

RB Jackson

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Tasmanian Climate Change Office,
Department of Premier and Cabinet,
HOBART, TASMANIA 7000
climatechange@dpac.tas.gov.au

Re: **Discussion Paper: Independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008***

Question 1: The Act aims to help Tasmania respond to the challenges posed by climate change. What do you consider are the critical challenges to which this legislation and Government action should respond?

Moving to even greater use of renewable energy to enable export to the mainland and support a rapid conversion to an electric vehicle fleet powered by renewable energy sources.

Preventing and controlling bushfire events.

Making agriculture more resilient to climate change.

Question 2: How successful do you think the Act has been in influencing action on climate change within Tasmania? Not much at all really if you take into account the land use change because it was not driven by the Act.

Question 3: What amendments may the Act require to further drive action on climate change?

The Act could be amended to recognise that land use change should not be included in calculating reductions and focus on reducing greenhouse gas production from waste, agriculture and energy production. A more ambitious target could be set.

The Act appears to have sufficient powers as it is, but regulations could be made to enforce more proactive action to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Tasmania.

Question 4: The Act creates a narrative on how the state regards the challenges posed by climate change. How do you think the Act can provide a narrative which helps to project Tasmania's clean-greenliveable brand?

Simply be being effective. If we offer a lifestyle that is powered by renewable energy and all our road transport is in electric vehicles, this will make a huge statement.

Question 5: With Tasmania providing just 0.3% of national emissions, how important is it that the Act supports the achievement of national and international targets for climate change?

With the mainland emissions actually increasing, and with some states relaxing land clearing it is critical that Tasmania compensates as much as it can and also provides an example, and maybe a platform to encourage other states to follow our lead..

Question 6: Should the Act recognise the possibility of 2°C of warming as a means of driving action on climate resilience?

Yes. Also the severe damage that a 2 degree rise will do to our agriculture, hydro system and lifestyle.

Question 7: What should the Act include to help Tasmania build resilience to climate change?

It has the powers to create regulations now, the important thing to do is enact the powers we have now.

Question 8: How can the Act facilitate action on climate change at state and local levels and among businesses and the broader Tasmanian community?

The Act has the powers, we need to take real, widespread action to increase the use of renewables eg by providing a fair feed-in tariff for solar Panel owners, encouraging wind farms, encouraging adoption of electric vehicles by establishing a rapid recharge network etc

Question 9: To what extent should Tasmania rely on the Land Use-Land Use Change Forestry emissions sector to achieve its emissions reduction target?

If the global timber market and Government policy align, maybe harvesting will increase rapidly in the future, and our progress may suddenly drop below the 60% target. If we take land use into account, we need to take bushfires, drying soils and the effect that has on carbon storage in the ground, increased cropping and the reductions of soil carbon that causes etc. I believe that we should report the land use effects separately and our targets should focus on the aspects we can control and make concerted progress on – ie on all the other sectors.

Question 10: What 2050 emissions reduction target would you consider is consistent with Tasmania seeking to be an international leader on climate change?

Tasmania should maximise its contribution of renewable energy production in Australia and aim to be a net carbon sink.

Question 11: Should Tasmania's targets account for emissions and abatement associated with its importation and export of electricity?

Yes.

Question 12: What other types of emissions reduction target should be considered (e.g. interim, sectoral, energy efficiency, mandatory/voluntary)?

Sectoral targets would be good.

Question 13: How willing would your business, community group, local government or region be to commit to pledges to reduce emissions?

Very willing to contribute in any way possible.

Question 14: What do you consider might be appropriate principles to guide government decision-making which influences climate risks and greenhouse gas emissions?

The principles of having regard to best available science; consideration of cost-effectiveness or proportionality; consultation; equity within and between generations; consistency with national policy; and risk-based decision-making are all good principles, but there also needs to be an element of urgency and taking every available opportunity to reduce the production of GHG. Maybe a principle of placing a monetary value on reducing GHG production needs to be incorporated into Cost Benefit analysis on all projects and developments.