

Farmers for Climate Action

Submission to the consultation on the *Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021* (the draft Bill).

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About Farmers for Climate Action

Farmers for Climate Action (FCA) is a movement of more than 6,500 farmers, graziers, and agricultural industry leaders, focused on advancing climate solutions. Our rapidly growing network, drawn from diverse agricultural industries and all sides of politics, is united by a common goal: to ensure that farmers, who are on the frontline of climate change, are part of the solution. Our work is evidence based and non-partisan, drawing upon the best available science to inform advocacy in the agricultural sector.

Introduction

FCA thanks the Tasmanian Government and Tasmanian Climate Change Office for the opportunity to comment on the *Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021* (the draft Bill). We commend you for the strength of the Act in committing to climate change action and for the breadth of measures designed to ensure mitigation and adaptation occur. The draft Bill is a significant step forward for Tasmania's climate ambition. We make little comment on the structure of the draft Bill, instead recommending principles that must underpin the implementation if enacted.

Community sentiment has shifted substantially over the last few years in regard to the threat of climate change, the importance of mitigating our impact and the need to adapt for the future. Tasmanian farmers are prepared to do what is necessary. FCA and our Tasmanian Working Group look forward to working with the government on the development of sector based emissions reduction and adaptation plans, particularly for agriculture. We acknowledge that this is where significant work and complexity will come into the state's response to climate change, and are prepared to assist where we can.

Commendations

FCA wishes to draw your attention to our [original submission](#) to the independent review. We commend your commitment to bringing forward the legislated net zero emissions target for the state to 2030, noting it is a significant improvement on the BAU scenario mapped by Point Advisory and is also earlier than any of their target options.¹ We acknowledge that though it is not as ambitious as our original ask, that it accounts for the realities of GHG accounting and provides Tasmania with an opportunity to set itself up to maintain negative emissions beyond 2030.

We also wish to commend you on adopting the suggestion of sector based adaptation plans, termed resilience plans, in the draft Bill. These plans will provide greater certainty for communities and sectors to deal with climate risks as they arise and be prepared to respond accordingly.

¹ Point Advisory, "Net Zero Emissions Pathway Options for Tasmania" (Tasmania, 2021).

FCA welcomes the inclusion of sector based emissions reductions plans, including for agriculture. We acknowledge that the Climate Change Act is not necessarily the best place for specific policies on agricultural emissions reduction to sit as suggested in our original submission, and look forward to seeing the work undertaken with industry and communities to develop the plan.

Recommendations at a glance

1. **Work with urgency** following enactment to develop the necessary plans and protocols.
2. **Commit to genuine emissions reductions** in the sectors with high emissions, rather than relying on abatement from LULUCF to maintain net zero emissions.
3. Ensure **full transparency, broad consultation and regular review** of sector based plans, enabling all sectors and communities to be heard and accounted for over time.
4. Provide the **significant funding** required to fully achieve the Act's objectives and give all elements the best chance of success.

Recommendations in detail

1. Work with urgency

The draft amendments will provide a strong legislative framework for Tasmania to respond to climate change, but it is only the beginning of much of the work that will be required. Tasmanians stand to benefit from clear plans and stable policies when planning for their own climate future. This will provide farmers, businesses and communities with the certainty required to plan for disruption and transition where necessary. It's imperative the government comprehends the severity of the situation, and acts accordingly to prepare Tasmania for the inevitable climate impacts. **FCA urges the government to work with urgency** following the passing of the legislation to establish all of the requisite bodies, plans and protocols required to put the amendments into action.

2. Commit to genuine emissions reductions in the sectors with high emissions

Tasmania has one of the most advanced emissions profiles in the world. Nonetheless, any and all emissions are still contributing to the cumulative level of damaging GHG in the atmosphere.² Tasmania has an extraordinary level of abatement from LULUCF, accounting for negative 10.04 Mt CO₂-E.³ This should not be used to avoid the necessary emissions reduction from avoidable areas, particularly across transport and industry. As well as working towards supporting all initiatives that reduce emissions from the agriculture sector. The minimal emissions from energy

² International Energy Agency, "Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector" (International Energy Agency, May 2021), https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/405543d2-054d-4cbd-9b89-d174831643a4/NetZeroBy2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector_CORR.pdf.

³ "Independent Review of the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008: Tasmanian Government Response 2021" (Hobart: Tasmanian Government, 2021).

production in the state provide a strong foundation to succeed in much of this work. FCA recommends the government commits to further emissions reduction across the state, minimising the remaining impact the state has on cumulative GHG emissions.

3. Transparency, consultation and review of sector based plan development

FCA urges the Tasmanian government to ensure that strong principles guide the development of the sector based plans. There must be total transparency with any data or information that is used to develop plans. The consultation process must aim to target a broad cross-sections of the Tasmanian community, providing ample opportunity for all to be involved. It must also include multiple ways to engage, including written submissions, questionnaires, in-person events and online sessions to provide all within a sector or community the ability to contribute.

These plans need to be reviewed regularly. FCA recommends that s 5C(3) of the draft Bill be amended to “at least every 3 years” to ensure they align with ever evolving climate science and reflect the changing needs of the community. This will ensure that Tasmania is moving with the rapidly changing climate and resulting impacts.

As there is little content within the draft Bill about the sector based plans, it is imperative that they are established from the outset with a principled basis to give them the best possible chance of success.

4. Provide significant funding

For the Act to be successful in achieving its objectives, there needs to be significant funding provided to the departments responsible for delivering the amendment requirements. The efficacy of regular statewide climate reviews, resilience and emissions reduction plans for at least five sectors, and a government Climate Change Action Plan will be determined by the funding provided to develop and deliver what is found. Without substantial financial backing, Tasmanians may be left with words on a page and few tangible support systems. FCA urges the government to be prepared to provide a substantial budget allocation to the task of responding to climate change.

Conclusion

Tasmania is currently a world leader in achieving net zero emissions. The draft Bill allows Tasmania to leverage its current position, providing a solid foundation for both mitigation and adaptation. To ensure farmers, communities and the wider agricultural industry are not unduly burdened by a failure to set appropriate mechanisms for success, Farmers for Climate Action urges the Tasmanian government to ensure the enactment of the Bill is guided by strong principles and the best available science. We look forward to working with you further to prepare Tasmanian agriculture for what the future holds.