
BUDGET ESTIMATES BRIEF

STATE OF ENVIRONMENT REPORT

KEY MESSAGES

- The State of the Environment Report is a legislative requirement under the State Policies and Projects Act 1993.
- The Tasmanian Planning Commission is charged with producing a SOE Report every 5 years
- The last report was released in 2009
- The SOE report has traditionally been prepared by compiling information from a variety of sources.
- The cost of preparing the report is over \$1m
- The efficacy and utility of these SOE reports has never been tested and it remains a moot point as to whether they are a pragmatic and useful tool especially as a component of the planning system.
- SOE reports are not referenced or cited in any of the three Regional Land Use Strategies
- Internationally and across Australia, SOE reporting has evolved and substantially different models and methodologies are now followed
- As the Tasmanian planning system continues to mature through the Government's ongoing reform agenda – the TPPs and consideration of a more robust regional planning framework – it would be sensible to consider how the SOE process could better inform regional land use strategies
- A further consideration is whether the TPC is best placed to prepare such a report given it is increasingly a body of review and assessment not a policy or strategic planning organisation.
- In late 2019, the Government initiated an independent Review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission which included as a term of reference consideration of its role in preparing the SOE report.

- Professor Roberta Ryan (Forward Thinking Consultancy) and Alex Lawrie (University Technology Sydney) – the successful tenderers, conducted numerous interviews and held workshops with key groups.
- The final report includes a recommendation that the TPC is not the appropriate body to prepare the SOE but without knowing what the Government wants the SOE to be used for, it cannot recommend an alternative.
- It does indicate that if the preferred focus of the SOE is through the regional strategic planning process, then it might be better linked to the planning agency within Government (ie. the PPU currently)
- If this was to occur the SOE would need to be recalibrated to provide a regional focus and a scope that is geared to strategic land use planning as opposed to a broader environmental condition report and the PPU resourced appropriately
- In the meantime the Government has committed \$500k over two years to provide data gathering to inform the comprehensive reviews of the RLUSs (the Northern and Southern were specifically named) earlier than would have been the case
- This will provide for planning focussed reports containing up-to-date regional data that will set the foundations for the strategic reviews
- While the future of the SOE process is being considered, the Budget commitment will provide for the RLUS process to move ahead 'as though an SOE report' has been prepared.

BACKGROUND:

- On 20 October 2019 you, acting as Minister for Planning, called for an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and function in order to ensure its on-going statutory independence.
- Professor Roberta Ryan and Alex Lawrie, from Forward Thinking conducted the independent review in light of:
 - administrative changes to the Commission's role in policy making;
 - the importance of the Commission remaining completely at arm's length from Government;
 - the recent resignation of long-term Executive Commissioner Mr Greg Alomes; and
 - questions around the Commission being the most appropriate agency to conduct reporting on the State of the Environment.
- The terms of reference for the review included an examination of:
 - the structure of the Commission and the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* (the Act) to ensure that:
 - the Commission is able to continue to perform its role as an independent decision maker and advisory body, in a fair, just, efficient and effective manner;
 - the Commission's statutory functions are not compromised by its membership
 - the ongoing structure of the office of the Commission and its resourcing is reflective of its extended role in the planning system as an independent decision maker and advisory body on the new components of the Tasmanian planning system; and
 - its functions are not undermined by the demands of historically designated roles under other legislation that might be better reallocated to another agency or body, in particular the State of Environment Reporting function; and
 - the conflict of interest provisions in the Act and the process of delegation to ensure they operate transparently and meet public expectations.

Status

- The Consultant's have now delivered the Review Report.
- The Commission's membership and its functions are established under legislation and any changes that might be considered in this regard will require the approval of Parliament.

Contact Officer: Brian Risby
Position: Director Planning Policy Unit
Phone: s.36

Cleared by: Nick Evans
Position: Deputy Secretary
Phone: s.36

27 May 2021

APPROVED / NOT APPROVED

SIGNED:

DATE:

**Minute to the Minister for Local Government and Planning
Review of Tasmanian Planning Commission**

Minister's notation:

RECOMMENDATION:

That you:

s.27

KEY ISSUES:

1. The Tasmanian Planning Commission Review Report was delivered in late 2020. Review recommendations fell into a number of categories, including:
 - a clearer separation between government policy functions and the statutory role of the Commission, and specifically to remove the 2 Government related infrastructure commissioners by reducing the number to 6 and remove references to the Commission having a policy advisory function – these recommendations are not considered contentious; and
 - more substantial recommendations around the future operational 'model' for the Commission and its functioning - which were based on assumptions about the way the Tasmanian planning system works and the key functions of the Commission, some of which have been contested by the Commission itself.
2. Prior to making any changes to the Commission's structure/processes, the Department initiated a process designed to verify these assumptions with the Commission - and a comprehensive response from it addressing the Review assumptions has now been received (refer Attachment 1).
3. In its response, the Commission notes the adequacy of arrangements currently in place to minimise conflict of interest and highlights a number of changes that have/or are in the process of being made which further address Review recommendations. The Commission also notes that recommended changes to the model of operation and to processes would be impractical in the Tasmanian context, with an increase in operational costs for little gain in terms of diminishing any perception of conflict of interest. The Commission sees merit in a number of recommendations relating to its structure and to the legislation, which would reduce any perception of conflict of interest.
4. Legislative changes will achieve a clearer separation between government policy functions and the statutory role of the Commission and will also minimise any perception of conflict of interest. Placing on hold, recommended changes to the Commission's operational model/processes will allow the Commission time to effect recently commenced and proposed changes – which will further address the Review's recommendations with respect to conflict of interest. This would also allow time for the Commission to complete the approval of the Local Provision Schedules without administrative disruption.
5. The Review considered that the Commission is not the appropriate body to prepare the SoE Report as it does not have the appropriate resourcing, skills, expertise, or capability to access and analyse the relevant data to effectively perform this role consistent with the way the SoE report has been constructed. The Commission agrees with this assessment. Referral of the SoE reporting function to the State Planning Inter-Departmental Committee for review will allow for a comprehensive consideration of the function, as it is currently formulated - and its most appropriate location within government.
6. The Review noted that the PPU's current location within the DoJ raised the potential for conflict of interest, given the Commission's reporting line through its Executive Commissioner to the DoJ Secretary - particularly where the DoJ might be the proponent of a major project before the Commission. The Review noted that organisational separation is one of the safeguards that can help reduce the potential for conflict of interest. The Review also noted that one of the benefits in locating the planning function in a central agency with broad interests in whole of government matters and their integration and in

emphasising the policy and strategic focus of the PPU as opposed to a regulatory function which is arguably appropriately located in DoJ.

BACKGROUND:

- The Tasmanian Planning Commission Review Report was delivered in late 2020 and the Department, through the Policy Planning Unit (PPU), initiated a project to implement those Review recommendations deemed practicable (agreed to have merit) to ensure that the Tasmanian Planning Commission remains 'fit-for-purpose' and can continue to effectively fulfil its role as an independent decision maker and advisory body into the future.
- On 20 October 2019, you called for an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and function in order to ensure its on-going statutory independence. Professor Roberta Ryan and Alex Lawrie, from Forward Thinking conducted the independent review in light of:
 - administrative changes to the Commission's role in policy making;
 - the importance of the Commission remaining completely at arm's length from Government;
 - the resignation of long-term Executive Commissioner Mr Greg Alomes; and
 - questions around the Commission being the most appropriate agency to conduct reporting on the State of the Environment.
- The terms of reference for the Review included an examination of the structure of the Commission and the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* (the Act) to ensure that:
 - the Commission is able to continue to perform its role as an independent decision maker and advisory body, in a fair, just, efficient and effective manner;
 - the Commission's statutory functions are not compromised by its membership
 - the ongoing structure of the office of the Commission and its resourcing is reflective of its extended role in the planning system as an independent decision maker and advisory body on the new components of the Tasmanian planning system; and
 - its functions are not undermined by the demands of historically designated roles under other legislation that might be better reallocated to another agency or body, in particular the State of Environment Reporting function; and
 - the conflict of interest provisions in the Act and the process of delegation to ensure they operate transparently and meet public expectations.

The Review Report

- The Consultant delivered its Report in November 2020. The key findings were:
 1. a clearer separation and appropriate resourcing of a state planning agency to develop planning regulations and policies and to advise the Tasmanian Government and councils on the same;
 2. re-focusing of the Commission on its more highly valued roles to independently review, assess, and determine significant and contentious planning matters;

3. changes to the current decision-making model to ensure a truly independent model with development assessment panels comprised solely of external, part-time experts;
4. changes to the current commissioner model to ensure commissioners are appointed solely on the basis of expertise rather than organisation or interest-based; and
5. expanding the pool of independent expert decision-makers available to sit on development assessment panels to determine development applications on a rotational basis.

Other Recommendations

6. The Review also recommended that:
 - the SoE reporting function be removed from the Commission; and
 - the PPU be separated 'organisationally' from the Commission to further reduce the potential for conflict of interest.

The Validation Exercise

- Recommendations 1, 2 and 4 are viewed as non-contentious and have been supported by the Commission – these relate to a clearer separation between the Commission's functions and those of government in the planning system. However, assumptions upon which recommendations relating to the future operational 'model' for the Commission and its operations were based, have been contested by the Commission – ie. about the way the Tasmanian planning system works and the key functions of the Commission (for example, that the Commission is primarily involved in assessing major projects),
- Consequently, before taking action, the Department initiated a validation exercise, the purpose of which was to test the validity of assumptions underpinning Review recommendations, to examine the impact of changes to the Commission's operations and especially the practicalities of those in the Tasmanian context, and to carefully weigh the pros and cons and potential for unintended consequences. A copy of the Commission's response to the validation exercise is provided at Attachment I.
- In summary, the Commission:
 - observes that the consultant may not have fully understood; the Commission's legislative and review functions and that this may have underpinned some of the recommendations - such as the role of assessing and approving planning schemes, a form of subordinate legislation. *The Review Report appears to assume the Commission largely undertakes development assessment, which at the time of preparing the Review Report was a very minor component and only by way of section 43A applications which essentially are a review of the planning authority draft permit and not an assessment from first principles....*
The consultants did not fully understand [that] the roles of Commission delegates are different to development assessment panels (DAPs) (formed under the Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999;
 - disagrees with a number of key Review assumptions about the Commission's work and the propensity for bias and conflict of interest;
 - considers that existing administrative and legal arrangements are more than adequate to deal with any actual or perceived bias or conflicts of interest.

- disagrees with the Review's assumption that that the Commission's operational model allows for assessments that are prejudiced through assessment panel members being conflicted. Advice from the Solicitor-General, dated 14 December 2020, confirms that there is no inherent conflict of interest in the use of the Commission staff as delegates in decisions in assessment matters;
- disagrees that with the suggestion that the Commission staff are conflicted in decision making as they are departmental employees and not acting independently and notes that, for most of the Commission functions, staff (planning advisers) assist delegated panels with drafting a decision, and do not 'prepare assessment reports'.
- considers that the recommendation that a larger pool of decision-makers be established, to reduce the current potential for conflict of interest, is impractical in the Tasmanian context. The Commission notes that there is no pool of experts readily available when required, without real or potential conflicts of interest, also that an expansion of the pool of experts would result in an increase in operating costs and in reducing consistency in the assessment/hearing process.
- notes that aspects of the proposed model for DAPs is being implemented through the specification of the Panel in the recently introduced Major Projects legislative amendments;
- supports a number of recommendations. The Commission supports strengthening the role and function of the Commission through 're-focusing' the organisation on its more highly valued roles to independently review, assess, and determine significant and contentious planning matters (this can be effected through legislative change). The Commission also agrees that separating the current Executive Commissioner role into two roles, that is an Output Manager separate to Chair of the Commission, would help minimise any perception of conflict of interest; and
- requests that any changes its organisational structure and the role of delegates be deferred until the majority of Local Provision Schedule assessments are complete, so that resources are not diverted from this reform task.

Discussion

- While the Commission notes mechanisms in place to minimise bias or conflict of interest, the Review found that current model is open to public criticism in terms of the perception that it is not operating at arms-length from government.
- Legislative changes in the short-term will: achieve a clearer separation between government policy functions and the statutory role of the Commission; minimise any perception of conflicts of interest; will allay public concerns about diminishing the independence of the Commission; are relatively simple in terms of drafting and are unlikely to impact on the Commission's internal operations.
- Placing on hold the Review's recommended changes to the Commission's operational model/processes will allow the Commission time to fully implement proposed changes which will further address the Review's recommendations with respect to conflict of interest. Deferring recommended changes to the Commission operational model will also allow time for the Commission to complete Local Provision Schedule assessments without interruption.

- The Commission currently has responsibility for reporting on the state of Tasmanian environment. The legislative requirements relating to the Tasmanian State of the Environment Report are set out in section 29 of the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.
- The current location of the SoE reporting function with the Commission is at odds with its other functions and the expertise of its staff. Referral of the SoE reporting function to the State Planning Inter-Departmental Committee for review will allow for a comprehensive consideration of the function, as it is currently formulated - and its most appropriate location within government.
- The Review noted that organisational separation of the PPU from the Commission will help in reducing the potential for conflict of interest. One of the benefits in locating the planning function in a central agency with broad interests in whole of government matters and their integration and in emphasising the policy and strategic focus of the PPU as opposed to a regulatory function which is arguably appropriately located in DoJ.

The location of the PPU is subject to ongoing discussions between the Department of Justice and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, with a view to considering the pros and cons of relocating the PPU and its functions from the former to the latter

Brian Risby
Director Planning Policy Unit

Forwarded through Nick Evans, Deputy Secretary Correction and Regulation

Prepared by:	Brian Risby	Cleared by:	Nick Evans
Position:	Director PPU	Position:	Deputy Secretary
Phone:	s.36	Phone:	s.36
Date:	25 May 2021	Date:	27 May 2021

Attachments:

AI – Commission's Response to the Review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission

Hutton, Bridget

From: Risby, Brian
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 4:09 PM
To: McPhail, Sean
Subject: RE: PMAT Submission on PD8

s.35



Brian Risby | Director
Planning Policy Unit
Department of Justice

p (03) s.36 m s.36
e brian.risby@justice.tas.gov.au
w www.planningreform.tas.gov.au

Level 4b, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart, TAS 7001 | PO Box 825, Hobart, TAS 7001

From: McPhail, Sean <Sean.McPhail@justice.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 3:37 PM
To: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@justice.tas.gov.au>
Subject: PMAT Submission on PD8

To note for Budget estimates. The PMAT submission on PD8 specifically mentioned SoE reporting:



PMAT considers this strategic planning should also be visionary and sustainable. It is a gross oversight that there has been no State of the Environment Reporting for well over a decade and that there is no environment policy. In our view, The TPC should be adequately resourced to undertake this important task.



Sean McPhail | Assistant Director
Planning Policy Unit
Department of Justice

p (03) s.36
e sean.mcphail@justice.tas.gov.au
w www.planningreform.tas.gov.au

Level 4b, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart, TAS 7000 | GPO Box 825, Hobart, TAS 7001

Hutton, Bridget

From: Webster, Ginna (DoJ)
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2021 3:09 PM
To: Risby, Brian
Subject: RE: Estimates issues and the Planning Commission

Thanks Brian



Ginna Webster
Secretary
Department of Justice
(03) s.36 | Ginna.Webster@justice.tas.gov.au
www.justice.tas.gov.au
GPO Box 825 Hobart TAS 7001 | Level 14, 110 Collins Street, Hobart, TAS 7000

We act with Integrity Respect Accountability Our workplaces are Inclusive Collaborative

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER: This email and any attachments are confidential and may be legally privileged (in which case neither is waived or lost by mistaken delivery). The email and any attachments are intended only for the intended addressee(s). Please notify us by return email if you have received this email and any attachments by mistake, and delete them. If this email and any attachments include advice, that advice is based on, and limited to, the instructions received by the sender. Any unauthorised use of this email and any attachments is expressly prohibited. Any liability in connection with any viruses or other defects in this email and any attachments, is limited to re-supplying this email and any attachments.



COVIDSAFE

From: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@justice.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2021 3:07 PM
To: Webster, Ginna <Ginna.Webster@justice.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Lowe, Michelle <Michelle.Lowe@justice.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Estimates issues and the Planning Commission

Thanks Ginna. I'll follow through as required.



Brian Risby | Director
Planning Policy Unit
Department of Justice

p (03) s.36 m s.36
e brian.risby@justice.tas.gov.au
w www.planningreform.tas.gov.au

Level 4b, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart, TAS 7001 | PO Box 825, Hobart, TAS 7001

From: Webster, Ginna <Ginna.Webster@justice.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2021 3:06 PM
To: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@justice.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Lowe, Michelle <Michelle.Lowe@justice.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Estimates issues and the Planning Commission

Dear Brian,

4

Thanks for the update – we may need to speak about the SOE report with the Minister’s Office. I have just spoken to John Ramsay (thanks to your reminder) and he is comfortable to appear but will not be drawn on matters of policy obviously. To that end I would be appreciative if you could share relevant briefs and the timetable. I do have a clash with planning and corrections so will have to discuss with relevant Ministers about my attendance.

Happy to chat further.
Cheers,
Ginna



Ginna Webster

Secretary

Department of Justice

(03) **s.36** | Ginna.Webster@justice.tas.gov.au

www.justice.tas.gov.au

GPO Box 825 Hobart TAS 7001 | Level 14, 110 Collins Street, Hobart, TAS 7000

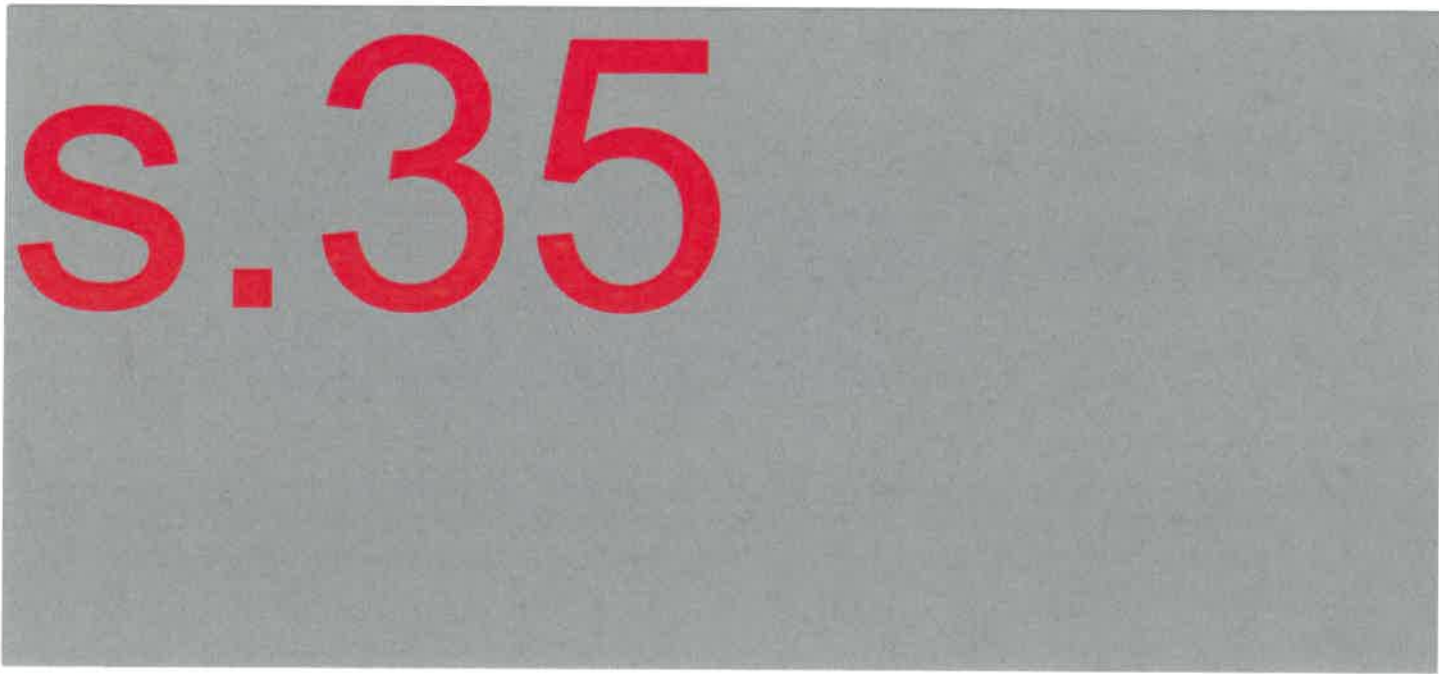
We act with Integrity Respect Accountability Our workplaces are Inclusive Collaborative

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER: This email and any attachments are confidential and may be legally privileged (in which case neither is waived or lost by mistaken delivery). The email and any attachments are intended only for the intended addressee(s). Please notify us by return email if you have received this email and any attachments by mistake, and delete them. If this email and any attachments include advice, that advice is based on, and limited to, the instructions received by the sender. Any unauthorised use of this email and any attachments is expressly prohibited. Any liability in connection with any viruses or other defects in this email and any attachments, is limited to re-supplying this email and any attachments.



COVIDSAFE

From: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@justice.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 August 2021 1:29 PM
To: Webster, Ginna <Ginna.Webster@justice.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Lowe, Michelle <Michelle.Lowe@justice.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Estimates issues and the Planning Commission



s.26

s.35

Have you had any conversation with John Ramsay about Estimates? Would you like me to advise of time he should be available and share any relevant Briefs with him?

Thanks
Brian



Brian Risby | Director
Planning Policy Unit
Department of Justice

p (03) **s.36** m **s.36**
e brian.risby@justice.tas.gov.au
w www.planningreform.tas.gov.au

Level 4b, 144 Macquarie Street, Hobart, TAS 7001 | PO Box 825, Hobart, TAS 7001

Department of Justice

Budget Estimates Briefing
Minister for Local Government and Planning

Subject:	STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT
Date prepared:	16 Aug 2021
Output Group:	4 – Regulatory and Other Services
Output:	4.3 Planning Policy and Reform

KEY MESSAGES

- **The Government’s planning reform agenda required an independent review of the functions of the Tasmanian Planning Commission.**
- **The Review report was delivered in October 2020. The consultants recommended that the Commission should focus on its assessment role, rather than providing a policy advisory role – a number of recommendations relating to the Commission’s operation model were also made.**
- **The Government is considering the Review’ recommendations.**

Speaking points:

- In October 2019, I called for an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission’s (TPC) roles and function in order to ensure its on-going statutory independence.
- The need for the review arose from the Government’s planning reform agenda which increasing requires the assessment of initiatives generated by government, also the establishment of a dedicated planning policy unit within the Department of Justice tasked with advising government on planning issues.
- The Consultant (Forward Thinking) submitted its final Report on the Review of the Commission in October 2020.

- The Review recommendations fell into two major categories:
 - a clearer separation between government policy functions and the statutory assessment role of the Commission, and specifically to remove the 2 Government related infrastructure commissioners by reducing the number to 6 and removing references in the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* (the Act) to the Commission having a policy advisory function in (the Act) to achieve this; and
 - more substantial recommendations about the future operational 'model' for the Commission and its functioning based on assumptions about the way the Tasmanian planning system works and the key functions of the TPC, which have been contested by the TPC itself. These assumptions required further verification, prior to any changes to the Commission's structure/processes;
- The Government is considering the recommendations of the Review, mindful of the Commission's important role in the planning assessment process.
- To ensure continuity of processes and stability within the Commission, the role of Executive Commissioner is being filled on a temporary basis by Mr John Ramsay, who has a long-standing history as a Planning Commissioner.

Background:

- On 20 October 2019, acting as Minister for Planning, you called for an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and function in order to ensure its on-going statutory independence.
- The terms of reference for the Review specified a review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission to examine:
 1. The structure of the Commission and the Act to ensure that:
 - the Commission's statutory functions are not compromised by its membership of representatives of State Agencies or bodies that are proponents of matters that the Commission's functions extend to;
 - the ongoing structure of the office of the Commission and its resourcing is reflective of its extended role in the planning system as an independent decision maker and advisory body on the new components of the Tasmanian planning system; and
 - its functions are not undermined by the demands of historically designated roles under other legislation that might be better reallocated to another agency or body, in particular the State of Environment Reporting function;
 2. The conflict of interest provisions in the Act and the process of delegation to ensure they operate transparently and meet public expectations;
 3. The ongoing structure of the office of the Commission, including the staffing profile and required capabilities;
 4. The roles, functions and appointment provisions of the Executive Commissioner to ensure that they:
 - provide for the appointment of an appropriately qualified person;
 - align with the State Service expectations of a senior executive;
 - provide flexibility of appointment; and allow for the effective management of the Commission and the Commission's office.
- The successful consultant (included Professor Roberta Ryan and Alex Lawrie, from Forward Thinking) conducted the independent review in light of:
 - administrative changes to the Commission's role in policy making;
 - the importance of the Commission remaining completely at arm's length from government;
 - the resignation of long-term Executive Commissioner Mr Greg Alomes; and
 - questions around the Commission being the most appropriate agency to conduct reporting on the State of the Environment.
- The successful consultant (included Professor Roberta Ryan and Alex Lawrie, from Forward Thinking, delivered its Report in November 2020. The key findings set out in the Report were:
 - a clearer separation and appropriate resourcing of a state planning agency to develop planning regulations and policies and to advise the Tasmanian Government and councils on the same;

- re-focusing of the Commission on its more highly valued roles to independently review, assess, and determine significant and contentious planning matters;
- changes to the current decision-making model to ensure a truly independent model with development assessment panels comprised solely of external, part-time experts;
- changes to the current commissioner model to ensure commissioners are appointed solely on the basis of expertise rather than organisation or interest-based; and
- expanding the pool of independent expert decision-makers available to sit on development assessment panels to determine development applications on a rotational basis.

s.26

s.26

Prepared by: Brian Risby
 Position: Director
 PPU

Document reference: DOC/21/71740

Cleared by: Ginna Webster
 Position: Secretary
 Telephone: s.36
 (Incl. Mobile) s.3b

Hutton, Bridget

From: Palmer, David
Sent: Thursday, 2 September 2021 10:44 AM
To: Risby, Brian
Subject: SoE - QTB
Attachments: QTB - Planning - State of the Environment Report - August 2021.docx

Hi Brian
Here is the short QTB I threw together earlier in the week on the SoE Report.
Cheers
David

David Palmer
Planning Adviser
Office of the Hon Roger Jaensch MP

Minister for State Growth
Minister for Environment
Minister for Local Government and Planning
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Minister for Heritage

Level 9, Executive Building
15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Phone: s.36

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER: This email and any attachments are confidential and may be legally privileged (in which case neither is waived or lost by mistaken delivery). The email and any attachments are intended only for the intended addressee(s). Please notify us by return email if you have received this email and any attachments by mistake, and delete them. If this email and any attachments include advice, that advice is based on, and limited to, the instructions received by the sender. Any unauthorised use of this email and any attachments is expressly prohibited. Any liability in connection with any viruses or other defects in this email and any attachments, is limited to re-supplying this email and any attachments.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER
The information in this transmission may be confidential and/or protected by legal professional privilege, and is intended only for the person or persons to whom it is addressed. If you are not such a person, you are warned that any disclosure, copying or dissemination of the information is unauthorised. If you have received the transmission in error, please immediately contact this office by telephone, fax or email, to inform us of the error and to enable arrangements to be made for the destruction of the transmission, or its return at our cost. No liability is accepted for any unauthorised use of the information contained in this transmission.

MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: State of the Environment Report

(Date: 1 September 2021)

Note: Under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*, the Tasmanian Planning Commission is required to produce a SoE Report every five years. However, the most recent SoE Report was produced in 2009.

KEY MESSAGES

- Last year the Government initiated an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and functions.
- The review also included consideration of the Commission's State of the Environment reporting responsibilities.
- The review concluded that the Commission was no longer the appropriate body to prepare the State of the Environment Report.
- The Government is currently considering the recommendations of the review and its response to those recommendations.

SPEAKING POINTS

- I am aware that under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*, the independent Tasmanian Planning Commission is required to produce a State of the Environment Report every five years.
- However, since 1993, I understand that only three Reports have produced, with the most recent in 2009.
- The Government has previously acknowledged that the Commission has not prepared an updated report as required.
- And when, in late 2019, we engaged an independent consultant to review the Commission and its statutory roles and functions, the Terms of Reference for the review included, consideration of:

The structure of the Commission and its functions and powers under the Act to ensure that ... its functions are not undermined by the demands of historically designated roles under other legislation that might be better reallocated to another agency or body, in particular the State of Environment Reporting function.

- It was not surprising that the review concluded that the Commission, given its other statutory functions and roles and responsibilities, was no longer the appropriate body to prepare the State of the Environment Report.
- The Government is currently considering the full findings and recommendations of the review, and is preparing its response to those recommendations.
- This response will include full consideration of the current State of the Environment reporting requirements.
- Preparing State of Environment reports is a very resource hungry and expensive exercise so Bbefore we put time, effort and resources into preparing a new State of the Environment Report, we want to make sure that it can be fit for purpose, that is useful, and that it more effectively integrates with the other elements of our Resource Management Planning System.
- As we move increasingly to a regional strategic approach to planning it may be more appropriate to look at how reporting on environmental conditions can be integrated with this spatial level so that there is a more direct flow into the regular reviews of the regional strategies.

POLITICAL LINES

- s.27

- s.27

s.27

Tasmanian Planning Commission Review Outcomes (State Planning Office and State of the Environment Reporting)

Talking Points

- In late 2019, the Government initiated an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and functions.
- The purpose of the review was to ensure the Commission's on-going statutory independence, and its ability to perform its role as an independent decision maker and advisory body, in a fair, just, efficient and effective manner.
- The review has been completed, and the consultant's final report was received in November 2020 and subsequently published on the Department of Justice website.
- The Department of Justice was asked to verify the assumptions underpinning the Review recommendations and prepare advice for consideration by the Government.
- That advice was received in 2021 and the Government subsequently determined to:
 - relocate the Planning Policy Unit from the Department of Justice to Premier and Cabinet, which has now been completed with the establishment of the State Planning Office
 - progress the drafting of amendments to the Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997 to strengthen the Commission's independence, and even more clearly delineate its separation from the Government – this will commence soon
 - direct the Deputy Secretaries Steering Committee to undertake a full review of the current State of the Environment reporting requirements.
- One thing to note is that the Commission's membership and its functions are established under legislation, and any changes that might be considered, will require the approval of Parliament.
- The position of Executive Commissioner was recently advertised for a five year term. In the interim, long standing Commissioner John Ramsay has been appointed to the position for 2 years.

Note: The Government has now resolved its response to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The response includes a review of State of the Environment reporting requirements. Under the State Policies and Projects Act 1993, the Tasmanian Planning Commission is required to produce a SoE Report every five years. However, the most recent SoE Report was produced in 2009

Additional Talking Points

- In late 2019, the Government initiated an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and functions.
- Despite what some have claimed, the Review was not about undermining the Commission or its independence. On the contrary, it was about reinforcing that statutory independence, and ensuring that the Commission could continue to effectively fulfil its role as an independent decision maker and advisory body into the future.
- I received the consultant's final report in November 2020 and made it publicly available on the Department of Justice website. This included recommendations to remove the Commissioners representing the Department of State Growth and TasWater.
- I am very aware of the high esteem in which the Commission is held by the Tasmanian community and of the high-level of integrity attached to its assessment processes and roles and functions.
- Therefore, prior to taking any action which altered the Commission's structure or processes, I asked the Department of Justice to verify the assumptions underpinning the Review's findings and recommendations and provide me with advice.
- I received that advice last year, and the Government has now agreed on a considered response to those findings and recommendations. This response has three parts – some of which have already occurred.
- First, has been the relocation of the Planning Policy Unit from the Department of Justice to the central Department of Premier and Cabinet where it has been renamed as the State Planning Office.
- This move has provided clearer separation from the Tasmanian Planning Commission, and reduced the confusion over their respective roles - one to develop policy, and the other to undertake independent statutory assessments.

- The move to DPAC also recognises that the work of the new State Planning Office in delivering our planning reform agenda, crosses all portfolios and requires a whole-of-Government perspective and inter-agency engagement.
- Second, as recommended, we will shortly progress the drafting of amendments to the Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997 in order to achieve a clearer separation between Government policy functions and the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Commission and to reduce the potential for conflicts of interest on the Commission.
- This is likely to require some minor changes to the Commission's defined functions and powers, and also remove two members from the Commission:
 - The person, nominated by the Minister, who is either the Head of, or a State Service employee employed within, the State Service Agency that is responsible for the administration of transport and provision of infrastructure; and
 - The person, nominated by the Minister, who is either the chairperson of the Corporation, within the meaning of the Water and Sewerage Corporation Act 2012, or a person who is recommended by that chairperson.
- Removing these two members will strengthen the Commission's independence, and even more clearly delineate its separation from the Government.
- And of course, the draft amendments will be subject to full public consultation before being finalised and tabled in Parliament. The Government has also agreed that there will be no other changes to Commission for at least two years to provide the Commission and its staff with ongoing certainty.
- Third, the State of the Environment Report.
- The Government has previously acknowledged that the Commission has not prepared an updated Report since 2009, missing the five year review period required in the State Policies and Projects Act 1993.
- That is why, when in late 2019 we engaged an independent consultant to review the Commission and its statutory roles and functions, the Terms of Reference for the review included, consideration of:
 - The structure of the Commission and its functions and powers under the Act to ensure that ... its functions are not undermined by the demands of historically designated roles under other legislation that might be better reallocated to another agency or body, in particular the State of Environment Reporting function.

- It was not surprising that the review concluded that the Commission, given its other statutory functions and roles and responsibilities, was not the appropriate body to prepare updates of the State of the Environment Report.
- Preparing a State of the Environment Report is a very resource hungry and expensive exercise, and so before we put time, effort and resources into preparing a new Report, we want to make sure that it can be fit for purpose, that is useful, and that it more effectively integrates with the other elements of our Resource Management Planning System, and especially our regional land use strategies.
- Therefore, the Government has tasked the Deputy Secretaries Steering Committee with undertaking an extensive review of the current State of the Environment reporting requirements, with the aim of providing recommendations to Government.
- I understand that project planning for the review will commence shortly, and that the review will of course include extensive public consultation.

<there must be a page break before the FAQs / Background section>

MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME BRIEF

**SUBJECT: Tasmanian Planning Commission Review Outcomes
(State Planning Office and State of the Environment Reporting)**

(Date: 3 May 2022)

Note: The Government has now resolved its response to the review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission. The response includes a review of State of the Environment reporting requirements. Under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*, the Tasmanian Planning Commission is required to produce a SoE Report every five years. However, the most recent SoE Report was produced in 2009

KEY MESSAGES

- In late 2019, the Government initiated an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and functions.
- The purpose of the review was to ensure the Commission's on-going statutory independence, and its ability to perform its role as an independent decision maker and advisory body, in a fair, just, efficient and effective manner.
- The review has been completed, and the consultant's final report was received in November 2020 and subsequently published on the Department of Justice website.
- The Department of Justice was asked to verify the assumptions underpinning the Review recommendations and prepare advice for consideration by the Government.
- That advice was received in 2021 and the Government subsequently determined to:
 - relocate the Planning Policy Unit from the Department of Justice to Premier and Cabinet, which has now been completed with the establishment of the State Planning Office

- I am very aware of the high esteem in which the Commission is held by the Tasmanian community and of the high-level of integrity attached to its assessment processes and roles and functions.
- Therefore, prior to taking any action which altered the Commission's structure or processes, I asked the Department of Justice to verify the assumptions underpinning the Review's findings and recommendations and provide me with advice.
- I received that advice last year, and the Government has now agreed on a considered response to those findings and recommendations. This response has three parts – some of which have already occurred.
- First, has been the relocation of the Planning Policy Unit from the Department of Justice to the central Department of Premier and Cabinet where it has been renamed as the State Planning Office.
- This move has provided clearer separation from the Tasmanian Planning Commission, and reduced the confusion over their respective roles - one to develop policy, and the other to undertake independent statutory assessments.
- The move to DPAC also recognises that the work of the new State Planning Office in delivering our planning reform agenda, crosses all portfolios and requires a whole-of-Government perspective and inter-agency engagement.
- Second, as recommended, we will shortly progress the drafting of amendments to the Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997 in order to achieve a clearer separation between Government policy functions and the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Commission and to reduce the potential for conflicts of interest on the Commission.
- This is likely to require some minor changes to the Commission's defined functions and powers, and also remove two members from the Commission:

- It was not surprising that the review concluded that the Commission, given its other statutory functions and roles and responsibilities, was not the appropriate body to prepare updates of the State of the Environment Report.
- Preparing a State of the Environment Report is a very resource hungry and expensive exercise, and so before we put time, effort and resources into preparing a new Report, we want to make sure that it can be fit for purpose, that is useful, and that it more effectively integrates with the other elements of our Resource Management Planning System, and especially our regional land use strategies.
- Therefore, the Government has tasked the Deputy Secretaries Steering Committee with undertaking an extensive review of the current State of the Environment reporting requirements, with the aim of providing recommendations to Government.
- I understand that project planning for the review will commence shortly, and that the review will of course include extensive public consultation.

POLITICAL LINES

- s.27
- s.27

Commented [MS1]: These have not been reviewed by the Department

PREMIER
QUESTION TIME BRIEF

**SUBJECT: STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT
REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Current as at: 25-JULY-2022

TALKING POINTS:

- The Government has previously acknowledged that the Tasmanian Planning Commission has not prepared an updated Report since 2009, missing the five-year review period required in the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*.
- That is why, when we engaged an independent consultant to review the Commission and its statutory roles and functions, the Terms of Reference for the review included consideration of the State of the Environment Reporting function.
- It was not surprising that the review concluded that the Commission, given its other statutory functions and roles and responsibilities, was not the appropriate body to prepare State of the Environment Reports into the future.
- Preparing a State of the Environment Report is a resource intensive exercise. Before putting time, effort and resources into preparing a new Report, we want to make sure that it will be fit for purpose and that it will integrate more effectively with the other elements of our Resource Management Planning System.
- Therefore, the Government has tasked the Deputy Secretaries' Steering Committee with undertaking an extensive review of the current State of the Environment reporting requirements, with the aim of providing recommendations to Government.
- We are close to determine who will be the most appropriate body to have that responsibility going forward.

- We should remember that the Commission is an independent statutory authority with a number of important assessment and review roles and functions within our land use and planning system.

FAQS

How did Tasmania contribute to the National State of the Environment Report?

- The National State of the Environment Report 2021 was released on 19 July 2022.
- I am advised that, to prepare the report, publicly available information was collected from across jurisdictions and that Tasmania contributed information to that process.
- Because this is a national process, there have been hundreds of submissions and information has been drawn from a wide range of public sources.
- I understand that during the finalisation of the Report several chapters were referred to the then Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and the Environment (now Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania) for review, and that both the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency were involved in this.
- I also understand that the State Planning Office provided advice to the author of the Urban chapter.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS:

- There is a legislative requirement under the *State Policies and Project Act 1993* for the Tasmanian Planning Commission to produce a State of the Environment Report every five years.
- The report must relate to: the condition of the environment; trends and changes in the environment; the achievement of resource management objectives; and recommendations for future action to be taken in relation to the management of the environment.
- State of the Environment Reports were prepared in 1997, 2003 and 2009. The 2009 report is the latest Report which has been produced and presents information for the period 2003 to 2008.
- The 2009 State of the Environment Report contains two high-level strategic recommendations that were intended to further the RMPS objectives and to lay the foundations for more efficient and cost-effective data collection and analysis in the future, as follows: (1) improved coordination of data collection and analysis; and (2) improved alignment of policy development, implementation and management across Government with the Resource Management and Planning System objectives. It is not clear what progress has been made against these recommendations.
- In 2013 and 2018 the Tasmanian Planning Commission undertook internal reviews of the State of the Environment Reporting Requirements, including the role of the reports and the contemporary approach to preparing these. These reviews identified a number of perceived problems.
- In 2019 the Government initiated an independent review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission's roles and functions, including the State of the Environment Reporting requirements. The review, published in 2020, found that the Tasmanian Planning Commission is not the appropriate body to prepare the Report as it does not have the appropriate resourcing, skills, expertise or capability to access and analyse the relevant data to effectively perform this role.
- The Independent Review found that determining the appropriate body to prepare the State of the Environment Report in the future depends on the purpose of the Report and how it is to be used in decision-making: if the Report is intended to be used to enhance environmental land management practices, responsibility would appropriately reside with the Environment Protection Agency. If guiding government decisions around cross-portfolio responsibilities, it would appropriately reside within a central agency such as the Department of Premier and Cabinet. If a narrow land use focus, it would appropriately reside with the State Planning Office or state planning agency.

s.26

- The State of the Environment Reporting requirements sit within the complex framework of the Resource Management and Planning System. Linked by shared objectives, the framework includes planning, environmental protection, fishing, forestry, mining, marine farming and reserve management.
- The Tasmanian State of the Environment Reporting requirements sit within a national context. There are legislated requirements for State of the Environment Reporting at the Commonwealth level and within most other states and territories.
- The 2021 Australian State of the Environment Report was released on 19 July 2022 and has received significant political and media attention. The 2021 Australian Report finds the state and trend of the environment to be poor and deteriorating, and makes comment on the inefficiencies of the current national, state and territory legislative framework. This mirrors criticism from an independent review of Commonwealth legislation which was published in October 2020 (the Samuel Review).
- In response to the 2021 Australian State of the Environment Report, the Australian Government has announced that it will formally respond to the Samuel Review by the end of the year and will consult broadly to develop new environmental legislation by 2023.

Prepared by	Name	Position
Through	Harriet Duffin	Senior Policy Analyst
Cleared By	Martin Gibson	Assistant Director
	Sue Kennedy	Director
<hr/>		
DPAC contact for more information:	Name	Phone Number
	Craig Limkin	(03) 8.38

20



CUSTOMER FOCUS • EXCELLENCE • WORKING TOGETHER • PROFESSIONAL

Please consider the environment before printing this message

From: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 June 2022 1:32 PM
To: Stevens, Anna <Anna.Stevens@dpac.tas.gov.au>; Kennedy, Sue <Sue.Kennedy@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Missen, Emma <emma.missen@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Re: State of the Environment Reporting

Of course. Happy to chat. Suggest a review first of Craig's respond in Estimates on this though. I'll send transcript in a short time.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Stevens, Anna <Anna.Stevens@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:28:08 PM
To: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au>; Kennedy, Sue <Sue.Kennedy@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Missen, Emma <emma.missen@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: State of the Environment Reporting

s.35

I will also need some assistance in finding someone to get in contact with Phillip from Clarence Council who has sent the email. He would like to know:

We at council are exploring if this process has been halted at state or local government level pending review. If not we would be interested to know what the role of your department is in this reporting process, as we are eager to explore the options in producing our own report.

If you could please direct me to an appropriate contact within your department to discuss, that would be greatly appreciated. I can be contacted via this email or on s.36

s.35

Cheers,

Anna

20

-----< Content Manager Record Information >-----

Record Number: 22/68935

Title: State of the Environment Reporting

Hutton, Bridget

From: Phillip Pennisi <ppennisi@ccc.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 8 June 2022 9:01 AM
To: Secretary
Subject: State of the Environment Reporting

Hello,

I'm just enquiring about State of the Environment reporting. At Clarence Council we are looking to produce a local SOE, however we cannot find any information available as to how this process may be undertaken. I have received correspondence from John Ramsey (Department of Planning) who mentioned that an assessment into this type of reporting was now being led by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

We at council are exploring if this process has been halted at state or local government level pending review. If not we would be interested to know what the role of your department is in this reporting process, as we are eager to explore the options in producing our own report.

If you could please direct me to an appropriate contact within your department to discuss, that would be greatly appreciated. I can be contacted via this email or on 03 **s.36**

Regards,



Clarence... a brighter place

Phillip Pennisi

Technical Officer | Clarence City Council

a 38 Bligh Street | PO Box 96 Rosny Park TAS 7018

p 03 **s.36**

e ppennisi@ccc.tas.gov.au | w www.ccc.tas.gov.au

Murray, Rachael

From: Stevens, Anna
Sent: Wednesday, 6 July 2022 9:58 AM
To: Gibson, Martin; Duffin, Harriet
Subject: FW: State of the Environment Reporting

From: Risby, Brian <Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 June 2022 2:02 PM
To: Stevens, Anna <Anna.Stevens@dpac.tas.gov.au>; Kennedy, Sue <Sue.Kennedy@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Cc: Missen, Emma <emma.missen@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: State of the Environment Reporting

See attached transcript from Monday evening. Page 137 (133 on document bottom corner) has question about SOE and Craig's response WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY –

Mr LEMKIN - Thank you for your question. The interdepartmental committee is still considering this work. There has been a raft of work completed over the last six months. At this stage, we intend to be able to report to Government by the end of the year on options available on the State of the Environment Report and provide Government with options and a way forward at that point in time.

Ms WEBB - So, we have not progressed much further than where we were when we discussed it last year I gather then from that answer, minister?

Mr LEMKIN - My understanding, Ms Webb, is that as of last year, the Government had announced it was reviewing the State of the Environment Report. We were only tasked late last year to do this. We have commenced as quickly as we could. There are a number of elements around this, including the change to the EPA which required this work to be consulted through that process and our colleagues at the EPA needed some time to go through that change before engaging with this.

We have now been engaging probably a good six months and as I said, we are at the final stages of developing options for Government to make some decisions going forward.

Brian Risby FPIA | Director
State Planning Office
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 7 / 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000 | GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001
(p) +61 3 62327066
(m) 0415848456

Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au

www.planningreform.tas.gov.au | www.dpac.tas.gov.au

Murray, Rachael

From: Missen, Emma
Sent: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 12:40 PM
To: Stevens, Anna
Subject: For information: State of the Environment reporting in other jurisdictions

Hi Anna,

I've just done a quick jurisdictional scan of State of the Environment reporting. Could be helpful in your thinking about how we approach a review of State of the Environment reporting and will certainly be useful at some point!

	Prepared by	Frequency	Last report	Content	Legislative requirement
Australia	Team of independent experts supported by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	Every five years	2016 (2021 report seems to still be under development, website says it is due for release early 2022)	Organised around nine sections: atmosphere, built environment, heritage, biodiversity, land, inland water, coasts, marine environment, Antarctic environment	Yes Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
Victoria	Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability	Every five years	2018	Organised around 14 sections: cultural landscape health and management, climate change impacts, air, biodiversity, land, forests, fire, marine and coastal environments, water resources, water quality, waste and resource recovery, transport, energy, climate change adaptation	Yes Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Act 2003
NSW	Environmental Protection Authority	Every three years	2021	Organised around five sections: human settlement, climate and air, land, biodiversity, water and marine	Yes Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991
Queensland	Department of Environment and Science	At least every four years	2020	Organised around five sections: biodiversity, heritage, pollution, climate and liveability	Yes Environmental Protection Act 1994

SA	Environmental Protection Authority	At least every five years	2018	Organised around five sections: climate, air, water, land and coasts	Yes Environment Protection Act 1993
WA	Environmental Protection Authority	Every five years (but not legislated)	2007	Organised around nine sections: fundamental pressures, atmosphere, land, inland waters, biodiversity, marine, human settlements, heritage and towards sustainability	No
ACT	Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment	Every four years	2019	Organised around seven sections: climate change, human settlements, air, land, biodiversity, water, fire	Yes Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993
NT	N/A				
Tasmania	Tasmanian Planning Commission	Every five years	2009	Organised around four sections: air, water, natural values, people and places	Yes State Policies and Projects Act 1993

Murray, Rachael

From: Stevens, Anna
Sent: Friday, 1 July 2022 9:44 AM
To: McLennan, Cameron; Duffin, Harriet
Subject: For information: Clarence City Council Contact

Hi both – while this info is mostly for Harriet’s benefit, Cam you may find this person a useful contact as well.

I had contact from Phillip Pennisi (CM 22/68935) about the SOE reporting and what might be happening with reviewing that. I had a good chat to him about this and also filled him in on both of your projects (at an extremely high level, just that our branch was leading them both).

Clarence are looking at doing SOE reporting or similar, and considering what form it might take and how they could best work with state and national level reporting to add value rather than duplicate. I asked him about what Clarence might hope to get out of this work, and he said they’re after a snapshot of environmental indicators to inform policy decision making, across the board not specific to one particular area of interest (e.g. not just land use planning).

Phillip has spoken with Hobart city council as well, as they produced an SOE in 2010. It was a really good discussion and s.36 who would be happy to be involved as an informal contact for any of our projects, and happy to share information.

I let him know I would pass his details onto you both. I also committed to updating him on the SOE work as it progresses.

Regards,

Anna Stevens | Assistant Director
Policy Branch | Policy and Delivery Division

Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 7, 15 Murray Street
Hobart, Tasmania 7000
(p) +61 3 s.36

anna.stevens@dpac.tas.gov.au | www.dpac.tas.gov.au



CUSTOMER FOCUS • EXCELLENCE • WORKING TOGETHER • PROFESSIONAL

Murray, Rachael

From: Duffin, Harriet
Sent: Tuesday, 5 July 2022 11:57 AM
To: Stevens, Anna
Cc: Gibson, Martin; Missen, Emma
Subject: State of the Environment Reporting requirements - Project Initiation Document
Attachments: State of the Environment Reporting - DRAFT - Project Initiation Document - July 2022.docx

Hi Anna

As discussed, I have put together a first draft of a Project Initiation Document for the review of the State of the Environment Reporting requirements.

In a similar manner to the PID for the State Policies review, this document envisages a formal approval to commence the project which would then begin with a planning phase. The planning phase would involve internal stakeholder engagement, assessment of previous reviews, and further assessment of the local, state and national context. The planning phase would result in a Project Plan (including outcomes, outputs, scope, governance, risk, MEL), a Project Schedule and Gantt Chart, and a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, which would then all be approved before moving to execute the review.

I think the main things that need to be considered are:

- s.26 & s.35
- s.35

s.35

Let me know if you have any initial questions, and otherwise very happy to discuss tomorrow.

Harriet

Harriet Duffin | Senior Policy Analyst
Policy & Delivery

Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 7, 15 Murray Street
Hobart, Tasmania 7000
+61 3 s.36

harriet.duffin@dpac.tas.gov.au | www.dpac.tas.gov.au



CUSTOMER FOCUS • EXCELLENCE • WORKING TOGETHER • PROFESSIONAL

Murray, Rachael

From: Risby, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 10:20 AM
To: Duffin, Harriet; Gibson, Martin
Cc: Kennedy, Sue; McCracken, Kris
Subject: RE: State of Environment
Attachments: RE: SOE lines

Thanks Harriet.

The Dep Premiers Office needed it urgently and Craig has signed off on the following – I don't think the detail is too important.

SOE update

1. The Government is continuing to review the State of Environment Report requirements in line with the advice provided during Budget Estimates
2. The Policy and Delivery Division of the Department of Premier and Cabinet is preparing advice for the Deputy Secretaries' Steering Committee
3. This includes review work carried out by the now State Planning Office in terms of establishing baseline condition reporting to integrate with the regional land use planning framework.
4. The Commonwealth SOE Report is due for release this morning at 11am. I'm advised that the State Planning Office has contributed to the chapter covering urban development and planning.

Brian Risby FPIA | Director
 State Planning Office
 Department of Premier and Cabinet
 Level 7 / 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000 | GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001
 (p) +61 3 s.36
 (m) s.36

Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au

www.planningreform.tas.gov.au | www.dpac.tas.gov.au



Please consider the environment before printing this message

From: Duffin, Harriet <Harriet.Duffin@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 10:18 AM

Murray, Rachael

From: Risby, Brian
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 10:39 AM
To: Duffin, Harriet
Cc: Kennedy, Sue; Stevens, Anna
Subject: SOE - helpful background work
Attachments: Australian Outlook vis a vis Accounts(SoE SA).pdf; Problems with SoE Reporting in Tasmania.docx; Options, Issues and Background Issues Paper SoER Review 20191121.docx

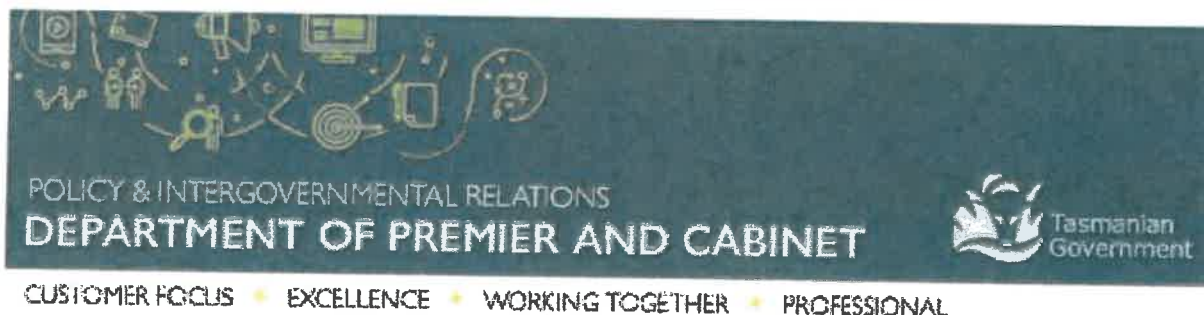
Good news – I’ve found some work that we received a few years ago on the SOE problem. These were produced by s.36 who started working for the TasPlanning Commission and then transferred to us s.36

There is some really good work here which should be carried through.

Brian Risby FPIA | Director
 State Planning Office
 Department of Premier and Cabinet
 Level 7 / 15 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000 | GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001
 (p) +61 3 s.36
 (m) s.36

Brian.Risby@dpac.tas.gov.au

www.planningreform.tas.gov.au | www.dpac.tas.gov.au



POLICY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET
 Tasmanian Government
 CUSTOMER FOCUS • EXCELLENCE • WORKING TOGETHER • PROFESSIONAL

 Please consider the environment before printing this message

Murray, Rachael

From: Duffin, Harriet
Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2022 2:16 PM
To: Gibson, Martin
Subject: RE: State Policies and State of the Environment Report - relevant docs

Hi Martin

Just to let you know that I now feel that the draft Project Implementation Document has been updated to reflect the Commonwealth events of yesterday, and should be ready for your review when you are able. It is still assigned to Sue in CM. Link is below.

Thanks
Harriet

From: Duffin, Harriet
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 1:13 PM
To: Gibson, Martin <Martin.Gibson@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: RE: State Policies and State of the Environment Report - relevant docs

I'll also obviously need to update the draft SoE documentation in light of the focus following the release of the Commonwealth document today!

From: Duffin, Harriet
Sent: Tuesday, 19 July 2022 12:12 PM
To: Gibson, Martin <Martin.Gibson@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: FW: State Policies and State of the Environment Report - relevant docs

Hi Martin

On CM, the State Policies folder is: C22300 and the State of the Environment Report folder is: C24539. Both have subfolders called "project documentation".



Also here are links for the draft initiation documents for State of the Environment (which are currently with Sue, next stage would be to go to DSSC for approval):

- [22/82495 - State of the Environment Reporting - DRAFT - Project Initiation Document](#)

As discussed, I will continue to work on the basis that both these projects are going ahead, and:

- Prepare DSSC papers for the initiation stages for both State Policies and State of the Environment Reporting, for the August DSSC meeting. State Policies will be to note. State of the Environment will be to approve.
- Finish the planning stage for State Policies. Finalise the planning documentation
- Do the planning stage for State of the Environment Reporting. Draft the planning documentation.



Thanks

Out of scope

Independent Review of the Tasmanian Planning Commission

State of the Environment reporting

<https://www.justice.tas.gov.au/community-consultation/updated-projects/tasmanian-planning-commission-review>

Report

Executive summary

Stakeholders consider there is **significant value** in the State of the Environment (SoE) report and there is an **urgent need for its update**. The Review considers the TPC is not the appropriate body to prepare the SoE Report as it does not have the appropriate resourcing, skills, expertise, or capability to access and analyse the relevant data to effectively perform this role as the SoE has been constructed.

However, approaches to SoE reporting across Australia have evolved significantly since the last Tasmanian SoE was prepared in 2009. Determining the appropriate body to prepare it in the future depends on the **purpose and how SoE data is to be used in decision-making**. If the SoE is intended to be used to enhance environmental land management practices, responsibility would appropriately reside with the Environment Protection Agency; if guiding government decisions around cross-portfolio responsibilities, it would appropriately reside within a central agency such as the Department of Premier and Cabinet; if a narrow land use focus, it would appropriately reside with the PPU or state planning agency.

Recommendation: Remove from the Act the TPC's role to prepare the State of Environment Report. The Tasmanian Government should confirm the intended purpose of the SoE and assign responsibility for its preparation based on this.

State of the Environment Reporting

The Act requires the TPC to prepare a State of the Environment (SoE) report every five years. The last report was prepared in 2009. Since then, the TPC's workload has been prioritised to assist with the development and implementation of recent reforms. Stakeholders indicated Tasmania's failure to prepare the SoE report has limited its contribution to national SoE reporting initiatives. However, since the last Tasmanian SoE report was prepared, the approach to reporting in other jurisdictions across Australia has evolved considerably to cover a range of different issues and there is now a lack of cross-jurisdictional agreement about the best way to do it.

The State of the Environment report **has not been prioritised** by the TPC. To be fair, there has been a lot of other reform going on and a lot of resources internally have been directed at that. (state government stakeholder)

State of the Environment reporting is an **important but demanding task** that has become too onerous and tended to fall away. (community stakeholder)

The purpose of the SoE report is to provide **overarching analysis of where we are at across a range of inter-related issues** like settlement pattern, environment, and health. Not all the States prepare the same level of SoE reporting so it makes it difficult for the SoE to take up its national role. It's an indictment on Tasmania because it prevents fulfilling our **national responsibility**. (environment organisation stakeholder)

Stakeholders widely agree there is value in continuing the SoE as it can **provide useful information to inform consideration of the impacts of planning decision-making on Tasmania's natural resources**. However, some expressed a preference for an independent organisation to prepare the SoE because of **limited confidence in government agencies to accurately report information that may reveal negative environmental impacts**. Whilst some suggested the TPC should prepare it, there was a general view it is not the most appropriate organisation because it lacks the relevant skills, expertise, and capabilities to access and analyse the relevant data. Stakeholders noted there could be a range of different approaches to preparing the SoE report depending on its content and how it is intended to be used. For instance, if the SoE is intended to be used to enhance environmental land management practices, responsibility may appropriately reside with the Environment Protection Authority; if intended to guide government decisions around cross-portfolio responsibilities, it may appropriately reside within a central agency such as the Department of Premier and Cabinet; if it is intended to have a more narrow land use focus, it may appropriately reside with the Planning Policy Unit.

While the report might still be a function the Government wishes to do, the TPC has neither the **expertise** nor **resources** to do it. (state government stakeholders)

It is good to have an **independent body** produce a report like that. The Environmental Protection Authority should do it and look at collating what data is already available rather than a data collection exercise. (environment organisation stakeholder)

SoE reporting should remain with the TPC. It is **valuable** and **should be kept independent**. It **should not be done inside government** because they cannot be trusted to produce and reliably analyse the data. (community stakeholder)

I don't think the TPC is the right place to do it. They don't have the right skills. I have tried to do it once and you end up outsourcing the components to someone else because the data sits in other agencies. It is better off being coordinated by an **environmental agency through an independent panel** because there needs to be a level of **independence** and **expertise** brought to the task. (local government planner)

The general public doesn't trust a government agency doing it, even if they are staffed with reputable and credible professionals. The TPC is regarded as **independent** but they can't get the information they need from government agencies to do a proper independent assessment of the State of the Environment. (local government stakeholder)

I think the TPC should be responsible but it could go to another organisation that is **scientific-based**. It is more **important** that we just have it prepared. (environment organisation stakeholder)

It should sit in the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water, and Environment (DPIPWE) because they have the information. Having it **at arm's length** from the Department would be a positive thing. The reason it was with the TPC in the first place was so it could be a warts and all assessment and a level of **independence** is needed to report bad news. (state government stakeholder)

DPIPWE is the custodian for a lot of the data and information. If it had a stronger planning focus it would make sense for the TPC to do it but it is a **whole-of-government task** that needs to liaise across government. (local government stakeholder)

Key findings

The Review finds there is **significant value** in the State of the Environment report and an **urgent need for an SoE report to be prepared** for Tasmania. However, the TPC is not the appropriate body to prepare it as it does not have adequate resources, skills, capabilities, or expertise to access and analyse relevant data. Determining the appropriate body depends on the purpose of and how the SoE data is intended to be used in decision-making. If the SoE is intended to be used to enhance environmental land management, responsibility would appropriately reside with the Environment Protection Agency; if guiding government decisions around cross-portfolio responsibilities, it would appropriately reside within a central agency such as the Department of Premier and Cabinet; if a narrow land use focus, it would appropriately reside with the Planning Policy Unit.

Appendix B – Summary of Submissions

A majority of submissions considered an accurate State of the Environment report is **essential to inform planning decision-making** and believed the report should continue to be prepared. Many suggested it must be prepared **independent of government** and **free from political influence** and some indicated it should be prepared by the Environment Protection Authority.

Submissions

Dr Rosalie Woodruff

The Greens have long been concerned with the lack of State of Environment (SOE) Reporting in Tasmania that is legislated to be prepared every four years. As the last SOE was prepared in 2009, Tasmania now has two overdue reports. We believe the responsibility for the management of these reports, fundamental as they are to the well-being of our State, must be undertaken by an **independent statutory body** not subject to ministerial direction.

As it stands, the Environmental Protection Authority in Tasmania does not have independence from the Minister. As such, we believe any consideration of removing responsibilities from the Commission, including the SOE reporting, needs to consider whether there is any other body empowered to **adequately and independently** undertake the task. We are not aware of any body that appropriately fits these criteria, but would welcome an assessment by the reviewer of the options.

Bob Brown Foundation, Seymour Community Action Group Incorporated and over 120 individuals/couples/trios

State of the Environment Reporting should remain with the TPC: The problems with State of the Environment (SoE) reporting identified by the TPC in 2013 (and reconfirmed in 2018) should be addressed and the TPC should continue to produce SoE reports every five years. These reports are **vital** for a range of reasons, including **informing good planning**.

Properly fund the TPC to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report and new State Policies.

Anne Wennagel, Dennis O'Donnell

As above, plus: **Independent** overview of environmental issues has never been more **important**.

Hydro Tasmania

In consideration of the broad requirement of the State of the Environment Report (SoER) to include the condition, trends, changes and future action to be made in respect of the environment, it is apparent that this does not align with the practical functions of the Tasmanian EPA [seems this should say TPC].

Given the majority of matters to be considered SoER are currently monitored and reported upon by the EPA, it would be more appropriate that the responsibility for preparation of the SoER were to be transferred to the EPA. This would be similar to other Australian states like NSW (three yearly) and SA (five yearly), where the local EPAs are responsible for producing the SoE reports.

Hobart not Highrise (Margaret Taylor and Brian Corr) (same submission also sent in by several individuals) but it seems this submission was sent in by multiple individuals

Questions have been raised around the Commission being the most appropriate agency to conduct reporting on the State of the Environment under the *State Policies and Projects Act 1993*. If the Commission were **properly staffed** and included a biodiversity expert it could consider and report on these matters:

- a) the condition of the environment; and
- b) trends and changes in the environment; and

- c) the achievement of resource management objectives; and
- d) recommendations for future action to be taken in relation to the management of the environment.

These matters are of **vital importance** to planning in the state and so should come under the considerations of the TPC. Other bodies may also make representations to the government but the TPC should not lose its role in such matters. As said before they should be able to offer advice on all planning matters not just building structures and their surrounds.

Planning Matters Alliance Tasmania (submission endorsed by Tasmanian Conservation Trust and several individuals)

We support the TPC having a greater role in other public decision-making roles, including the review of reserve management plans and water management plans and being properly resourced to carry out the crucial State of the Environment Report.

State of the Environment (SoE) reporting is a process for describing, analysing and communicating information on conditions and trends in the environment. SoE reporting is **fundamental** and must be **independent** but due to concerns raised following a review by the TPC in 2013, SoE Reports have not been produced since 2009. Note that the TPC updated its 2013 SoE review report in 2018, confirming the 2013 report had identified the need for a policy review of the SoE legislation.

The problems with SoE reporting identified by the TPC in 2013 (and reconfirmed in 2018) should be addressed and the TPC should continue to produce SoE reports each five years. They are **vital** for a range of reasons, including **informing good planning**.

Launceston Heritage Not Highrise

The TPC should continue to be responsible for the State of Environment report which should be delivered in a **timely manner**.

The TPC should be **properly funded** to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report.

Australian Institute of Architects

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.

North East Bioregional Network Inc

There has been incremental diminishment of the TPC position as independent planning authority over recent years. Some of the direct or indirect examples of this include... The lack

of **timely publication** of State of Environment reports including also proposed changes under the Major Projects Act to remove the TPC from its responsibility to oversee the State of Environment process.

The TPC should continue to be responsible for the State of Environment report which should be delivered in a **timely manner**.

East Coast Alliance (Anne Held)

The ECA understands State of the Environment reporting is legislated to be prepared every four years, with the last report delivered in 2009. This reflects a failure of government to meet legislated requirements. We understand the Commission made comment regarding this report as far back as 2013 and these issues have not been addressed.

We are concerned the Terms of Reference at 1.d. (its functions are not undermined by the demands of historically designated roles under other elgisation that might be better reallocated to another agency or body, in particular the State of the Environment Reporting function) infer this responsibility will be removed from the Commission. Removing this function from the TPC to a government agency would lead to the potential for Ministerial influence and a loss of statutory independent reporting on what is a fundamental and important assessment of State well-being.

Helen Hutchinson

The TLPC must maintain its function in policy development in particular with regard to draft State Policies and draft Tasmanian Planning Policies, and have a greater role in other public decision making roles which would benefit from its expertise. This would include reviews of reserve management plans, water management plans and the State of the Environment Report.

State of the Environment reporting should remain with the TLPC as it is fundamental to assuring a **basis for good planning**, and a **source of excellent information** about current land health and integrity. I note that reports have not been produced since 2009 which is very concerning as problems with the reporting had been identified in 2013, and again in 2018 without being rectified.

Graeme Beech

The TPC must be **properly resourced and funded**: To carry out its important statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report and new State Policies an appropriate level of funding must be budgeted for and provided by Government.

State of the Environment (SoE) Reporting should remain with the TPC: The TPC should continue to produce SoE reports every five years. These reports are **vital** to ensure Tasmania's environmental needs are assessed and considered and **used to inform good planning**

Miles and Anne Harrison

TPC is **trusted** by the public. We value its **independence**, including its ability to call on qualified experts in any hearings and assessments. This includes amendments to planning schemes, reviewing state policies, state planning provisions and local provisions, state of the environment reporting and assessing projects of state and regional significance... TPC, if **resourced better**, would mean the State of the Environment Reporting would not lapse.

Tum Rudman

The State of the Environment Reporting function should be understood to be **objective** and **politically independent**, and therefore undertaken at arm's length from government by a body with review expertise. The TPC would best fit this role as the publisher. However, the S.O.E. report should be undertaken through a collaborative program with DPIPWE and other relevant organisations resourced to contribute data under an agreed rolling program. The indicators need review to be more effective in informing key changes relevant to risks the State faces. **Resourced** to implement this function will be additional to those now available, irrespective of location of the function. S.O.E. is a key mechanism for Tasmanians understanding the environmental changes and risks associated with climate change. The **importance** of this function is apparent due to the expected acceleration of adverse impacts from climate change over the coming decades.

Rosemary Costin

I would be very concerned if Tasmania's State of the Environment Report was not delivered by the Tasmanian Planning Commission. Our environment is too **important**, especially in a world with a rapidly changing climate, to leave the State of Environment Report to State Government. Sadly, history has shown us that State Governments regularly fail to act to proactively protect the environment.

Ross Irving

I see no conflict with the TPC's current role of State of Environment Reporting. The TPC clearly articulates its understanding of this responsibility and how it furthers the objectives of Tasmania's Resource Management and Planning.

State of the environment (SoE) reporting has the potential to play a **pivotal role** in guiding policy development and management strategies, and furthering the RMPS objectives. If there is a perception that this reporting obligation impacts upon other TPC activities, it should be addressed via **resourcing**.

The State of Environment Report is a document that must also be drafted by an **independent** body in order to be above political influence. A state body or agency better positioned than the TPC to deliver this report does not come readily to mind.

Anna Povey

The Commission should maintain the State of Environment Reporting Function. However this appears to have lapsed in recent years and the Commission should be provided with **necessary funding and facilities** to ensure it can independently perform this essential function. SoE reporting, if not done by the Commission, would presumably be done by DPIPWE or EPA, and this cannot, unfortunately, be guaranteed to be **independent of political influence**.

The Commission should be **adequately resourced**, not just financially but in staff. Without proper resourcing it is simply not possible for the Commission to perform its role. This should include resources for conducting State of the Environment reporting.

David Techau

State of the Environment Reporting should remain with the TPC.

Gillian Gravell

State of the Environment reporting should remain with the TPC, and the problems identified in 2013 should be addressed. The TPC should be **properly funded** to allow it to carry out its [sic] Statutory roles.

Unknown, Nigel Richardson

I... recommend that the TPC... **be adequately funded** to prepare Tasmanian State of the Environment reports every 5 years, and to make recommendations on future actions.

Jo Easton

The TPC should be **adequately funded** for the work it is required to do. State of the Environment reporting should remain with the TPC.

Phil Mason, Richard Fenton,

Properly fund the TPC to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report and new State Policies.

Philip Scott-Smith

The TPC be **properly funded** to carry out existing statutory roles that include the State of Environment Report.

Jan Linehan

The State of the Environment reports should continue to be produced and the TPC and other government agencies should be resourced to undertake this work. The TPC should be **properly resourced** to allow it to carry out its existing statutory roles.

Jennifer and Lance Hadaway

The TPC should be **funded** to maintain its existing roles, to expand to better handle its reviews of National Parks and Reserve Management Plans and to continue with its function of reporting on the State of the Environment.

Jennifer Rayner

The TPC must be **funded** to a level appropriate for it to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report.

The TPC must retain its function of regular State of the Environment Reports.

James Walker

State of the Environment Reporting should remain with the TPC. The TPC must be **properly funded**.

Vicki Campbell

The TPC should continue to produce the State of the Environment Reports. **Good planning depends on sound information!**

Catherine Sullivan

It is important that the TPC is **properly funded** to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report.

Petra Heil

State of the Environment Reporting should remain with the TPC.

To do so, the TPC must be **properly (and independently) funded**.

Patricia Ellison

The Commission must maintain its functions in the following areas... Production of the 5-yearly State of the Environment Reports and the Commission should be given the scope to rectify the problems it has identified with the reporting process.

Lome Kriwoken, Nel Smit

The TPC must... be **funded** to continue to produce the State of Environment reports each five years.

Maria Riedl

The TPC must... be **properly resourced** to carry out the critical State of the Environment Report! ... The State of the Environment reporting is **fundamental** and must be **independent** and an SoE report must be done every five years at a minimum as this **assists good planning!**

Susanne Lafferty, Anne Layton Bennett and John Donnachy, Jim Collier

The Commission should maintain the State of Environment Reporting Function. However this appears to have lapsed in recent years and the Commission should be provided with **necessary funding and facilities** to ensure it can **independently** perform this **essential** function.

Sue and Tony Bell

State of the environment reporting should remain with the TPC.

Stefan Vogel

The TPC in 2013 identified significant problems with the State of the Environment (SoE) reporting. This was reconfirmed in 2018. These problems should be addressed as soon as possible and the TPC should continue to produce the SOE reports, preferably more frequent than the current five-year frequency.

Carol Patterson

Properly fund the TPC to allow it to carry out existing statutory roles, including the State of Environment Report.

Catharine Errey

I would like to emphasise that any changes to the TPC are for the purpose of strengthening it in its current roles and to restore functions that it previously had, such as preparing regular Tasmanian State of the Environment reports.

Colin Sumner

State of the Environment reporting has never been so **important** to communities and the TPC's recommendations should, as a matter of urgency, be adopted and the whole responsibility for SoE reporting should be retained by this body as these matters cut across numerous jurisdictions and the TPC uniquely can bring it all together under it's [sic] umbrella function.

Craig Hobbins

The TPC must... **be supported** to continue producing State of the Environment reports every five years and that those **inform planning decisions**.

David Jack

The TPC should be **adequately funded** to perform its existing statutory roles, including the State of the Environment Report.

Karin Le

The Commission should maintain the State of Environment Reporting function and needs to be **resourced accordingly**.

Questions

- What is the purpose of SoE reporting?
- How would individuals/organisations use information in SoE reports? (Almost every submission emphasises how important and useful SoE reporting is, but it's not necessarily clear in what way)
- How would information feed into Government decision-making? (as per above comment)
- What information would actually be useful to individuals, organisations, Government?
- Should SoE reporting simply a data collation exercise or should it be a data collection exercise?
- Does SoE reporting need to be prepared by an independent body to be credible or can it be prepared internal to Government?
- Is there a body with the necessary expertise (and potentially independence) required to prepare SoE reports?
- What would be the resourcing ask to prepare SoE reports?
- What does Tasmania's SoE need to cover to allow it to feed into national SoE reporting?
- How does SoE reporting intersect with other existing reporting done by Government, eg EPA annual reports?

29

Murray, Rachael

From: Missen, Emma
Sent: Thursday, 21 July 2022 8:31 AM
To: Duffin, Harriet
Subject: For information: Australia Institute petition on Tas SoE reporting

Hi Harriet,

Just thought I'd forward this FYI - the Australia Institute's Tas arm are running a petition about SoE reporting in Tas!

No idea how much attention/traction it might get but probably good to be aware of.

Cheers,
Emma

From: Eloise Carr | The Australia Institute Tasmania <eloise@australiainstitute.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2022 4:01 PM
To: Missen, Emma <emma.missen@dpac.tas.gov.au>
Subject: Where is Tasmania's State of the Environment Report?

Tasmanian deserve to know about the health of our environment



Dear Emma --

Tasmania has not had an official report on the state of our environment for 13 years.

Since 2009, our environment has endured three high-impact bushfire seasons, a more than doubling of the salmon industry and our East Coast waters are warming four times faster than the global average.

It's time for the Tasmanian Government to urgently commission the next independent State of the Environment Report.

[Add your name to our open letter to the Tasmanian Premier.](#)

ADD YOUR
NAME

The latest Australian State of the Environment Report, released yesterday, paints a grim national picture of why these reports matter: **the course we are on is unsustainable.**

The report briefly covers some Tasmanian issues, including declining kelp forests and land clearing as a chief culprit in the escalating threat to wildlife and habitats. However, the report does not cover the level of detail needed and usually addressed by a state-focused report.

Such reports are important for two reasons. Firstly, monitoring, assessing and reporting on the condition of ecosystems tells us how well we are managing human impacts on the environment. Like a health check for the environment. Secondly, such reports provide evidence on whether solutions to problems are really working.

Now in its third term, with its third premier, the current Tasmanian government is **in danger of failing its duty to produce this key environmental report for a third time.**

ADD YOUR
NAME

Tasmanians deserve to know about the health of our beautiful wildlife, forests, coastal areas and oceans.

Thank you,

Eloise Carr | The Australia Institute Tasmania

**Thank you for supporting the Australia
Institute.**

Your donation will help fund high-quality research that
matters.

All donations are tax deductible.

MONTHLY



ONE-OFF

\$50

\$100

\$500

\$1000

I'd like to donate a different amount.

This email was sent to emma.missen@dpac.tas.gov.au. If you were forwarded this email, please [subscribe](#).

[Unsubscribe or manage your email preferences.](#)



australiainstitute.org.au

The Australia Institute acknowledges that the Australian Capital Territory is Ngunnawal/Ngunawal, Ngambri, and Ngarigo country and pays our respects to Elders past and present.

[Level 1 Endeavour House, 1 Franklin St, Manuka ACT 2603](#)

We change minds.