

Climate Change office
To Whom it may Concern

My concerns with the document and proposals relate to language which I felt weakened the process. I was concerned at the removal of certain objectives which I felt needed to be clearly articulated. It seems to me essential that any recommendations as to decision-making should include a written account of the deliberations around climate change. This will inform public discussion and create a clear picture for those making decisions or explaining them to the community.

Recommendation 2

I support consolidating the objects to provide clarity on the purpose for having the legislation and a robust framework for evaluating its effectiveness. However, since the objects will be the primary point of reference they must reflect all related issues especially make explicit commitment to conservation, research, community consultation and early action. I would propose these amendments to your suggestions.

The objects of the Act are:

- a. To set a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the State and thereafter monitor, evaluate and report on progress made in relation to the target;
- b. To promote energy efficiency, commit to energy conservation and facilitate business and community consultation and early action on climate change issues;
- c. to respond and adapt to the impacts and projected impacts of climate change and promote research into new technologies; and
- d. to complement national and international climate change initiatives.

Recommendation 3

I am concerned that the language allows avoidance of any detailed action or thought around climate change. I believe if you expect a written report on the climate change objectives to always be part of the papers informing decisions it will make the process clear and robust.

Amend the Act to insert a new section stating that Tasmanian Government agencies should consider and include a report on the target, objects and proposed principles of the Act in relation to relevant decisions.

Recommendation 4

Amend the Act to include the following set of principles:

In seeking to give greater effect to the target and objects of this Act, and to set a clear standard for decision making on climate change, consideration should be given to the following principles:

- a) decision making processes take into account and report upon their possible contribution to Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;
- b) decision making processes take into account the best available science and information about climate change and its potential impacts that are relevant to the decision, policy, program or process under consideration;
- c) the potential climate change risks associated with the decision, policy, program or process under consideration are assessed;

- d) an adaptive management approach is desirable to allow for evaluation of the decision, policy, program or process and to encourage continual improvement; and
- e) complementarity with national policies, programs, initiatives, standards or commitments relating to climate change is considered;

Margaret Taylor