



Submission the Review of the Tasmanian Climate Change Act

General Overview of document

Climate Action Hobart is a volunteer grass-roots organisation formed to promote community involvement in achieving strong climate policy and action in Tasmania. We have over 600 supporters.

Climate Action Hobart welcomes the request to provide comment on the review of the Tasmanian Climate Change Act and would like to thank the Tasmanian Climate Change Office (TCCO) and Jacobs for this opportunity.

We have previously provided a submission to the TCCO regarding the Tasmanian Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2016-2021, and welcome the commitment from the reviewers that comments and suggestions made during this process will be considered in the review of the Act.

As stated in our Action Plan submission, we would reiterate that –

- We are concerned that there is little sense of urgency in the document and that it should include a tone and phrase that is more suited to the situation we are facing. An example below is taken from the final COP 21 text:
'Recognizing that climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet and thus requires the widest possible cooperation by all countries, and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions, Also recognizing that deep reductions in global emissions will be required in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention and emphasizing the need for urgency in addressing climate change,
- The final COP 21 agreement includes a commitment to 1.5° C and the Tasmanian Climate Change Act should also include this in its objectives.

We also proposed that the Act –

- Set sectoral targets under the Act, both short and long term, with mandatory reporting mechanisms and dates for deliverables.
- Link Tasmania's targets to COP 21 targets as a minimum (Article 4.1), in recognition of the urgency of climate action and the risks to Tasmania of not acting.
- Adopt South Australia's target of 100 per cent renewables by 2050.
- Introduce 5 year sectoral targets based on the Wedges analysis with the end target being carbon neutral by mid-century, for all sectors, including forestry
- Seek bipartisan agreement on the targets, so that emissions reduction targets can be embedded into legislation that will be maintained by successive governments.

With regard to some of the questions asked in the Discussion paper, we have provided responses to some of them below –

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?

- There needs to be mandatory targets set, with recognition, as well as penalties for not meeting them.
- A major challenge for this legislation is promoting it and making it mainstream, many in the Tasmanian community are currently unaware of the existing Act and how it can impact them.
- The Act needs to take on board increasing scientific information around the impacts of future climate change into consideration and review and adapt the Act accordingly.

Question 2 – How successful do you think the Act has been in influencing action on climate change within Tasmania?

The Act has had some good impact, however could be used and promoted more effectively, if provided with more support from Ministers and the broader government to cover all portfolios rather than linking it as an environmental issue only. A bipartisan approach by all political parties would greatly assist this.

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

We would strongly recommend the TCCO and Jacobs to review the recently released “ Climate Emergency (Restructuring and Mobilisation) Act” Draft legislation proposed by the Research Strategy Transition Initiation RSTI Inc which can be found at -

<http://climateemergencydeclaration.org/what-a-climate-emergency-act-could-look-like/>

Many of the recommendations in this document could also apply and be incorporated into an Act at a State level.

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?

It is absolutely critical that every state and country work towards reducing emissions on a global scale, and promotes that they are doing this. Everyone needs to be contributing to this climate emergency, there are also benefits to be striving towards both carbon neutrality and being carbon negative.

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

The Act should be focussing on striving to keep the level of warming to at least 1.5 degrees, as it has been stated that a 2 degree rise could have devastating consequences. We will need to adapt, however the focus critically needs to be on reduction of emissions as the primary goal.

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

The Act should provide an overarching mandate that the effects of climate change need to be addressed in other Acts relating to land-use, building codes, town planning, energy strategies etc so that future resilience can be incorporated and acknowledged up-front and accommodated.

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

- A target of 100 per cent renewables by 2030

- Aiming towards Carbon Neutrality as a minimum by mid-century.

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

The introduction of 5 year sectoral targets based on the Wedges analysis with the end target being carbon neutral by mid-century, for all sectors, including forestry. They should be mandatory.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martyn Summers". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Martyn Summers

For the Climate Action Hobart Working Group
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