



Tamar NRM

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Department of Premier and Cabinet,  
Tasmanian Climate Change Office,  
HOBART, TASMANIA 7000  
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## 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?

- Protecting biodiversity
- Preventing and controlling bushfire events
- Renewable energy export to the mainland
- Making agriculture more resilient to climate change
- Reducing Greenhouse gasses

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

Limited progress when you take into account the land use change, which was not driven by the Act.

The targets are the key and the 2050 target is not ambitious enough and targets by sector are underdeveloped.

**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 2050 target should 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

**NOTE:** In our March submission to Tasmania's draft climate change action plan, Tamar NRM submitted that the Climate Change Act 2008 should not be watered down. Any amendments should strengthen actions.

**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?

- By supporting a delivery model where community and local government are actively occupying that space
- By having stronger targets than the rest of the nation

- By offering a lifestyle that is powered by renewable energy and all our road transport is in electric vehicles, this will make a huge statement
- Promoting bike access and better public transport

**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.

A recent heightened interest in adaptation is now evident in federal funding opportunities. The incorporation of "adaptation pathways" as a planning approach is supported.

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

- Use its current powers to create regulations now
- A greater role for the Tasmanian Climate Action Council
- Delivery model utilising local government, industry and community partnerships
- Resourcing of better carbon accounting and understanding the carbon footprints by sector to target reduction and efficiency efforts

**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?

At the 1997 climate conference in Kyoto Australia received preferential treatment for LULUs under the "Australia Clause" and enabled the country to meet modest targets easily.

A practical and transparent approach is needed where the forestry industry can be supported to rebuild, but should be separate from carbon accounting against state or national targets.

If global timber markets, harvesting cycles were to increase rapidly in the future, this could impact negatively on the 60% 2050 target (The State's target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Tasmania to at least 60% reduction target below 1990 levels by 31 December 2050). 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 greater GHGs emissions.

The reporting of land use effects separately would allow us to focus on the aspects we can better influence and make concerted progress on – i.e. 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?

Any changes in the target should move in the direction of being more ambitious than the current 60% and be a driver of policy and innovation:

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

- To avoid the "Smoke and Mirrors" progress approach where the 1990 baseline is changed
- Considering the broader responsibility of providing green power to assist the mainland states in reducing their fossil fuel reliance

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

Yes. Accounting and reporting publicly will be important. While a second interconnector is being considered, it should only proceed if it is to service export capacity, and to prevent it being established purely to boost import power. Targets need to be set to limit non-green energy imports to emergency situations only.

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

This is where the Tasmanian Climate Action Council could take on a stronger and expanded role. We support retention and additional resourcing of the council. Targets such as ones that support a transition to an electric vehicle fleet powered by renewable energy sources is the type of targets the council can design.

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

Very willing, and actively working on our own efficiencies and encouraging other to do the same. We have had projects to reduce combustion fires in favour of efficient heat pumps in the Launceston area, and provided public education about the negative environmental and health effects of burning green wood.

Regional and sub-regional targets (binding or non-binding) could be delivered and met by resourced local government partnerships where regional commonalities and existing relationships are evident.

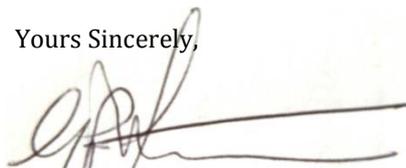
**Question 14:** What do you consider might be appropriate principles to guide government decision-making which influences climate risks and greenhouse gas emissions?

The principles of 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.

A principle of placing a monetary value on reducing GHG production needs to be incorporated into Cost Benefit analysis on all projects and developments.

The Act and Tasmania's climate change action plan needs to promote the use of a combination of market based and regulatory solutions.

Yours Sincerely,



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