

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft Bill to amend the Climate Change Act (draft Bill).

As a scientist, mother and human who cares about future generations, I simply ask that you take this opportunity to further strengthen the Climate Change Act, as recommended by Climate Tasmania and the University of Tasmania in their submissions. There is no need for me to repeat their recommendations. They are the experts. All I ask is that you listen to the experts and act accordingly.

Tasmania has successfully saved many lives by acting on scientific recommendations of epidemiologists and other experts during the Covid 19 pandemic. The threat of catastrophic climate change is far greater and requires more ambitious legislative changes than those detailed in the draft Bill.

The major political parties have been too slow to accept the recommendations of climate scientists and continue to demonstrate reluctance to act on scientific advice with sufficient urgency. The draft Bill is evidence of this reluctance. It fails to treat the climate emergency as the genuine emergency it clearly is.

It is good to see that the Tasmanian government accepts all the recommendations of the Jacobs review, at least in principle. It would be better to see the following inclusions in the draft Bill:

- Legislated sector targets with specific interim (5 yearly) targets
- A plan and mechanisms to rapidly phase out fossil fuels across all sectors
- An end to native forest logging and a transition to farm forestry
- A statutory Independent Climate Commission to oversee the rapid decarbonisation of the Tasmanian economy. This Commission should act on the best scientific advice as it becomes available.

For decades, climate scientists have been asking those in power to act to avoid the climate crisis. After years of denial and delay, governments are finally starting to respond to varying degrees. History will judge if you have responded appropriately. The stakes could not be higher. This is your opportunity to set Tasmania on a path for a decarbonised future while making us all proud of our contribution. Please act for future generations of Tasmanians.

kind regards
Sharee McCammon