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Office of the Secretary
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Date: 14.05.2020

By email to: haveyoursay@justice.tas.gov.au

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The Institute strongly supports the work of the Commission, and broadly supports the Terms of Reference as described for review.

In particular, we strongly endorse the consolidation of the Commission's role as an independent regulator that maintains independence, rigour and transparency in performing its functions. These qualities are essential to ensure the confidence of the architectural profession and the broader community in appointments, procedures and determinations made by the Commission, including with respect to the proposed Draft Land Use Planning and Approvals Amendment (Major Projects) Bill 2020.

The Institute understands that historically designated roles, in particular, the State Environment Reporting function, may currently be perceived to undermine the function of the Commission. We understand the need to address and rectify this. We submit that a State Environment Reporting function is invaluable for informing Tasmania's strategic planning policy and future development strategy to align and strengthen the state's distinctive brand and guide the direction of our state's optimal economic growth. We are concerned that removing this function from the Commission's role for reallocation to another agency or body, in the absence of the existence of such an alternative, could result in reporting of this invaluable data and analysis being lost to policy makers and regulators in the future. Given that this review includes consideration of the structure of the Commission, we ask if there is an opportunity to create a dedicated unit within the Commission with specifically allocated funding and specialist staff / resources to fulfil this State Environment Reporting function or its equivalent.

The Institute continues to support agile and rigorous planning processes, and we look forward to our continuing involvement in the process of this review for the benefit of all Tasmanians.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Nichols
Tasmanian Executive Director,
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Shamus Mulcahy
Tasmanian President,
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