

Independent Review of the
Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008

TASMANIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE 2021



We acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the original owners and continuing custodians of this land and pay respect to elders past, present and emerging.

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Minister's foreword



The Tasmanian Government is committed to practical action on climate change to protect Tasmania, create opportunities

for our State and contribute to national and global emissions targets.

In 2013, Tasmania was the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and we have achieved our commitment of net zero emissions consistently since 2015. Emissions have fallen 108.6 per cent since 1990 and our per capita emissions are now the lowest in the country and some of the lowest in the world. This globally significant achievement highlights Tasmania's competitive strengths as the world responds to a changing climate and works to reduce emissions.

This accomplishment reflects the carbon sink of our managed forest estate, our longstanding investment in renewable energy generation and ongoing emissions reductions in our agriculture and waste sectors. Last year, Tasmania achieved 100 per cent self-sufficiency in renewable electricity and we have a commitment to generate 200 per cent of our current needs from renewable sources by 2040, with plans for renewable hydrogen to be exported by 2030.

In line with legislation, the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* (the Act) has been independently reviewed in consultation with industry, businesses, and the community.

The clear view, heard throughout the review, was that Tasmania can afford to take more ambitious action on climate change.

The independent review makes seven recommendations to amend the Act, all of which the Tasmanian Government will accept, in full or in-principle. In doing so, Tasmania will legislate a target of net zero emissions from 2030. This target will be nation-leading and one of the most ambitious in the world.

Importantly, economic analysis and the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review demonstrate that such a target is achievable. Modelling shows that the actions recommended to cut emissions can help to grow our economy, employing over 1,200 more people, boosting productivity and innovation, and driving new demand for our renewable energy and products.

Taking action to reduce emissions in our economy and planning for Tasmania's future will not only address climate change, it will also improve environmental, social and health outcomes for future generations. We need to empower our young people to learn about the solutions to climate change, the career opportunities those solutions create, and how they can be involved in Tasmania's global leadership on this issue.

We will continue to support business, industry and the community to transition to a low emissions economy. The Tasmanian Government will support the development of emissions reduction and resilience plans for key industry sectors, to ensure we take a practical and balanced approach to the transition. The 2021-22 Budget allocates \$10 million over four years to support our community and industry to make the transition to a low emissions future.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in the consultation process and make a submission on this important legislative review.

Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Climate Change

I. Introduction

Background

The *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* (the Act) provides the framework for the Tasmanian Government's action on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Act establishes the target to reduce Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions to at least 60 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Subsection 18(1) of the Act requires an independent review of its operation every four years.

Consulting firm Jacobs Group (Australia) Pty Ltd (Jacobs) delivered the third independent review (the Review) of the Act over a period of six months. The final report of the Review was tabled in Parliament in late August 2021.

Based on consultation outcomes, a review of Tasmania's existing climate change framework and analysis of approaches taken in other jurisdictions, the Review makes seven recommendations to amend the Act:

1. Legislate a more ambitious emissions reduction target for Tasmania, of net zero emissions from 2030
2. Consolidate the Act's existing objectives
3. Include a set of principles to guide climate action
4. Ensure relevant Tasmanian Government policies, plans and strategies are informed by climate change considerations
5. Make the development of a Climate Change Action Plan a statutory requirement
6. Require a five-yearly statewide climate risk assessment to be completed
7. Include the completion of sector-based decarbonisation (emissions reduction) and resilience plans

To support the Review, the Tasmanian Government also undertook a detailed examination of Tasmania's existing greenhouse gas emissions profile, explored practical and achievable emissions reduction opportunities available across all sectors, and considered how these opportunities could improve Tasmania's emissions profile to 2050. In addition, the Government commissioned detailed economic analysis of the impacts of a more ambitious emissions reduction target on industry and employment in Tasmania.

Consultation feedback

The Review was informed by consultation with business, industry and the community through a series of sector-specific and public workshops, one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders, and written submissions to a consultation Discussion Paper.

A key focus of the Review was consultation on options to revise Tasmania's emissions reduction target. There was overwhelming support across all stakeholder groups for Tasmania to be more ambitious in setting a net zero emissions reduction target. There were diverse views in relation to sectoral emissions reduction targets, with broad acknowledgement that not all sectors can reduce emissions rapidly and there needs to be a balanced, supportive approach to the transition to a low emissions economy.

Over 200 people participated in the workshops and Jacobs received 54 written submissions in response to the Discussion Paper. Submissions were made by individuals and organisations representing a range of sectors, including: agriculture; industrial processes; environmental groups; local government; education; mineral and forest resources; energy; transport; youth; and health. Additional targeted consultation with Tasmania's youth sector was undertaken through the Premier's Youth Advisory Council; the Tasmanian Commissioner for Children and Young People Ambassadors Program; and at the Tasmanian Youth Climate Leaders Conference.

Key consultation themes:

- ▶ The Tasmanian Government's existing policy commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 is not ambitious enough for Tasmania
- ▶ Emissions reduction should be pursued, to the extent possible, across all sectors of the economy
- ▶ Climate change action is a shared responsibility between the private sector, communities and all levels of government, and action should be conducted in partnership
- ▶ The Tasmanian Government should provide leadership, support collaboration for action on climate change and facilitate adaptive capacity for the Tasmanian community
- ▶ Support for low emissions solutions may be necessary to facilitate some sectors of the economy to transition a low emissions future
- ▶ Tasmania's low emissions transition should not disadvantage any sector
- ▶ Climate change threatens a number of Tasmania's unique ecosystems and action on climate change is needed to protect our environmental values, wellbeing, tourism and the economy.

Our record on climate action

The Tasmanian Government is committed to taking action on climate change.

Recent climate action includes beginning the transition of the Government fleet to electric vehicles by 2030; measures to support the uptake of electric vehicles, including a two-year stamp duty waiver and more charging infrastructure in our regions; a new \$30 million Tasmanian Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme for households; and initiatives to support industries to reduce emissions, including a carbon farming pilot program and supporting the tourism industry's goal to become a Carbon Neutral Destination by 2025.

These announcements build on the completion of our most recent climate change action plan, *Climate Action 21*, which delivered a number of significant achievements, including:

- ▶ investing over \$600,000 to deliver a statewide electric vehicle destination and fast charging network;
- ▶ supporting sixteen priority research projects leveraging a total research investment of \$1.4 million;
- ▶ twelve workshops around the State to support over 130 financial counsellors to better assist vulnerable clients to manage their energy use and power bills;
- ▶ supporting government and heavy vehicle fleets to improve fleet efficiency and prepare for electric vehicle uptake;
- ▶ implementing a whole-of-government energy and greenhouse gas emissions monitoring software system;
- ▶ conducting energy efficiency audits for 28 Tasmanian small- and medium-sized businesses through the Power\$mart Businesses program;
- ▶ three Tasmanian Climate Symposiums, bringing together representatives from business, government and the scientific community;
- ▶ supporting 11 businesses to improve productivity and resource efficiency through the Business Resource Efficiency Program; and
- ▶ providing nearly \$200,000 to partner with organisations on local climate change initiatives.

2. Tasmania's climate opportunities and challenges

Our changing climate

There is now overwhelming scientific evidence that the climate is changing as a result of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities. The most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*, finds that global surface temperatures are now 1.1°C higher than pre-industrial levels, and in Australia, warming over land has exceeded 1.4°C. The international community, under the Paris Agreement, has committed to a legally binding international treaty on climate change to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

In comparison with other jurisdictions, Tasmania is predicted to experience milder and less extreme climate change impacts. However, Tasmania is still expected to experience longer fire seasons with more frequent and intense bushfires; increased occurrences of lightning ignitions; and compound extreme weather events. Additionally, Tasmania is projected to face significant changes in rainfall patterns and regional rainfall distribution, sea level rise, ocean acidification and increased East Coast ocean temperatures (Figure 1).

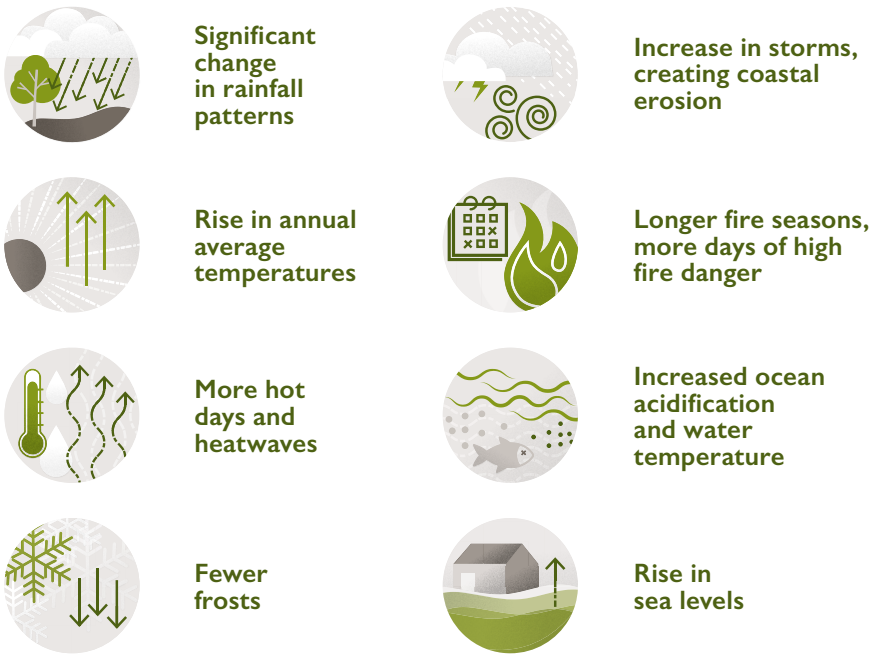
Over the last decade, Tasmania has experienced significant bushfires, marine heatwaves off the East Coast, prolonged drought creating energy security concerns and some of the worst statewide flooding seen in 40 years. These events have had an environmental, economic and social impact on government, businesses, communities and households. In 2017, Deloitte reported that the current total economic cost to Tasmania from natural disasters was \$200 million per year. This is forecast to increase to \$600 million per year by 2050¹.

Inaction on climate change also poses significant physical, transition and financial risks to Government, business and industry. Financial regulators, including the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, have found climate change is a major threat to Australia's financial stability and economy. Credit rating agencies are beginning to incorporate climate risks into their ratings assessments.

Importantly, the IPCC Report indicates that if the world takes strong action now to reduce emissions, by the end of the century the worst impacts of climate change can be limited.

¹ Deloitte Access Economics: Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities 2017

Figure 1: Climate change projections and impacts for Tasmania



Tasmania’s greenhouse gas emissions performance

Tasmania has a unique low emissions profile relative to other Australian jurisdictions, due to our high proportion of renewable energy generation and the significant carbon sink of our managed forest estate (Figure 2).

In 2013, Tasmania became the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve net zero emissions and has maintained this status since 2015. Tasmania has the lowest per capita emissions in the country and some of the lowest in the world. This achievement, along with our renewable energy profile, represents a significant competitive advantage for Tasmania.

Tasmania continues to achieve economic growth without increasing emissions. In 2019 (the most recent data), emissions were 108.6 per cent lower than in 1990. Over the same period, Tasmania’s Gross State Product has increased by 94.9 per cent (Figure 3).

Tasmania’s greenhouse gas emissions are generated by various activities across our economy. In 2019, excluding the Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) sector, Tasmania’s emissions were 8.36 Mt CO₂-e. This comprised emissions from energy, including transport, (46 per cent); agriculture (29 per cent); industrial processes and product use (IPPU) (20 per cent); and waste (5 per cent).

Changes in the LULUCF sector have had a major influence on Tasmania’s emissions, changing from a source of emissions to a significant carbon sink. The level of carbon sequestration provided by Tasmania’s forest estate is not fixed and the State cannot rely on this carbon sink over time. A range of factors influence this sector, including successive major bushfire events, which are projected to become both more likely and intense under a changing climate.

An analysis of our future emissions profile was undertaken in the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review. The analysis found that under a business-as-usual policy scenario Tasmania’s emissions will likely remain below net zero emissions until 2025. However, from 2030 until 2050, net emissions are projected to track very close to zero, and in years where major bushfires are modelled to occur, Tasmania is projected to become a net emitter.

These factors highlight the importance of continuing to implement actions to reduce emissions across all sectors of our economy and setting an emissions reduction target date that allows business, industry and the community sufficient time to plan and transition to a lower emissions future.

Figure 2: Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions 2019

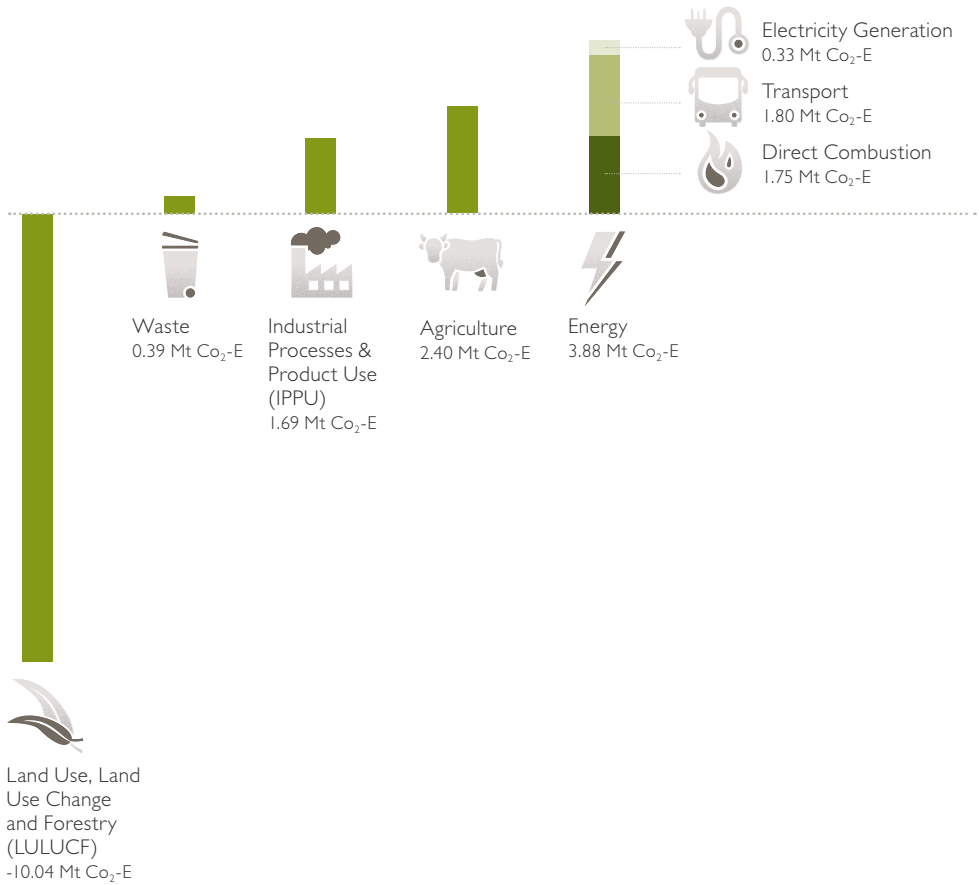
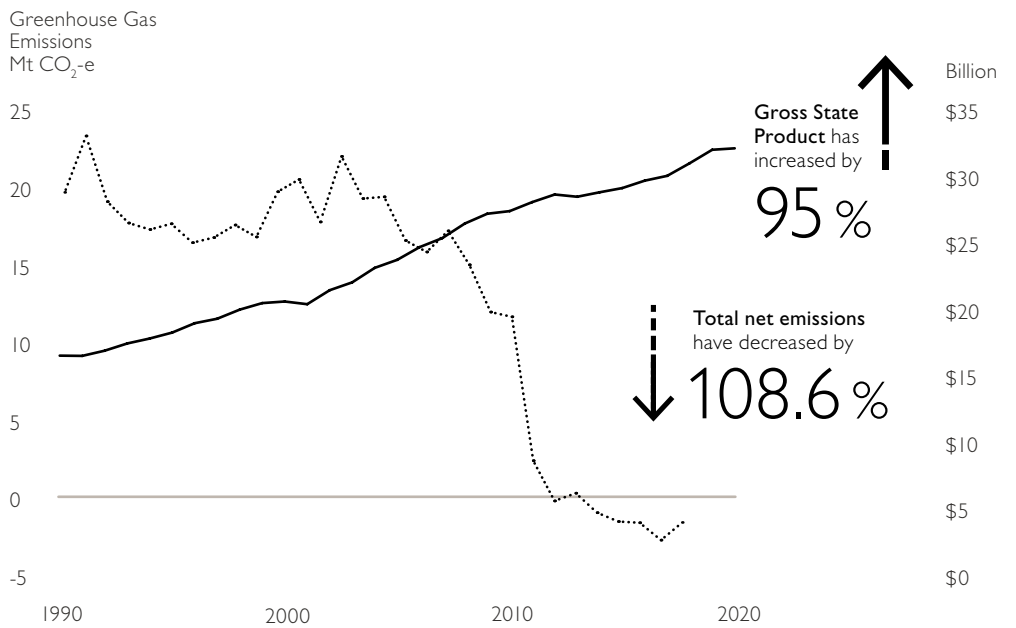


Figure 3: Change in Tasmanian emissions and real Gross State Product – 1990 to 2019



Economic opportunities of taking further climate action

The response to climate change is more than mitigating and adapting to risks. Climate change also presents economic opportunities as part of the global transition to a low emissions future. Countries, cities and companies across the world are setting ambitious emissions reduction targets and supporting the transition to net zero emissions.

Tasmania's existing low emissions status and significant renewable energy generation capacity; in addition to the target to double our renewable energy generation by 2040 and plans to export renewable hydrogen by 2030, put the State in a strong position to take advantage of emerging economic and investment opportunities as part of this global transition.

Action on climate change will attract future investment; bring new technology, skills and future industries; and generate significant brand value to Tasmania's products, services and experiences.

To give us the best chance of capturing these opportunities, the Government has established a new authority, Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT). ReCFIT will provide advice to ensure that investment in renewable energy projects, along with climate change adaptation and mitigation, are strategically considered, and that Tasmania harnesses the opportunities available to underpin the investment and employment these sectors will deliver.

The push to reduce emissions may also encourage more businesses to innovate, through research and piloting new and emerging technology. Examples include:

- ▶ Attracting investment in emerging industries, for example renewable hydrogen.
- ▶ Replacing imported fuels and materials with alternatives produced in Tasmania.
- ▶ Tasmanian farmers generating additional income and productivity from carbon farming and agroforestry.
- ▶ Tasmanian firms developing new technologies to reduce emissions, such as *Asparagopsis* feed supplement trials.

- ▶ New commercial activities to support the reuse and recycling of materials diverted from landfill.
- ▶ Tasmanian scientists at the University of Tasmania and the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies who are at the leading edge of climate science.
- ▶ Tasmania's own tourism industry, which has set itself the goal of becoming a Carbon Neutral Destination by 2025.

Last year, the Government commissioned an analysis of Tasmania's future emissions pathway; and economic analysis of the impact on industry and employment of taking further climate action.

The Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review found that, under a business-as-usual policy scenario, Tasmania loses its net zero emissions status around 2030. A best-fit emissions reduction pathway was developed, comprising 16 technically- and economically-feasible emissions reduction opportunities that align with existing Tasmanian Government policies such as AgriVision 2050 and the Tasmanian Wood Encouragement Policy. Based on the emissions reduction pathway, Tasmania's emissions are projected to remain comfortably below net zero emissions out to 2050 (Figure 4).

The Tasmanian Government is already progressing a number of initiatives that support the emissions reduction pathway, including supporting increased electric vehicle uptake, supporting our renewable energy sector and an emerging hydrogen industry, and supporting carbon farming and precision agriculture.

The economic impact analysis, delivered by Victoria University, found that implementing the best-fit emissions reduction pathway would generate increased economic and employment growth, over and above business-as-usual, from higher productivity and increasing demand for Tasmanian renewable energy and products. In 2050, Tasmania's economy is likely to be \$475 million larger (in 2021 prices, 0.9 per cent) than it would be under business-as-usual (Figure 5). Over the same period, the level of employment is estimated to be 1,200 persons higher (0.5 per cent) in 2050 compared to business-as-usual (Figure 6).

This research indicates that adopting a more ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of net zero emissions from 2030 – as proposed by the Review – is both achievable and credible and could generate higher economic growth and more employment in Tasmania.

Both the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review and the economic analysis can be found online. While the Tasmanian Government acknowledges that no analysis can capture all the risks and opportunities associated with projecting future conditions, these studies provide a solid foundation to inform decision making and determine what a low emissions future may hold.

Figure 4: Tasmania’s future emissions pathways (business-as-usual vs emissions reduction)

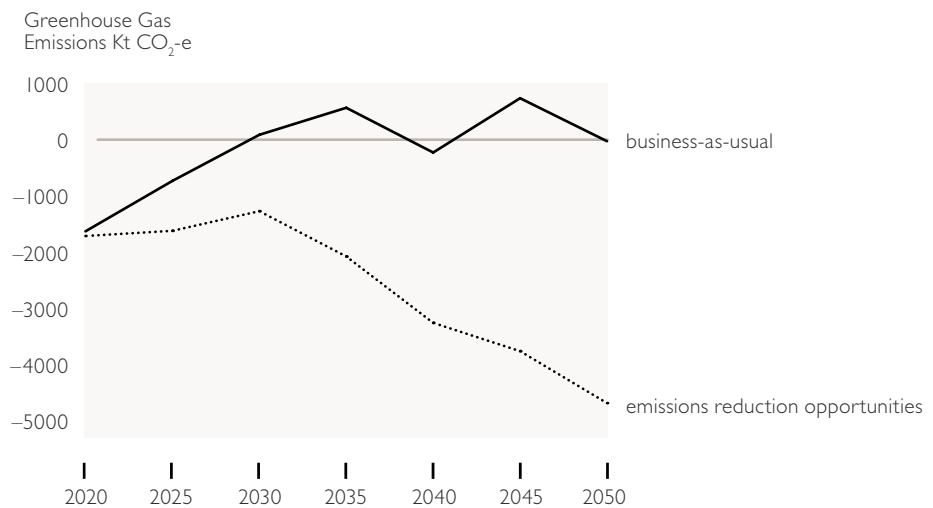


Figure 5: Taking further climate action leads to higher economic growth

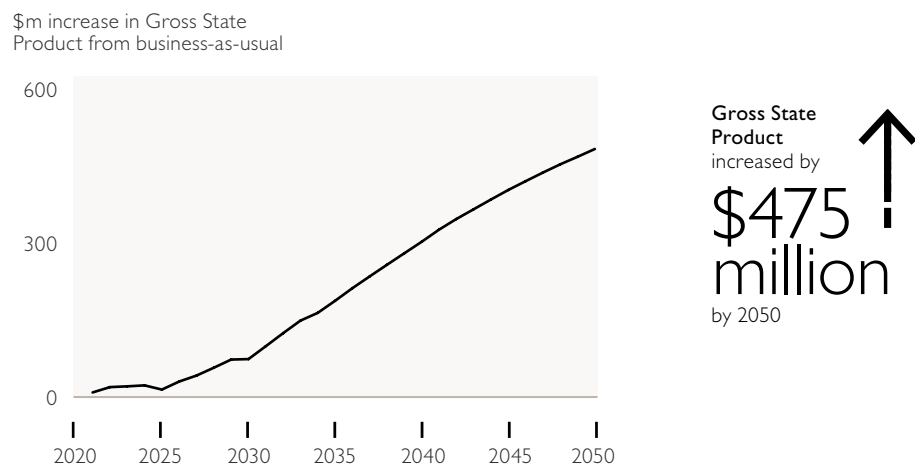
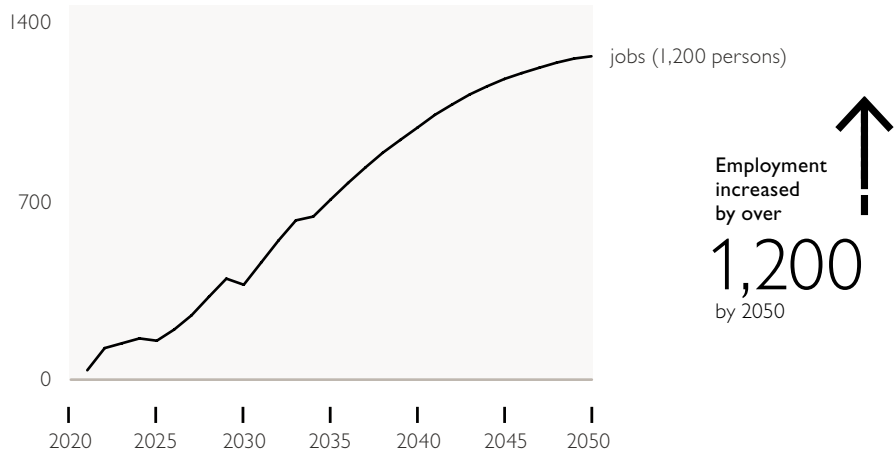


Figure 6: Taking further climate action creates more jobs

change in employment
from business-as-usual



3. Response to the Review

The Tasmanian Government supports all seven recommendations of the Review, either in full or in principle.

Table 1: Recommendations of the Review and the Tasmanian Government’s response

Recommendation	Tasmanian Government response
1. Amend the Act to legislate an emissions reduction target of net zero emissions from 2030.	✓ SUPPORT
2. Amend the Act to consolidate the existing objects of the Act around five themes.	✓ SUPPORT
3. Amend the Act to include a set of principles to guide climate action.	✓ SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE
4. Amend the Act to include the consideration of climate change in the development of relevant government policies, plans and strategies.	✓ SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE
5. Amend the Act to make the development of a Climate Action Plan a statutory requirement.	✓ SUPPORT
6. Amend the Act to require a five-yearly statewide climate risk assessment to be completed.	✓ SUPPORT
7. Amend the Act to include the completion of sector-based Decarbonisation and Resilience Plans.	✓ SUPPORT

RECOMMENDATION 1: **Net zero emissions from 2030**

Amend the Act to legislate net emissions (gross emissions less any carbon removals) are not to exceed net zero beyond 31 December 2030.

The Tasmanian Government has heard the many respondents to the Review who considered Tasmania could be more ambitious; notes the outcomes of the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review and the economic analysis; and supports the Review's recommendation to legislate an emissions reduction target for Tasmania to achieve net zero emissions from 2030.

A target of net zero emissions from 2030 would be the most ambitious legislated emissions reduction target in Australia and among the most ambitious in the world. It would position Tasmania as a global leader on climate action, sending a clear signal to industry and business to invest and create jobs in our low emissions economy. It supports Tasmania's 200 per cent Renewable Energy Target, our emerging renewable hydrogen industry; and the Tasmanian tourism industry's goal to be a Carbon Neutral Destination by 2025. It would also reinforce Tasmania's brand and its value to our products, services and experiences.

The 2030 target recognises our unique emissions and renewable energy profile, while providing business, industry and the community sufficient time to plan and continue transitioning to a lower emissions future. Importantly, in adopting an ambitious whole-of-economy target, the Government will not be legislating sectoral targets, and recognises that industries and sectors will need more time, support and research to reduce emissions in the context of the global transition.

The Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review demonstrates that a 2030 target is credible and achievable. The economic analysis shows that by taking action and implementing a range of emissions reduction opportunities to achieve the target, our economy is projected to be larger, with more Tasmanians employed, compared to a business-as-usual scenario.

Adopting a 2030 target also strengthens Australia's commitment to the Paris Agreement, by demonstrating our commitment to reduce emissions. By supporting our renewable energy and emerging hydrogen industry, Tasmania can actively contribute to reducing emissions both in Australia and internationally.

RECOMMENDATION 2: Consolidate the objects of the Act

Amend the Act to consolidate the existing objects of the Act around five themes:

- ▶ **targets and reporting**
 - ▶ **actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**
 - ▶ **adaptation to projected climate change**
 - ▶ **complementarity with national and international climate change responses**
 - ▶ **engagement and partnership**
-

The Tasmanian Government supports the Review's recommendation to consolidate the objects of the Act.

In its current form, the Act has 10 objects which establish the purpose of the Act. The Review found that the current objects of the Act are not explicit, overlap, and are poor at guiding effective climate action. Consolidating the objects of the Act will provide clarity and purpose, ensuring a robust legislative framework for evaluating climate action and the effectiveness of the Act, consistent with contemporary best practice.

The proposed new objects of the Act are:

- 1. Targets and reporting:** to set a long-term greenhouse gas emissions reduction target; and to provide Parliamentary oversight of progress towards achieving a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.
- 2. Actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:** to identify measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3. Adaptation to projected climate change:** to identify measures to adapt to climate change; and to manage the risks and opportunities of a changing climate.
- 4. Complementarity with national and international climate change responses:** to facilitate the State's contribution to international, national and local government emissions reduction efforts; and to support a balanced transition.
- 5. Engagement and partnership:** to develop a partnership approach with business, industry and the community to reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

RECOMMENDATION 3: **A set of principles to guide climate action**

Amend the Act to include a set of principles to guide climate action, such as:

Sustainable development and social equity

Climate action, and any government action that has a direct impact on climate change mitigation or adaptation efforts, should provide benefit to both current and future generations of Tasmanians. In particular, vulnerable communities and First Nations practices should be considered.

Transparency and reporting

Reporting on climate action should be timely, transparent and accurate, and made available to the public.

Science-based approach

Climate action taken should be scientifically substantiated and align with limiting global warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Integrated decision making

Decision making on climate action is integrated, addressing environmental, social and economic considerations over short-, medium-, and long-term timeframes.

Risk management

Climate action adequately reflects assessed risks, and risks of action and inaction are addressed.

Community engagement

Proposed climate action takes into account the views of interested and relevant members of the community through appropriate engagement.

Complementarity

Climate action should reflect an appropriate level of cohesion with relevant State, national, and international climate change developments.

The Tasmanian Government supports the establishment of a set of policy principles to guide climate action. This will provide guidance to decision makers to consistently consider climate change in Tasmania in relevant policies, plans and strategies, and will:

- ▶ provide meaningful guidance for decision makers on what to consider when making decisions;
- ▶ promote consistent decision making across government;
- ▶ accommodate flexibility and responsiveness in decision making;
- ▶ facilitate a long-term strategic approach;
- ▶ set a clear standard for consideration of climate change in decision making;
- ▶ ensure risks and opportunities are managed; and
- ▶ support an adaptive management approach to action on climate change.

The principles identified in the independent Review will be included in a whole-of-government policy framework (see response to Recommendation 4). Adopting a policy framework rather than a legislative approach provides for flexibility in the Government's future climate action. The policy framework will be co-designed with agencies to ensure it is flexible, fit-for-purpose, applies to relevant policies, plans and strategies, and meets community expectations.

RECOMMENDATION 4: **Relevant policies and strategies informed by climate change**

Amend the Act to include the consideration of climate change in the development of relevant government policies, plans, and strategies.

The Tasmanian Government supports requiring decision makers to consistently consider climate change in relevant policies and strategies through the development of a policy framework, rather than a legislative approach.

Other jurisdictions have adopted a range of approaches to embed climate change into decision making, including through a legislative framework; a policy framework; and a risk management approach. A key requirement found across jurisdictions is the importance of providing flexibility for decision makers, given the range of factors to be considered and the diversity of decisions climate change is relevant to.

Based on this analysis, the Tasmanian Government supports the establishment of a whole-of-government policy framework to ensure relevant Tasmanian Government plans, policies and strategies are guided by climate change.

Work will now commence across Tasmanian Government agencies to develop a whole-of-government policy framework which will consider the following elements:

- ▶ Ministerial guidelines;
- ▶ principles to guide decision making, in line with recommendation three;
- ▶ guidance material and decision support tools;
- ▶ information on recent scientific, legal and market developments; and
- ▶ training opportunities.

RECOMMENDATION 5: **Make a Climate Action Plan a legislative requirement**

Amend the Act to make the development of a Climate Action Plan (CAP) a statutory requirement. The CAP should be developed on a five-yearly basis and take into account:

- ▶ **The legislated emissions reduction target (recommendation 1).**
 - ▶ **Key objectives and targets of the latest available sectoral Decarbonisation (emissions reduction) and Resilience Plans (recommendation 7).**
 - ▶ **The revised objects and principles proposed for the Act (recommendations 2 and 3).**
 - ▶ **Latest available statewide climate change risk assessment (recommendation 6) and appropriate responses to significant risks identified.**
-

The Tasmanian Government supports amending the Act to make a Climate Action Plan a legislative requirement. It ensures that the Tasmanian Government will continue to grow our climate-ready economy, reduce emissions, build resilience and adapt to climate change.

The Climate Action Plan provides a clear direction and accountability for the Government's short- to medium-term climate change priorities and provides opportunities for industry and community input over time. It also provides an opportunity to outline the actions taken to reach our new emissions reduction target.

The 2021-22 Budget includes \$10 million for the implementation of our next Climate Action Plan, which will be used to support our industries, businesses and community to transition to a low emissions future.

RECOMMENDATION 6: **Statewide climate change risk assessment**

Amend the Act to require a five-yearly statewide climate change risk assessment to be completed. The risk assessment process should incorporate the following:

- ▶ **The first risk assessment to be completed prior to July 2022 and completed every five years following that date.**
 - ▶ **The latest and best available science.**
 - ▶ **Consideration of economic, social, and environmental implications of climate change and assessment of the associated risks to Tasmanian communities, natural environments and ecosystems, and economic activity.**
-

The Tasmanian Government supports legislating a requirement for a statewide climate change risk assessment.

The Tasmanian Government recognises that Tasmania has experienced a number of natural hazard events in recent years and that, under a changing climate, these are projected to increase in frequency. Tasmanians expect their Government to plan for the future, based on the best available evidence, and a statewide climate change risk assessment supports future planning.

A specific climate change risk assessment will complement a number of existing Tasmanian Government initiatives, including:

- ▶ The development of the Tasmanian Planning Policies and review of the Regional Land Use Strategies, which provide opportunities to further integrate climate change considerations into the Tasmanian Planning System
- ▶ The 2021 Tasmanian State Natural Disaster Risk Assessment
- ▶ Work underway to implement recommendations from the Premier's Economic and Social Recovery Advisory Council (PESRAC) final report; in particular the project to identify high-consequence risks to which the community is exposed and implement mitigating strategies for these risks

This work will get underway in 2022.

RECOMMENDATION 7: Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans

Amend the Act to include the completion of sector-based Decarbonisation (emissions reduction) and Resilience Plans (Plans). In preparing these Plans, it is recommended that the following are considered:

- ▶ **Relevant Ministers are responsible for the development of the Plans for the following key sectors: State Government operations, energy, transport, agriculture, and industry. Plans may be developed for sectors or systems beyond these on a voluntary basis.**
 - ▶ **Plans should be developed in partnership with representatives from each sector, with representation from interested and relevant members of the community, business and industry organisations, and State and local government.**
 - ▶ **Plans should be developed in accordance with the proposed principles of the Act.**
 - ▶ **Plans for key sectors are to be completed by 2026 and updated on a five-yearly basis following the release of the first Plans.**
 - ▶ **The Plans are to include rolling five- and 10-year emissions reduction targets and a 2050 emissions reduction target for the sector.**
 - ▶ **Plans should include implementation planning and/or identify research and development projects for emissions reduction opportunities (and their expected reduction potential).**
 - ▶ **A climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan is included in each Plan, that demonstrates the planning of, or outcomes for, improved resilience for each sector.**
 - ▶ **The Plans are presented to Parliament and made public.**
 - ▶ **Annual reporting on policies, initiatives, and programs that are developed to meet the objectives and targets of the Plans is carried out. Five-yearly review and reporting of the outcomes of each Plan should be completed.**
-

The Tasmanian Government supports legislating a requirement for Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans (Plans), but not sector-based emissions reduction targets.

The Tasmanian Government knows that business and industry need sufficient time and support to plan to adapt and transition to a low emissions economy. The Plans will be developed in partnership between Government and industry and recognise that emissions reduction opportunities in some sectors, such as agriculture and industrial processes, require further research, investment and time to develop the necessary technology and skills in the context of the global transition.

Plans will be developed in partnership with industry and businesses from the following sectors and sub-sectors: Energy; Transport; Industrial Processes and Product Use; Agriculture; Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry; and Waste. These sectors are consistent with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change emissions sectors. As recommended by the Review, a Plan will also be developed for Tasmanian Government Operations to continue the Government's leadership by example.

This work will start today. Working groups will be established in partnership with business and industry, to develop these plans, and it is our intention that all key sectors will have an agreed plan within two years of the passage of the new Act.

The 2021-22 Budget includes funding of \$10 million for our next climate action plan, which will be used to support our industries and community to transition to a low emissions future.

Next steps

The Government will release a draft Bill to amend the Act for public consultation over five weeks, with a view to tabling the final amendment Bill in Parliament this year.

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