

Comments on the proposed changes to the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008

From CANWest (Climate Action North West Tasmania)

The points set out below follow the 'Independent Review Recommendations' as summarised on page three of Amending the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008. Discussion Paper

1. Set a new aspirational long-term emissions reduction target of zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Comments: We have a problem with the word 'aspirational'. This reduction should be mandated rather than aspirational and should be improved on. In light of the most recent IPCC Report (*EG - C3. All pathways that limit global warming to 1.5°C with limited or no overshoot project the use of carbon dioxide removal (CDR) on the order of 100–1000 GtCO₂ over the 21st century*) we need to act urgently! Tasmania, as an affluent state, should be acting faster and with more effect and in fact could act beyond merely zero net greenhouse gas emissions. We promote action that will lead to Tasmania becoming a net 'carbon sink'.

There also should be goals set individually for all sectors of the state such as agriculture, forestry, education, heavy industry, etc.

2. Consolidate the objects of the Act around four themes.

Comments: We find necessary factors missing in this section. For example research, energy efficiency, community engagement and education, local government and business engagement. This involvement should be a legal requirement.

3. Require Tasmanian Government agencies to consider the target, objects and proposed principles of the Act in relation to relevant decisions.

Comments: As with the views expressed above we find the word 'consider' to lack the urgency of the crisis we face as outlined well in the most recent IPCC Report. We believe Tasmanian Government agencies should be required under legislation to act to meet their required carbon reduction targets.

4. Include a set of principles to give greater effect to the target and objects of the Act, and provide a clear set of expectations for decision making on climate change.

Comments: We believe the set of guiding principles as outlined in the Victoria's Climate Change Framework (*Integrated decision-making - Decisions should:* •

integrate environmental, economic, health and social considerations in the short, medium and long-term • be cost effective and proportionate to the problem. Informed decision-making - Decisions should be informed by: • assessment of climate risks, • contribution to Victoria's emissions. Community engagement • Community involvement in decisions that may affect them or future generations • Vulnerable and marginalised community voices need to be heard. Risk Management • Understanding and assessing the risks of decisions in the context of climate change impacts. Equity • Consideration of the short, medium and long-term consequences of decisions • Capacity for present and future generations to adapt to climate change, especially the most vulnerable. Compatibility • Climate change action needs to be taken by all levels of government and by the private sector and community • We need to work together to ensure outcomes are aligned) are a very useful guide as how to best set out this section of the act.

5. Continue to prepare a plan for mitigating and adapting to climate change, and make it a statutory requirement for the Tasmanian Government to have a climate change action plan.

Comments: While we agree with this point we feel it needs more concrete directions so that the plan has explicit actions as outlined in Victoria's Climate Change Framework (see above).

Some final comments:

1. Overall it was felt by our members that there was a lack of discussion about the role of local government in adaptation and mitigation, empowerment of communities to address climate change, and about the links between climate change and health, including social capital.
2. The plan should have Interim targets every 4 to 5 years. A goal to reach so there is less likelihood of idleness. We cannot afford to wait until 2040 or 2050 to start acting on this urgent issue!
3. Leadership is vital. As the current federal government is not showing this leadership it is up to the state and local government to do this. Climate Change should be central to all decision making in government.
4. In the area of local council we believe the state should take the lead and work with local councils to address key areas for ameliorating climate change impacts such as, building standards, transport, maintaining rail corridors (even if not used), coastal planning, waste management and recycling for energy efficiency, and conservation.

We thank you for your attention and consider climate change and our state government's approach to be the most pressing issue of the day and one that has dire immediate and long term consequences for current and future generations.

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For CANWest (Climate Action North West Tasmania)