

TASMANIAN PLANNING COMMISSION



Media Presence at Hearings

May 2021

Version no.	Issue Date	Description	Endorsed by
1.0	3 May 2021	Original	Commission

Introduction

The Tasmanian Planning Commission (the Commission) is an independent statutory authority established under the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997*. The Commission reviews, advises on, and determines a range of land use and development matters including:

- considering and approving draft planning scheme amendments and combined permits;
- assessing and approving major projects;
- reporting on draft State Policies and Tasmanian Planning Policies;
- advising on amendments to the State Planning Provisions (SPPs);
- considering and approving Local Provisions Schedules (LPSs);
- advising on draft planning directives;
- inquiring into the future use of public land; and
- reviewing reports and submissions on draft management plans.

The Commission may hold public hearings and other meetings as part of its assessments and reviews with the hearings being conducted under sections 10 and 11 of the *Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997* (the Commission Act). Section 11 of the Commission Act requires that hearings be held in public unless the following applies:

If:

- (a) a person appearing to give evidence at a hearing objects to doing so in public; and
- (b) the Commission considers –
 - (i) that the evidence is of a confidential nature; and
 - (ii) the interest in confidentiality is greater than the interest in having the evidence taken in public –

the Commission may take the evidence in private.

Some hearings are also of interest to the media.

Purpose

This Media Presence at Hearings Policy sets out the protocols for media attendance at Commission public hearings.

Principles and protocols

- The Commission is strongly committed to open and transparent processes.
- The purpose of hearings is to assist the Commission in its assessment, review or determination roles and to provide an opportunity for the parties to fully inform the Commission as part of the process.
- The parties to the hearing will be given priority to be present in the room, noting that attendance by a range of options, including telephone and video conferencing, is available.
- Video or audio recording of Commission hearings is to be by express permission of the chair of the hearing.
- Anyone person attending a hearing is entitled to enter and leave the premises without being, or feeling they are being, harassed or intimidated.

Reviewing this policy

The Commission will review this policy every two years.

Communicating this policy

This policy will be published on the [Commission's website](#).

Relevant legislation

Tasmanian Planning Commission Act 1997