



Submission to the consultation on Tasmania's draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25)

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About Farmers for Climate Action

Farmers for Climate Action is a movement of more than 7,750 farmers, graziers, and agricultural industry leaders, focused on advancing climate solutions. Our rapidly growing network, drawn from diverse agricultural industries and all sides of politics, is united by a common goal: to ensure deep emissions reductions right across the economy this decade and that farmers are part of the solution. Our work is science based and non-partisan, drawing upon the best available evidence to inform advocacy in the agricultural sector.

Farmers for Climate Action's network includes almost 400 farmers in Tasmania along with 1400 supporters.

Introduction

Farmers for Climate Action thanks the Tasmanian government and Tasmanian Climate Change Office for the opportunity to comment on the draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 (the draft Action Plan).

Tasmania is in an enviable position with regard to greenhouse gas emissions, having achieved net zero in 2014 and maintaining that record for the seven subsequent years, however there are opportunities to do more and become a significant carbon sink, leading the world with negative emissions and perhaps even selling carbon credits. There are enormous untapped marketing advantages available to the Tasmanian economy to capitalise on our net zero status.

Clearly, nowhere on earth is immune from the impacts of global climate change, and predictions of further increases in temperatures, more extreme weather events, bushfires and floods.,

We must act now to grasp the jobs and opportunities a low-emissions economy presents, as well as to mitigate our impact and adapt to the future. Renewable energy jobs, hydrogen jobs, and diversified income for farmers through growing native vegetation for carbon credits are just some of the opportunities available in our state.

Tasmanian farmers are prepared to do what is necessary. FCA and our Tasmanian Working Group look forward to working with the government on the development of sector based emissions reduction and adaptation plans, particularly for agriculture. We acknowledge that this is where significant work and complexity will come into the state's response to climate change, and are prepared to assist where we can.

Recommendations

."Independent Review of the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008: Tasmanian Government Response 2021" (Hobart: Tasmanian Government, 2021).

.International Energy Agency, "Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector" (International Energy Agency, May 2021).

https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/405543d2-054d-4cbd-9b89-d174831643a4/NetZeroBy2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector_CORR.pdf.

1. Develop and implement the Action Plan now
2. Commit to genuine emissions reductions in sectors with high emissions
3. Capitalise on net zero
4. Provide the significant funding required to fully achieve the Act's objectives and give all elements the best chance of success

1. Work with urgency

The Action Plan will provide a strong legislative framework for Tasmania to respond to climate change, but it is only the beginning of much of the work that will be required.

Tasmanians stand to benefit from clear plans and stable policies when planning for their own climate future. This will provide farmers, businesses and communities with the certainty required to plan for disruption and transition where necessary. It's imperative the government comprehends the severity of the situation, and acts accordingly to prepare Tasmania for the inevitable climate impacts. FCA urges the government to work with urgency following the adoption of the Action Plan to establish all of the requisite bodies, plans and protocols required to put the Plan into action.

2. Commit to genuine emissions reductions in sectors with high emissions

Tasmania has one of the most advanced emissions profiles in the world. Nonetheless, any and all emissions are still contributing to the cumulative level of damaging greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.²

Tasmania has a high level of abatement from LULUCF, accounting for negative 10.04 Mt CO₂-E.³ This should not be used to avoid the necessary emissions reduction from avoidable areas, particularly across transport and industry. The government should have a long term plan to phase out the use of fossil fuels in the state. This must include a plan to convert high emission industrial sites, such as the cement plant at Railton and the Bell Bay smelter, to green energy. At the same time, a comprehensive plan should be developed to assist the Fingal Valley community presently employed in the coal industry to shift into alternative employment, while carrying out proper rehabilitation of redundant mine sites in the area.

3. Capitalise on net zero

We suggest the Tasmanian government capitalises on our enviable emissions profile to add a net zero tagline to the Tasmanian Brand. Consumers worldwide are increasingly seeking out genuine climate friendly products, which they are often prepared to pay higher prices for. This is a great fit for the Tasmanian economy, being a small scale

² "Independent Review of the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008: Tasmanian Government Response 2021" (Hobart: Tasmanian Government, 2021).

³ International Energy Agency, "Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector" (International Energy Agency, May 2021).

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producer of high value products. Every bale of wool, bottle of wine or T-Bone steak produced in Tasmania could carry a sticker branding it as 'Tasmanian Net Zero 2023', and FCA acknowledges the work being done in this area by the Tasmanian tourism industry. The potential boost to the Tasmanian economy is enormous, and would encourage the Tasmanian public to support further government climate action.

4. Provide significant funding

For the Action Plan to be successful in achieving its objectives, there needs to be significant funding provided to the departments responsible for delivery. We encourage the government to be prepared to provide a substantial budget allocation to the task.

Conclusion

Tasmania is currently a world leader in achieving net zero emissions. The Action Plan allows Tasmania to leverage our current position, providing a solid foundation for both mitigation and adaptation. We can capitalise on the marketing advantage from our enviable emissions profile, to lock in a premium for our farmers and our economy, which will set us up for the future.

We can draw up solutions to convert high emission industrial plants to clean energy, including a long term transition plan for those currently employed in the fossil fuel industry.

Farmers for Climate Action encourages the Tasmanian government to ensure the enactment of the Action Plan is guided by strong principles and the best available science. We look forward to working with you further to prepare Tasmanian agriculture for what the future holds.