



Tasmanian Way submission to the review of the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008 and Tasmania's next climate change action plan

This submission is to the independent reviewer Jacobs Consulting on 5 May 2021.

The Tasmanian Way is a platform to inspire a whole-of-Tasmania approach to transition to a low emissions and sustainable future for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of all Tasmanians. Tasmania can be a genuine climate positive leader in the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The Tasmanian Way is an independent and apolitical platform auspiced by Tasmanian Leaders Inc. through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Tasmanian Way is guided by an Advisory including Rob Woolley (Board Chair of Tasmanian Leaders), Dan Norton AO (Board Chair of TasNetworks), Kim Seagram (Entrepreneur), Angela Driver (CEO of Tasmanian Leaders), Kate Brown (Executive Director of the Global Island Partnership) and Rikki Mawad (Facilitator and Strategic Advisor, Tasmanian Way). The Advisory reports progress to the Tasmanian Leaders Board and other key partners and stakeholders.

This submission builds on the Tasmanian Way submission to the Tasmanian Government Community Consultation (Annex A).

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Tasmania's Opportunity

Tasmania has an enormous opportunity to be a genuine leader in transitioning to a low emissions future. Tasmania has a narrow window of time to use our strong foundation of 100% renewable electricity to go beyond the net zero emissions targets:

Tasmania can set a new global benchmark to be a carbon sink for the planet. Tasmania can be a genuine climate positive leader spearheading the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Why return to a new normal when we can pursue a new extraordinary.

This will be good for our community, our economy and add value to our 'clean and green' brand. Tasmania's new extraordinary can be enabled by the State Government setting ambitious goals and providing the policy environment, resources and leadership to make it happen. The State Government should:

- set ambitious, realistic and measurable targets to reduce emissions to zero across all sectors and to include incremental targets to help track our progress.
- protect and restore our carbon sinks (forests, soils, wetlands, seagrass beds - our natural systems that sequester carbon such as through protections, sustainable and regenerative approaches to agriculture and land use as well as restoring damaged ecosystems)
- prepare by prioritising adaptation to increased risks of bushfires, floods, droughts and other shocks.
- led the transition of our workforce and our economy to climate positive job pathways and investment in the infrastructure of the future to avoid stranded assets.
- empower business, industry, research and community groups to lead on and co-create solutions to climate change and sustainability challenges facing Tasmania.

Discussion on Tasmania being a carbon sink has been covered in the [Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council report](#) (see page 64) and was raised as a during our first [Tasmanian Way Forum](#) opened by Premier Gutwein in 2019.

The International Opportunity

The recent **Leaders Summit on Climate hosted by US President Joe Biden** resulted in governments and companies positioning to be competitive in the net zero transition, with the focus shifting to 2030 emissions targets. This important Summit ratcheted up global ambition

and closed the window of opportunity for Tasmania to set new world firsts and receive the considerable media and partnership potential this brings. Ambition and action will only continue to accelerate toward the High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow in late 2021.

During the Summit, US Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry announced the United States support to the Local2030 Island Network managed by Hawaii Green Growth and the Global Island Partnership.

The Local2030 Islands Network (<https://www.islands2030.org/>) is the world's first global, island-led network devoted to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through locally-driven, culturally-informed solutions. The Network is a leading a peer-to-peer platform of island leaders from across jurisdictions and experts focused on developing innovative solutions in an island context that are globally relevant. By setting ambitious emissions goals Tasmania can join the Local2030 Island Network. This will be an important avenue to learn from what other island leaders are doing as well as to build Tasmania's brand as a genuine climate positive and sustainability leader.

The Tasmanian Way with the Global Island Partnership, the Local2030 Network and the ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability will coordinate with members of the Tasmanian Sustainability Leaders to speak during major international virtual forums hosted during the United Nations High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Framework on Climate Change Conference of the Parties to bring international visibility to the genuine examples of leadership from Tasmania supporting local implementation of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Tasmania can contribute more strategically to connect our successes and progress into the global effort to recover and build back better. This will:

- build our brand and international profile as a sustainability leader
- attract the investment partners that will add value to our way of life, and
- With the right alignment between vision and action, Tasmania can provide potential to secure significant global attention and media.

Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan

The Climate Change Action Plan needs to inspire the Tasmanian transition to a low emissions and sustainable future and for our island home to be a genuine leader in the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It should take a longer-term horizon, at least to 2030 with a major review at 2025.

Barriers to Action:

- Short-termism of planning cycles. We need long-term goals with incremental targets.
- Silos - not just government, not just one sector, not just climate. We need cross sectoral goals and targets as well as action from businesses, industry, councils and community leading the transition.
- Many businesses, councils and communities see the opportunity for action and don't know where to start or how to expand what they are doing.
- A small number of networks and coalitions exist to support sharing however these are voluntarily run and therefore are limited in their impactfulness and ability to scale solutions and action.
- People feel disengaged or disempowered by climate change. We need to empower community to lead development of solutions and scale them.

Solutions:

1. Strengthen Networks to support Climate Positive Leadership

Barrier: A growing number of local councils, businesses and communities have started the transition to more sustainable ways of doing things and applying circular economy principles such as those included in the Waste Action Plan. Many more want to transition however are uncertain of what to do or how to start.

Barrier 2: there are a number of networks and coalitions that are working with businesses and councils. Momentum is growing however these networks are limited in their ability to do more and scale solutions as they are voluntarily. This limits their capacity to take greater action.

Solution: The Tasmanian Government can provide funding to support existing platforms, networks and coalitions such as the Tasmanian Way, TasSDGs Network, Sustainable Living Tasmania to the Regenerative Agriculture Network. These Network have emerged to help business and industry share and create solutions. Their popularity and growing support are evidence of the growing number of business and industry that are wanting support to find

solutions. They are a vital part of supporting business, councils, industry and community to share and scale solutions.

Strong Networks and Coalitions encourage greater ambition and action, learning and sharing of approaches in the transition and friendly competition toward common goals. Local and global examples demonstrate how vital coalitions are to enable long-term change, particularly between changes of leadership. This coalition will be member-based and will provide a valuable mechanism to collaborate with the Government to achieve Tasmania's sustainability vision.

Successful examples are the New Zealand Sustainability Leaders Coalition as well as Hawaii Green Growth Sustainable Business Forum. Both have resulted in significant collaborations between business and industry and lasting impact.

The Tasmanian Way is ready to launch a Sustainability Leaders Coalition as a group of mayors, executives and industry leaders who are championing the transition to a low emissions and sustainable future and are aligned to the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Prioritised as part of the Climate Action Plan will be an accelerator to ongoing action beyond the life of the Plan.

2. Climate and Sustainability Leadership Programme

- No-one has all the answers and many want help figuring out the best course of action.
- Our Tasmanian changemakers hold some of the answers and can be powerful local champions to inspire others to make a start or do more.
- There is a growing demand from professionals and community leaders who want to take action and with some confidence, skills and mentors will create force for positive change.

Solution: the Climate Action Plan should prioritise building the skills and competencies of Tasmanians to lead the transition to a low emissions and sustainable future. This could include resourcing introduction to comprehensive leadership programmes targeted at business and councils.

3. Engage Tasmanians in leading the solutions

Many Tasmanians want to be involved in creating and leading solutions to the complex climate change and sustainability challenges facing our state. Our business and industry

leaders, our councils and communities hold the solutions and the energy to reduce emissions and adapt.

The Tasmanian Way has convened several highly successful community-led forums and initiatives in partnership with Government to drive collective local action and goal-setting around the realisation of the Global Goals within our State. In early July 2020 in response to COVID-19, over 300 Tasmanians supported [Thriving Tasmania](#) - a virtual conversation to reflect on what is important to recover from COVID-19 and emerge as a thriving place. Hosted by the Tasmanian Way with Brand Tasmania, Disruptive Co. and supporters, this conversation demonstrated how we can engage Tasmanians in a collaborative, strengths-based approach to recovery.

Tasmanians want to be involved in the decisions that impact on them. Government can play an important role in enabling this to happen by prioritising approach to convene Tasmanians to uncovering bold solutions to the complex climate change and sustainability challenges facing our state. The Climate Action Plan should prioritise community-led, place-based forums to engage the community in shaping their future and to co-create their own locally relevant solutions within their businesses and places.

4. The Northern Opportunity - Turning a prison into a place of rehabilitation and renewal

The Tasmanian Government is advancing the establishment of a prison in Westbury. This type of large-scale infrastructure development is an opportunity for climate and sustainability leadership. This is an opportunity to engage with the Westbury and surrounding communities to refocus on how this prison could be a world leading centre of excellence for rehabilitation and reintegration for prisoners as well as a model of low impact design aligned to the UN2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The prison can be designed using best practice sustainability design and set a new benchmark climate positive design. This is a tangible project that can turn an eyesore into a community asset and that can be transformative to Government procurement processes and approach to community building. This opportunity was uncovered through Thriving Tasmania hosted by the Tasmanian Way and can be an action to do right now that will have long-term implications on climate change and social justice.

Summary The Tasmanian Way stands ready to walk with Government and Tasmanians to support implementation of the next iteration of the Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan and the Sustainability Vision recommended in PESRAC.