

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [NSW Productivity Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Review of Independent Planning Commission  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 10:21:06 PM

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I hereby tender my submission to the review of the Independent Planning Commission (IPC).

The public interest is best served by retaining the Commission in its current form for the following reasons:

1. It provides an important safeguard against corruption in the planning system by politicians and public servants (which has been recognised by ICAC) and is the only mechanism by which the public can have confidence that planning in NSW is as free as possible from the political influence of the mining industry and its lobbyists.
2. It helps avoid the serious issue created by the planning 'super agency' which includes industry and which clearly contains significant conflicts within it.
3. Whereas the Department of Planning has repeatedly recommended approval of the most damaging mining projects I understand that it has only ever recommended against three coal mines in NSW. I contend that this is proof that the Department is captured by the mining industry and is incapable of balance or unbiased assessment and decision-making.
4. The IPC should not rely on the assessment report prepared by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. It should also take into account all assessments by Government agencies, and submissions from experts and the community.
5. The development assessment processes should include short and long term cumulative impacts on water resources, agriculture, communities, human health and biodiversity.

In addition I would like to see the processes of the Commission strengthened to ensure that any interested member of the public can attend and address public hearings where they are held. Currently, the IPC's guideline for public hearings does not guarantee any interested member of the public the ability to present to the Commission. Given that these hearings extinguish legal appeal rights, this is a breach of fairness.

Yours sincerely

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