

Tasmanian Climate Change Office
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 123
Hobart TAS 7001

By email: climatechange@dpac.tas.gov.au

14 November 2021

Submission on the draft Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

My submission relates to the industry sector of land use, land-use change and forestry – in particular, forestry.

In my opinion, climate science is not being adequately applied to forestry in Tasmania, and the Bill needs to be strengthened in that respect. The Minister and the Office ought to make their positions very clear on forestry as it relates to climate change.

Currently, the forestry and timber industry groups are resisting the overwhelming scientific consensus that the logging of native forests is detrimental in relation to climate change.

In short, taking into account carbon storage in wood and offsets (production replacement e.g. using timber instead of concrete, steel, aluminium etc.), and even without considering the increasing role that renewable energy will have in driving industry, harvesting native forests will result in a very significant net loss of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, particularly in the vital decades ahead.

I believe that at the moment Tasmanians are having a false debate about logging of native forests because one side, mainly represented by the forestry and timber industry, continues to deny the science. It behooves the government, represented by the Climate Change Office and the Minister for Climate Change, to influence the debate by being explicit about forestry and climate science. With that accomplished, the debate can move forward, and embrace appropriate economic and social factors.

I have two recommendations for the Bill:

1. Mandatory consideration of best available science on impacts of industry on climate change
2. Sector-specific emissions reductions targets

Best available science on impacts of industry on climate change

Currently, s 5A(4)(b) and 5B(2)(a) requires the Minister, when developing a climate change action plan and a statewide climate change risk assessment respectively, to

take into account 'the latest and best available science on the projected impacts of climate change on Tasmania'.

This mandatory consideration is directed to the latest and best evidence on the impacts *of* climate change *on* Tasmania.

In my view, the Minister should also be required to expressly consider the latest and best evidence *on* the impacts of particular industries *on* climate change. This would assist the Minister to assess and reduce the contributions of particular industries, including the forestry industry, to greenhouse gas emissions in the State.

The industry sectors required to be considered can be drawn from the sectors already identified in the Bill (see, eg s 5C(1)), which includes land use, land-use change and forestry.

Sector-specific emissions reductions targets

In my view, the Government should legislate a requirement for sector-based emissions reductions targets, not only emissions reduction and resilience plans.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours sincerely

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