

7 November 2018

Tasmanian Climate Change Office  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
GPO Box 123  
Hobart TAS 7001

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Review of Tasmania's Climate Change Act**

Hydro Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to provide further comment on the Review of Tasmania's *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*. Hydro Tasmania made a submission to the independent review of the Act in 2016, as well as the Draft Climate Change Action Plan, and the previous 2012 review.

The consultation paper asks the following questions:

1. Do you support the revised objects of the Act? If not, what other objects should be considered?
2. Do you support the proposed principles to guide decision making? Are there any other principles that should be included? If so, why?
3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions relating to the proposed amendments to the Act?

At a high level, Hydro Tasmania is supportive of the proposed amendments to the Act. The amendments are reflective of national and international agreements and can provide an improved ability for the State to respond to climate change risks and opportunities. Hydro Tasmania has provided responses to each proposed amendment below.

**Recommendation One proposed amendment: Amend Section 5 (The State's 2050 target) of the Act to establish a new long-term emissions reduction target consistent with international agreements**

Hydro Tasmania endorses a long standing commitment to emissions reduction efforts in Tasmania by the Tasmanian Government. A long-term approach offers an opportunity for Tasmania to further harness its clean, green brand advantage, which can all allow sectors in Tasmania to differentiate themselves nationally and internationally. Hydro Tasmania is supportive of an approach that sees Tasmania maintain a leading position in emissions reduction throughout Australia.

The Tasmanian Government's strong commitment to advancing Tasmania's renewable energy capability can be realised through the Battery of the Nation initiative, which would see the doubling of Tasmania's renewable energy capacity and support further interconnection with mainland Australia. Tasmania's renewable energy resources can assist the State in meeting a "long-term emissions reduction target consistent with international agreements".

As a predominantly hydropower and wind generator, Hydro Tasmania is exposed to the long-term potential impacts of climate change. As a business we support the Australian Government's commitment to the Paris Agreement and the goal of limiting long-term global average temperature increases to 1.5°C. State objectives should be consistent with this long-term goal.

**Recommendation Two proposed amendment: Amend Section 4 (Objects of the Act) of the Act to replace the existing 10 objects with four new objects.**

Hydro Tasmania supports consolidating the objects of the Act. By focussing on four clear goals, Tasmania can more easily track progress towards these and ensure that these objectives are reflected in Government decision making.

**Recommendation Three proposed amendment: Amend the Act to insert a new section stating that State Agencies should consider the target, objects and proposed principles of the Act in relation to relevant decisions.**

Hydro Tasmania is supportive of the principle to simplify the objects of the Act, making it easier to apply them to the decision making process across the Government and Tasmanian bureaucracy. We note that this can be difficult to achieve in practice. The simplifying of the objects of the Act, proposed as Recommendation Two, is therefore important.

**Recommendation Four proposed amendment: Amend the Act to include a set of principles that provide a clear set of standards for decision making on climate change.**

Hydro Tasmania is supportive of inserting the proposed set of principles into the Act. These principles could help provide an appropriate framework for decision makers in Government with respect to considering climate change in Tasmania

**Recommendation Five proposed amendment: No amendment to be made to the Act in response to this recommendation, recognising the Tasmanian Government's policy commitment to a climate change action plan through the release of Climate Action 21.**

Hydro Tasmania notes the Government's response to this recommendation.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss and engage on this review. Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact Colin Wain, Policy Development Manager on (03) 8612 6443 or [Colin.Wain@hydro.com.au](mailto:Colin.Wain@hydro.com.au).

Yours sincerely,



Alex Beckitt  
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