the question, "Is the IPC still necessary?" in a resounding affirmative response.

The independence and objectivity encapsulated in a body such as the IPC is the exact reason why it needs to remain in place when assessing major projects and applying planning law without external influence.

External influence exemplified by the behaviour of The Minerals Council, other mining and developer lobbyists, often excessive in nature and uncovered by the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The abolition of the IPC would hand approval powers back to the Planning Minister and Department of Planning, removing the preventers of corruption offered by this body.

Equally concerning is the concomitant negative effects this would have on the influence of other government agencies to be included in the decision making process where it impacts on their tasks to protect flora, fauna and other natural resources.

It is the IPC that is able to match the power and might of wealthy lobbyists in providing an impartial hearing to individuals and community groups concerns.

Where mining has taken place in NSW, against community wishes, those same people have lost trust in the Department of Planning or politicians to be objective in assessing land use conflict.

Communities which are directly impacted by destructive and controversial local projects, particularly mining, depend on the IPC to fairly assess these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]