

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NSW Productivity Feedback](#)
Subject: IPC Review Submission
Date: Monday, 18 November 2019 5:28:27 PM

To the Commissioner for Productivity

I am writing as a concerned Community Member to submit my views regarding the upcoming review of the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) and request that these be considered in making a determination:

- 1. I strongly believe it is truly in the public interest to maintain an IPC** for all State Significant Developments - to ensure balanced and transparent planning and development; thus ensuring a healthy and sustainable future for our state and country. The IPC enables broader community input and participation. It provides the opportunity for communities to have dialogue and to feel heard in relation to views on developments which inevitably will have great impacts on those communities in one way or another. It is important for communities to be involved and have a voice in planning for these developments. Removal of the IPC would create a huge imbalance in favour of development proponents – it would remove any avenue for communities to defend their homes, livelihoods, environment and health.
2. I feel it is important that the IPC is truly independent of any government agency thereby removing any possibility of conflict of interest or bias in consideration of any development.
3. I feel it is essential that Commissioners are appointed based on relevance of their background, skills and expertise in relation to the particular development being reviewed. There should be a robust process for identification and declaration of any conflict of interest in relation to a development for review.
4. While it is reasonable and practical to consider the assessment report prepared by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, I feel it is important to have assessments prepared by other agencies who are independent of the government and proponent. These should be specialist agencies which are experienced and skilled in relation to the assessment being conducted; as well as free from any bias in relation to the development.
5. Resourcing of the IPC should be increased to ensure appointments of appropriately qualified Commissioners in relation to each review; and to ensure all appropriate independently prepared assessments can be completed prior to each review to enable a balanced and transparent review process.

It is imperative that the IPC continues to function in its capacity as an INDEPENDENT assessor of State Significant Developments. If any change is to be made, it should be to improve the resourcing of the IPC to provide increased expertise and availability of independent, specialised assessments to enable efficient and effective reviews to be completed. Any reduction in the IPC's capacity would be viewed as avoidance of transparency and balance in the planning and development process. Now more than ever it is essential that communities are considered and enabled to have a voice in the planning and development process of State Significant Developments. The IPC is the appropriate and essential vehicle to provide this opportunity for communities to play this role.

Yours faithfully

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18.11.2019