

Submission to Tasmania Government Sustainability Strategy Consultation

When developing a long-term strategy for a sustainable Tasmania we must think globally and act locally. The big global issues, over population, biodiversity loss, climate change, disease pandemics, fresh water shortages, pollution of air & water, conflict between and with nations, inequality, refugees, fake information, will affect us in Tasmania. The earth has ecological limits.

Considering all global nation states Tasmania is very lucky, it is not over-populated and still has intact natural biodiversity ecosystems. We must keep it this way.

Prosperity can be achieved without growth. Reducing inequality will improve prosperity. Growth *per se* does not increase prosperity. Currently in Australia the wealthiest 20% hold two-thirds of the country's wealth, whilst the lowest 40% hold just 6% of the country's wealth. We must provide health and well-being to all, not just the wealthiest and middle-class. Whilst this must be tackled nationally, Tasmania is part of the national decision making.

Tasmania can switch to 100% renewable energy for all uses including transport. Going to 200% renewable energy is wishful thinking. Technology is currently available for Victoria to generate all its energy needs from renewables like solar and wind, and it will not require the un-economic Marinus Link because large battery storage will be commercially available plus there are more than enough pumped-hydro storage areas on the mainland all outside national parks.

Preserving biodiversity is essential for the survival of *Homo sapiens*; we are just one species in the whole ecosystem. Healthy ecosystems provide fresh air and water as well as mental health benefits to humans. Tasmania is unique among nations in still having large tracts on natural areas. We must conserve and protect all our wilderness natural areas. The logging of native forests is currently un-economic, justified by government accounting tricks, but actually subsidised by the taxpayer.

Citizen input into decision making is currently limited to voting every four years. This survey is welcome. Democracy is improved by having an informed voter who contributes to society.

However, we must introduce new procedures for more community input: like citizen assemblies operating in other countries, and council sustainable advisory panels like recently established by the Waratah-Wynyard Council. This panel has recently provided advice on (1) reducing and recycling waste, (2) strategies to manage urban vegetation and trees, (3) practical advice to households to insulate and improve energy use, (4) community gardens and improved food nutrition for the vulnerable, (5) outdoor nature education facilities, (6) safe bike paths that benefit and improve the health for young and old.

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