

3 October 2023



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The Officer in Charge
Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy
Department of Premier & Cabinet
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Via Email: policy@dpac.tas.gov.au

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Dear Sir or Madam,

RE: *Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy*

Thank you for extending an invitation to the Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council (TMEC) to contribute to the consultation on Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy.

TMEC's membership base represents an important wealth creating sector within the Tasmanian economy. The combined minerals and manufacturing sector employs 21,000 people and contributed \$2.795B in exports as of the 12 months to June 2023. Most of our members are based in regional areas of Tasmania and therefore provide critical employment opportunities away from public funded employers. Minerals exports alone account for 62.9% of Tasmania's commercial exports and is the foundation stone of many regional communities with 5,200 direct jobs.

What words would you use to describe an ideal Tasmania in 2050? Provide up to five words.

TMEC Response: Balance, Respecting differences, sustainably self-sufficient

What are the most important things we need to do to achieve a sustainable future for Tasmania?

These can include things you think should be done by each level of government, by businesses in Tasmania and the broader community.

TMEC Response: This submission will refer elsewhere to what goals and actions could be prioritised.

Two underlying enablers which need to be overcome before any change can occur are:

1. Ability to fund the change,
2. The willingness for the population to respectfully accept change means they need to accept change themselves - not expect it to happen "elsewhere".

Having a means to equip the economy and people with the above points is more likely to result in change being embraced, and therefore people should not fear change and having access to a sustainable funding mechanism puts Tasmanians in control of their own destiny.

What do you plan to do by 2030, 2040 and 2050, to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable Tasmania in 2050?

Think about what choices and changes you can make personally, within your home and community, or as part of your workplace or business. Are there any barriers and how could these be overcome?

TMEC Response: Continue to promote Tasmania as the provider of low / zero carbon products and commodities - and continually reduce carbon emissions from transport and industrial processes - accepting technological solutions are required in the first instance and then they need to be affordable.

Support local communities and workplaces to promote improved functional literacy.

Increase the diversity of the new entrants seeking roles within the mining and manufacturing sector.

What is your vision for a Sustainable Tasmania and what should we aspire to?

From the Discussion Paper, two questions ask about your vision for Tasmania's future and how you think we can achieve it. The last two questions

ask whether Tasmania should adopt the Sustainable Development Goals or create our own, and how we should prioritise our efforts.

Vision

What do you hope Tasmania looks like in 2050 - our society, economy, and natural environment?

Help us write Tasmania's vision for a sustainable future grounded in wellbeing, equity, and prosperity.

TMEC Response: Tasmanians are at ease with the need to balance local with global, with personal aspirations with that of society. Be resilient to change and adaptation. Thinking beyond their immediate needs to that of the bigger picture.

It is as much about our reputation as a state to adapt, to embrace change and compromise with deeply rooted expectations and future needs of society.

What are the most important challenges we need to overcome to achieve your vision for Tasmania in 2050?

Some changes are easy to make on the journey to sustainability and others are more challenging. Tell us what challenges you consider are the most important for achieving a sustainable future for Tasmania.

TMEC Response: Helping people to be personally committed to the higher order goals - which may mean a personal goal needs to be let go of.

Breaking the current mode of the response - very willing to tell others what they should or should not do, and at the same time being unwilling to adopt change themselves.

Tasmania needs to generate the revenue to fund its ambitions - for both sustaining lifestyles (health, education, etc) as well growing incomes. It needs to find ways to reduce its dependence upon commonwealth funding formulas and political vagaries. This is resulting in at times doing what is popular in the short term takes precedence over what is the right thing to do in the long term.

Goals

If we streamline the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to around six sustainability topics or focus areas for Tasmania's sustainability goals, what would they be, or do you think we should simply align with the SDGs?

The SDGs can be adapted to Tasmania's circumstances and local priorities, however, a smaller number of focused goals reflecting Tasmanians' priorities and aspirations could be more effective for motivating community-wide change.

TMEC Response: SDG4. Literacy - So much disadvantage and generational welfare / poorer outcomes all round stem from the inability to comprehend what is written.

SDG8. Sustainable economic growth - too often state income generating opportunities are stopped / claims made to stop them with no alternative offered.

SDG7. Reliable and affordable energy - this is needed to sustain and improve / increase quality of life in Tasmania and is on a trajectory to be unaffordable - for homes and business.

SDG9. Promote sustainable industrialisation where primary industries - mining, forestry, aquaculture co-exists, and Tasmanians are proud in the knowledge these products are amongst the lowest carbon ones in the world.

13. Recognise "carbon leakage" when locally produced low carbon products and commodities are threatened with being stopped, without consideration of the import of high carbon products from other jurisdictions.

In what areas of sustainability do you think Tasmania is doing well, and are there other priorities where we could do better?

Not everything can be done at once - sustainability strategies require incremental change over short, medium, and longer time horizons. Your response will help us understand what you consider to be Tasmania's immediate and long-term priorities.

TMEC Response: Tasmania's source of electricity from hydro assets makes the state unique and provides a substantial head start on most other jurisdictions.

As a percentage, Tasmania already has more land locked up and protected from developments than virtually all other jurisdictions in the world.

Retaining the co-existence model for the remainder of the natural areas is appropriate.

Population growth - which helps with economic growth is positive, but if this occurs without the corresponding increase in land availability and provision of essential services (health and education), then the growth strategy becomes unsustainable.

TMEC appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mostogl', written in a cursive style.

Ray Mostogl
Chief Executive Officer