

Dear Secretary,

I am writing as an individual concerned about the future of planet and the climate change struggles we have ahead of us. I am a tertiary educated young person who has studied ecology and the environment, and as such I have the knowledge understanding to be deeply concerned and fearful of the severe and far-reaching impacts climate change will have on the entire planet.

I find that the recommendation to reduce net emissions to zero by 2050 is commendable, however I would urge the Government to aim for even more ambitious reductions targets. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change agreed there is urgent need to keep global warming to '*well below*' 2 degrees celsius, and to ideally pursue efforts to limit warming to only 1.5 degrees celsius, as a 2 degree rise is projected to have much more dire impacts. The importance of the '*well below*' phrasing cannot be overstated, the Government must take every action in its power to limit emissions as much as possible, and not use a 2 degree warming increase as a comfortable benchmark. In 2016 Tasmania achieved zero net emissions, however this was driven entirely by changes in the Land Use, Land Use-Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF), the use of which in calculating emissions has faced criticism. In the two decades from 1990, Tasmania emitted an average of 7 megatons of CO₂ equivalent per year from the LULUCF sector, and it now sequesters at approximately the same rate. Tasmania's 2016 zero net emissions figure is based on the sequestrations from forests as they regrow, but it is misleading to consider these sequestrations in our overall emissions while ignoring past emissions caused by deforestation in the first place. As such Tasmania's 2016 zero net emissions figure is somewhat misleading, and our actions to drop emissions must be considered with even greater urgency. We must act to reduce emissions to zero as quickly as possible as well as strive to sequester as much as possible. Based on the statistics regarding the LULUCF discrepancies, Sustainable Living Tasmania [1] suggests a reduction of net emissions to zero by 2035, that could be achieved so long as LULUCF continues to sequester at the current rate and all other sectors cut gross emissions to zero by 2050. The Government should aim for the zero net emissions by 2035 target, and should reconsider the use of misleading LULUCF data in its net emissions calculations.

My main concern regarding recommendation two and the corresponding amendment of Section 4 is the exclusion and glossing-over of the actions to reduce emissions recommendation in the proposed amendments. At the very least the existing objects include promotion of energy efficiency and conservation, and research and development of technology that would limit emissions or mitigate climate change impacts. While I agree the amendments are valuable in terms of simplification and clarity I am concerned that they detail no promise of strong action to directly combat climate change. It is not enough to simply set targets, monitor and report on progress, and then respond reactively to the inevitable climate impacts as they roll in. Instead we must clearly set objectives of action that we can achieve now to help prevent the worst of climate change impacts.

Regarding the proposed amendment addressing recommendation five, I am concerned that trusting the implementation and evaluation of climate action plans as a policy commitment rather statutory requirement is not a strong enough action. The difficulty of adhering to a

Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) should not be reason enough to render it effectively optional. A CCAP as a statutory requirement would ensure that current and future governments cannot skirt their responsibilities around direct climate change action.

As a young, educated person facing a future of unpredictable climate change, this issue is of critical importance to me. I am truly fearful of the future we might be facing even in the short to medium term if the Government fails to take serious and immediate action now. I sincerely urge the Government to take direct action on reducing emissions, increasing sequestering capacity of our forests, and to take seriously our obligations of coping with and mitigating dangerous climate change.

Yours sincerely,
Inala Swart

[1] https://www.slt.org.au/emissions_target