

I believe that climate change is a huge issue which concerns a vast majority of people, and I have held these concerns for a long time, becoming increasingly alarmed at the reprehensible disregard of our political leaders for the consistent advice of relevant scientists, which is already resulting in alarming consequences for Australians.

Tasmania's claim that it has reached 'net zero' is based on the fact that the carbon being stored by trees just not being chopped down is stored over time as growth occurs. This is, I believe, a spurious claim as the difficulty of actually calculating this is enormous and it does not take a rocket scientist to remember the devastating fires of recent years and the reasonable prediction of more to come which will evidence the hollowness of this claim.

On a personal level, the prospect of increasingly devastating fires is horrifying as we have witnessed the loss of life, livelihoods, homes, livestock, crops, wildlife and our sense of security and well-being. Health, physical, social and mental, is a huge issue in all of this. Of course, the impact of increasing global warming is not just limited to fires – there are increasing reports of floods, droughts, sea-temperatures warming and sea-levels rising, all of which have huge impacts on our world.

The current crisis in housing in Tasmania, including the unprecedented rise in the cost of buying a house, indicate a trend, I believe, for people from other states to retreat to the 'safety' of the Tasmanian climate, with quite devastating social effects, especially for the people in lower socio-economic groups for whom housing is increasingly difficult to obtain whether by rental or purchase. The ongoing impact of this on people's health and well-being is enormous. I can only imagine that this will increase over time with not only inter-state climate refugees, but also international ones. The impact on our infrastructure (health, education, housing, transport systems) will also be huge.

Tasmania does have a great renewable energy resource, but that accounts for less than 50% and the rest is from non-renewables which continue to give rise to emissions. I believe that individuals are well motivated to make changes to make our planet safer for the future, but do not see serious governmental commitment to make concrete, mandated changes. It is the role of government to lead in this area, which is so important to our future. It is infuriating to watch governments at all levels 'play the fiddle while Rome burns'.

I applaud the policies undertaken by the Government in NSW to seriously commit to supporting the purchase of electric vehicles. I think that the Tasmanian strategy should include a similar policy to minimise vehicular emissions into the environment.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the key points made by Climate Tasmania.

Yours sincerely,

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