

Review of the Tasmanian Climate Change Act and the Climate Change Action Plan Discussion Paper City of Hobart - Officer Comment

Senior Climate Change Officer

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Discussion Paper on Tasmania’s Climate Change Act

Question	SCCO Officer Comment
<p>To what extent should climate change considerations influence policies and decisions by State government agencies and government business enterprises?</p>	<p>Climate change is a wicked problem and a threat multiplier –it is estimated that natural disasters will cost Australia \$39 billion annually by 2050.</p> <p>Responding to climate change requires an integrated systems and evidence-based approach across <u>all sectors</u>: public and private, with action required across the policy spheres of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation • Mitigation • Leadership <p>Collaborative strategies are considered the most appropriate approach to tackling complex problems, which inherently require behavioural and organisational change as part of their solution. The Tasmanian Government is the dominant actor and as such has a key leadership role across its functions, operations and services to facilitate policies and decisions making processes, and their extension and influence across all Tasmanian sectors.</p> <p>In addition to the Tasmanian Government’s central role in influencing agencies and GBE’s it also has a key role in supporting local government to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with its adaptation approaches and to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in local communities.</p> <p>Local government does not have constitutional power and as the tier of government established by the State to deliver their legislation, they do this well where there are formal processes and guidelines / templates in place. However where there is no such framing local government responses may be: ad hoc, populist, mismatched, mal-adaptive, duplicate effort and resources, and fragmented. As such there is a clear and demonstrated need for the Tasmanian government to provide systemic climate response applied across its functions and their varied roles in support private and public sectors in responding to climate change. Strong actions would complement and intersect with local government action, promote good governance, mitigate risks and increase resilience across local communities.</p>
<p>How important is it to you that the Tasmanian government systematically assess and disclose the main risks associated with projected climate change?</p>	<p>The Tasmanian government’s role includes: managing risks to public goods and assets (including the natural environment), service delivery and creating an institutional, market and regulatory environment to support and promote public/private adaptation. They also have direct relationships with local governments who identify and manage risks within communities.</p> <p>Hence it is critical that the Tasmanian government systematically assesses and discloses risks associated with projected climate change along with local and regional science and information; and promote a risk management response to climate adaptation. Disclosure of such risk enables informed decision making by key stakeholders, including local government, in their management of climate risks and hazards, and contributes to the wellbeing of Tasmanian communities.</p> <p>Systemic assessment and disclosure by the Tasmanian government is considered critical to the role and good governance of local government. Local government, as the third and non-constitutional tier of government, plays a fundamental role in helping to build resilient communities, contribute to the development of a healthy environment, and promote local economies. Good governance is critical to local government’s success in carrying out these functions that inherently includes the management of risk. In this capacity local government is acknowledged as having the most significant role in responding to climate</p>

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	<p>change given its immediate proximity to the community. This also exposes it to liability for its decisions in relation to climate responses, and places considerable resource implications on it to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare, respond and recover from climate hazard events; • future proof its assets, programs and services; • ensure its corporate governance systems are suitable to manage uncertainty, transition and disruption; and • engage with the community to inform and support in climate action <p>A key barrier to local government is their exposure to potential liability associated with their climate related decision making, or lack thereof, and a key factor in mitigating this risk is the provision of information and policy settings by State and Commonwealth governments</p>
<p>How might the Act provide you with confidence that successive State governments will continue to act to contain/reduce Tasmania’s emissions and build climate resilience?</p>	<p>The Tasmanian government is to be commended on the retention, under successive governments, of its <i>Climate Change Act (Tas) 2008</i> and commitment to State-based targets. The continuation of its efforts has been achieved through: the pragmatic program delivered by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office positioned in the Department of Premier and Cabinet; climate friendly state attributes such as renewables making goals achievable; and acute societal awareness of the state-wide vulnerabilities to intensified natural hazards such as bushfire, drought/flood and coastal erosion. It is anticipated that successive governments going forward, given increased societal awareness and acceptance of climate action, will retain these functions and commitments, which have significant reputational and practical social and economic outcomes for the incumbent government.</p> <p>Whilst there are many drivers for ongoing action, and with Tasmania being one of the first state to formalise climate based legislation, there is an opportunity to deepen its action through the review of the Act. Other States have more recently enacted legislation that is more detailed and sets clear processes for the achievement of mitigation and adaptation outcomes, with the effect of greater institutionalisation of climate action. Of particular note is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Victorian Climate Change Act 2017</i> • <i>NSW Coastal Management Framework including the Coastal Management Act NSW 2016</i> • <i>Local Government Act NSW 1993 SECT 733</i> <p>These more recent clearly provide institutional framing for adaptation responses in addition to ongoing commitments to emissions reduction. This is of particular relevance as whilst State’s have a clear role in contributing towards the Australian Government’s Nationals Determined Contributions there needs to be greater engagement in adaptation to unavoidable impacts inherent with 1.5 C of warming. It is considered that carbon reductions are increasingly and more deeply driven through markets, at global scales, whereas significant effort is required in the more complex and area of adaptation of at national, state and local levels. They require high level regional strategic approaches that incorporate systemic and institutionalisation of assessment of integrated risk, along with place-based approaches to understand community values and facilitate social licence and equity of outcomes across communities.</p>
<p>How might the Act drive further decarbonisation of the Tasmanian economy (e.g. via setting/legislating targets for sectors of the economy, potentially including interim targets)?</p>	<p><u>Sectoral emissions:</u></p> <p>Overall there is support for the setting of and/or legislation for emissions reduction targets from identified carbon intensive sectors. This is a recognised and effective ways to drive emissions reductions over time enabling transparency, scalability as technology and capacity increases. Though it is noted that this should occur where there is a clear capacity and responsibility for those emissions and that there is a transparent reporting platform.</p> <p><u>Local government corporate emissions:</u></p> <p>From a local government sectoral perspective corporate council targets have been successful in not only reducing emissions, but have also resulted in significant cost savings through increased energy efficiencies. The City of Hobart’s programs realised savings of over \$1m per annum across its corporate assets.</p>

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	<p>Whilst not mandatory corporate council targets should be encouraged and a common reporting platform provided by the State for all councils to be able to register their efforts and demonstrate efficiencies.</p> <p>It is noted that the City of Hobart, Clarence, Kingborough and Brighton have prepared various resources to assist councils to establish program including inventory of classes of assets and services, accounting resources and peer to peer sharing, and have recently worked with Launceston to develop theirs. It is further noted that council corporate emissions are typically less than 1% of community (municipal emissions), so whilst not significant contributor they do demonstrate leadership.</p> <p><u>Community (municipal) emissions:</u></p> <p>Given its proximity to community there is ongoing pressure for councils, from local advocacy groups and NGO’s, to adopt community (municipal) emissions reduction targets. Whilst these are considered aspirational and are widely engaged in by councils they are also problematic in that there is no agreed/formalised methodology to accurately record and measure community emissions; unlike the State and private sectors councils do not have direct control of community emissions; reporting reductions duplicates or claim efforts of other actors; and they are resource intensive.</p> <p>If it was desirable that there were municipal targets then these should be supported by the State through the provision of annual municipal scale emissions profiles and an aligned reporting platform.</p> <p>It is noted that the Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority has developed a methodology and relevant data sharing agreements to produce community-wide emissions and energy profiles for the 12 southern Tasmanian councils. This has been peer reviewed and met national and international reporting protocols. It would desirable if these were extended to all councils and a platform established where these contributions could be readily and easily accessed by communities to assist in their understanding of the effectiveness of efforts.</p> <p>It is further noted that there are a number of community profile resources available however they are unsuitable and inaccurate in a Tasmanian context as it has a low emissions intensity due to renewable hydro, and the tools are typically an extrapolation from states that have high emissions factors due to their energy being derived from fossil fuels.</p>
<p>If the Act were to espouse principles that would guide consideration of climate change by government, its agencies and business enterprises, what might they be?</p>	<p>It is considered that the principles should reflect the States roles and responsibilities (in italics below) and align to those of other States emphasising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence based decision making - founded on the best scientific knowledge • integrated decision making • risk management • equity/social justice • community engagement • compatibility - harmonisation and standardisation of climate action • leadership and strategic direction for building a more resilient state <p>State Roles and responsibilities: (These are provided from the <i>Roles And Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation</i>; Select Committee on Climate Change, COAG 2012):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide local and regional science and information</i> • <i>Manage State assets and programs</i> • <i>Work with Commonwealth to implement reform</i> • <i>Encourage climate action specifically:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>promoting a risk management response to climate change adaptation by government and the private parties through appropriate forums,;</i>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>ensuring State and Territory regulatory and market frameworks promote effective adaptation by private parties, using market mechanisms where these are likely to be most effective;</i> ▪ <i>ensuring existing and new state planning, property and environmental legislation and policy encourages effective adaptation by asset owners and managers;</i> ▪ <i>working with the Commonwealth government to identify and implement priorities to improve adaptive capacity and strengthen climate resilience in vulnerable communities;</i> ▪ <i>supporting Local Government to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with State Government adaptation approaches and to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community.</i>
<p>Within the context of global agreements to action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, what do you consider to be the main roles of the Tasmanian government and how effective do you believe the government has been?</p>	<p>The Tasmanian government has a clear role to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support national commitments for emissions reductions through its delivery of programs and services across its agencies and GBE's • provide leadership to private sector for emissions reduction • coordinate and monitor sectoral emissions • establish regulatory and market framings for decarbonisation across the economy <p>Given the lack of Commonwealth leadership and policy vacuum, State governments Australia-wide have taken leadership role across their communities, including the Tasmanian Government, and are to be commended for their commitments. It is further recognised that the State governments do not set the carbon accounting methodologies (emissions factors) these are led by the Australian government and in the Tasmanian context recent changes to the Land Use and Land Use Forestry Change have benefited the State, resulting in a carbon sink. It recognised that in spite of this the Tasmanian government has continued to implement programs to reduce emissions in more carbon intensive sectors of the economy.</p>
<p>What would Tasmania be like in 10 years' time if it was a national or international leader in climate change responses?</p>	<p>Tasmania's size (population and island) and scale, and proximity to governance and research institutions could make an exemplar of co-design and institutionalisation of climate response and resilience.</p> <p>As a leader in climate change responses Tasmania would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partner and co-design with local government climate resilience programs that increase climate governance, build capacity within councils, and address barriers such as: exposure to liability and planning legislation through formalisation of action, supporting implementation and reporting metrics • understand the climate risks and hazards, be prepared for and resilient to loss (of landscapes, values) • have good climate literacy across all sectors and the community in general • strategically manage its transition a low carbon economy with minimal disruptions across communities and sectors • integrate climate change risks and hazards into legislation and thereby creating a proactive head-of power rather than reactive and punitive response • embrace agile decision making formed from a science and evidence-based approach • have clarity around roles and community engagement and participation in governance processes..
<p>What would you consider to be an appropriate long-term greenhouse gas emissions or emissions reduction target for Tasmania (in terms of date and level of emissions or emissions reduction)?</p>	<p>Tasmania's targets should be evidence based and aligned to supporting sub-national contributions to the Australian government Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement regardless of whether the State is a signatory or not. Emissions reduction efforts should focus on sectors where real emissions can be achieved and will assist is supporting the transition to low carbon economy.</p>

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<p>What (if any) value do you think targets for specific sectors of the economy would offer, including for the sector itself? If you agree with the concept of sectoral emissions targets, which sectors should have emissions targets? Why?</p>	<p>The City of Hobart has set and exceeded two tranches of voluntary corporate emissions targets of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% greenhouse reduction from 2000 levels by 2010 • 20 % greenhouse & 35% energy reduction from 2010 levels by 2020 <p>The City of Hobart’s direct experience of the values and outcomes attributable to their corporate emissions targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reputational values increased across local government peers and the community in general • demonstration and acknowledge of leadership leading by example across its community • strategic prioritisation of works and allocation of appropriate budgets • realisation of significant costs savings demonstrating good financial management – the CoH through its corporate program saves over \$1m pa • increase capacity within the City’s corporate functions, rather than reliance on external sources • improved management and performance of corporate assets • increased awareness internally across its workforce and the broader community of emissions and energy savings. <p>It is considered that these values and outcomes would translate similarly to sectors of the economy setting targets.</p> <p>Sectoral targets for the broader Tasmanian economy should be identified through evidence based analysis and include considerations which include: multiple outcomes, meaningful quantifiable contributions to real reductions and transparency and accessibility to communities</p>
<p>What key factors should influence Government decisions to set State, sectoral and/or interim targets?</p>	<p>The Government should consider impacts and/or unintended consequences where emissions abatement opportunities are limited, require significant capital investment, or are reliant on emerging technology.</p>
<p>What do you consider to be the main risks and opportunities for Tasmania as it continues to transition towards a low/zero carbon economy and society? What risks and opportunities may arise if Tasmania transitions more slowly/more rapidly?</p>	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The costs of emissions reduction are far less than the damages of inaction, with transitioning to a low/zero carbon economy and society offering a range of co-benefits, including access to more affordable investment capital, improvements in biodiversity and air quality, reduced energy use and costs. <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A low carbon transition will need to be carefully executed to minimise transition risks and impacts on communities and businesses. Need to consider people’s work, stranded assets and operations, regulatory and technological changes and stakeholder expectations.
<p>What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting Tasmania’s low/zero carbon transition?</p>	<p>Support – targeted funding and consistent tools / processes to support councils in responding to climate change and transitioning to a low/zero carbon society. More broadly, identifying and supporting people in carbon-intensive sectors to transition, providing re-training as necessary, to move to low-carbon sectors.</p> <p>Partnerships – the government to work side-by-side with councils in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by a changing climate (about working together and involving Local Government).</p> <p>Leadership – framing responses to support climate action, demonstration of what can be done (see above).</p>
<p>What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting Tasmanian communities,</p>	<p>Climate impacts, physical, social and cultural, do not happen in isolation, require action from all stakeholders through an evidence based integrated systems to facilitate climate resilience. The Tasmanian Government has the key role to coordinate and promote a standardised and harmonised risk management approach to managing climate risk including</p>

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<p>infrastructure, economic activities and environments in becoming more resilient to projected climate change?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting a risk management response to climate change adaptation by government and the private parties through appropriate forums,; • ensuring State and Territory regulatory and market frameworks promote effective adaptation by private parties, using market mechanisms where these are likely to be most effective; • ensuring existing and new state planning, property and environmental legislation and policy encourages effective adaptation by asset owners and managers; • working with the Commonwealth government to identify and implement priorities to improve adaptive capacity and strengthen climate resilience in vulnerable communities; and • supporting Local Government to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with State Government adaptation approaches and to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community • Provide local and regional science and information where that information is most effectively delivered at the local and regional scale (eg. where links with ecological, biophysical or social processes are critical such as fine-scaled projections of inundation or coastal erosion) to assist both government and private parties in assessing climate risks and adapting to climate change
<p>Other comments on Discussion Paper</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Climate Change Act (Tas) 2008 has a strong emphasis on State based emissions reduction, enabling alignment and transparency towards national and international obligations for mitigation. Whilst it is critical that anthropogenic emissions are reduced greater emphasis is required for the development of adaptation pathways. There is a considerable gap when it comes to: adaptation pathway planning and the framing of integrated system responses, seeking opportunities to partner with key stakeholders to co-design to formalise and standardising of responses, systems and processes. 2. Acknowledging that many councils are already making efforts in this area there is a requirement for more direct conversation/advocacy for local government to support its adaptation role from an institutional and structural perspective that strengthens climate governance and mitigates liability. <p>There is an evident need for the Tasmanian government to formalise standardised and harmonised local government adaptation systems and processes. Councils, in the first instance, are established by the State to deliver its legislation at the local level. To be effective at the corporate level local government adaptation needs to be framed in a similar format that in which it delivers other jurisdictional functions such development planning, environmental health and emergency management which a head of power and clear processes/templates for that enable them to tailor for their local community circumstance and characteristics.</p> <p>Without such an approach efforts are: ad hoc, populist, mismatched, uneven, duplication of effort and led by external interests (consultants/NGO's and continual subscription) that do not create, or embed, the necessary corporate climate governance required. Such an approach would enable all council's to get their 'houses-in-order' and provide clarity and transparency enabling broader and deeper action at a community/multi sectoral /regional level where expectations and real outcomes can achieved and trust can be built. Without such an approach adaptation lacks the necessary drivers for council prioritisation as General Managers/CEO seek to discharge their corporate duties which are measured against the delivery of statutory roles and responsibilities that are inherently reactive and do not effectively provide for the management of strategic future risk. Whilst some councils are forging adaptation approaches not all have capacity or drivers and without the consistency and harmonisation of structural and institutional framing for all local governments this ultimately leads to climate mal-adaptation, and social injustice and inequality across communities</p> 3. Given the complexity and scale of the issues greater attention needs to paid to roles and responsibilities (as outlines below) and co-design and resourcing to support integrated and evidence based approaches to mitigation and adaptation. <p>Local government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement relevant State/Cth legislation • Manage climate impacts and risks on assets council owned assets and services • Reduce greenhouse gases/energy use across council owned assets and services • Ensure council policies and regulations incorporate climate considerations and are consistent with State Cth approaches • Collaborate across councils and the State on regional climate impacts and risks

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in local communities by providing climate information (so they can manage climate risk) • Work across key stakeholders (community NGO's, business and residential) to manage climate risk and impacts <p>The State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide local and regional science and information • Manage State assets and programs • Work with Cth to implement reform • Encourage climate action specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promoting a risk management response to climate change adaptation by government and the private parties through appropriate forums,; ○ ensuring State and Territory regulatory and market frameworks promote effective adaptation by private parties, using market mechanisms where these are likely to be most effective; ○ ensuring existing and new state planning, property and environmental legislation and policy encourages effective adaptation by asset owners and managers; ○ working with the Commonwealth government to identify and implement priorities to improve adaptive capacity and strengthen climate resilience in vulnerable communities; and ○ supporting Local Government to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with State Government adaptation approaches and to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community. <p>The private sector (community) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware of the risks and their responsibility for managing them; • take steps to understand the magnitude and nature of the specific risks to their assets and activities; and • develop and implement strategies and actions to manage the risks and reduce emissions/energy use

Developing a New Climate Action Plan for Tasmania

Question	SCCO Comment
<p>What do you think are the key opportunities to reduce Tasmania's emissions? Please choose your top three.</p>	<p>There needs to be a transparent and coherent conversation around roles and responsibilities for emission/energy reductions to provide visibility for all stakeholders as to where/how emission reductions can be realised, are occurring and opportunities to do so, and who has responsibility to lead, coordinate and collaborate.</p> <p>From a local governments perspective councils have a clear responsibility to reduce emissions (and energy) from their corporate assets, services and programs including waste management, demonstrating leadership within their communities. And whilst there are influential calls from local and global NGO's and community based organisations for the local government sector to set community based zero emission targets across their municipal areas, this can only be achieved in partnership with State governments and private sectors. Whilst the intent is admirable in practice it is flawed as councils typically control less than 1% of their municipal area's emissions meaning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expectations can't be met resulting in the potential for eroding of trust • emissions reductions across the community sector are typically due to the efforts of other actors such as the State or Commonwealth, rather than local government • duplication of accounting can occur <p>For community based targets to be meaningful the leadership of the State is required to ensure that community based emissions programs are aligned, there is clear visibility of who is responsible and the measurement of sectors. Partnerships should be entered into with local governments</p> <p>It is further noted that community based accounting tools such as climate snapshot are not relevant for Tasmanian context as they are based on extrapolation of emissions from other state jurisdictions have much higher emissions factors due to their energy being based on fossil fuels. It is also noted that these emissions intensities have in past precluded Tasmania from various energy efficiency programs as thresholds were not able to be met.</p>
<p>What do you think are the key gaps in Tasmania's current efforts to reduce emissions?</p>	<p>Please refer to comment above Gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders clearly articulated and promoted to enable clarity and transparency for actions • Common reporting methods and platform for stakeholders that aligns to Tasmanian governments contribution to emissions reduction • Partnership between State government and councils for energy efficiency programs to support vulnerable communities and more broadly achieve efficiencies across Tasmania
<p>What do you think are the main opportunities for Tasmania to transition to a low carbon economy?</p>	<p>Tasmania has considerable assets including: renewable energy (wind and hydro); an island state; proximity between the sectors of: local and state government, research, industry and private/community that may give it advantage in transitioning to low carbon economy. For the transition to be equitable and with the least disruption, effort should applied to understanding where the vulnerabilities and transition hinge points exist, who will be effected and how these can be mitigated particularly in the areas of transport and circular economies.</p>
<p>What aspects of Tasmania's projected future climate most concern you and why?</p>	<p>Climate impacts tend to be viewed through a siloed lens and whilst there are undoubtedly significant risks associated with hazards such as bushfire, flooding, coastal erosion and so on it is: cascading, compounding, coinciding and concatenating impacts that are of greatest concern.</p> <p>The complexity of climate impacts and trajectories are not adequately or effectively addressed through the current institutional and structural framings which are geared to management of singular issues rather than issues with significant interplay.</p> <p>Greater consideration is required to support preparedness, and adaptation pathways planning through a harmonised and collaborative approach by key stakeholders including councils and the State government agencies. It should be based on systems thinking and solutions to deal with complexity avoiding possible inconsistent, ad hoc, mal-adaptive, fragmented and social –in-equitable responses.</p>

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	<p>Consideration also needs to be given to secondary impacts such as climate gentrification, economic transition to low carbon economies and financial disruptions and emotional/psychological trauma experienced across communities.</p> <p>Through the auspices of Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority southern councils have sought to understand and manage climate risks and hazards through the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Program. Their experiences have highlighted common risks to councils at both operational and governance functions, regardless of the size, resource capacity or political support and highlight the need for a harmonised and systems based approach to support the development of localised responses based on each council's individual circumstance and communities characteristics and needs.</p>
<p>Which parts of Tasmania (for example locations, industries, communities) do you think are most vulnerable to a changing climate?</p>	<p>Climate shapes our landscapes and communities/society, and its intensification through increased emissions is resulting in changes in ways that are not necessarily anticipated or understood. As such there are no aspects of Tasmania that are not affected directly or indirectly by climate change, however the sectors currently most vulnerable to current risks are anticipated to increase their exposure with the least capacity and resources to adapt.</p> <p>The proximity of councils to their communities, combined with their jurisdictional roles of land use planning, compliance, environmental health and municipal service delivery give them unique insights into their communities. There is a need for the state and councils to partner in climate vulnerability assessments across key indices to identify where vulnerabilities and exposure exist and to enable their prioritisation. It is recognised that vulnerabilities in one municipality may have impacts across others. The impacts Dunally and Huon bushfires extended beyond their respective municipal areas with impacts (financial, economic, resource) experienced at a regional scale</p>
<p>What do you think are the key opportunities to help Tasmania adapt to a changing climate? Please choose your top three.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tasmanian government and councils partner to co-design a systems based climate program across mitigation and adaptation that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. provides transparency to all sectors on roles and responsibility and a series of metrics that are readily understood by communities b. enables the management of risk and impacts to public assets, and land use planning c. harmonises and standardises approaches to avoid mal adaptation, duplication of effort and realise efficiencies in program delivery 2. Extension of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Regional Climate Change Adaptation Program to all Tasmanian councils to provide a harmonised and standardised response including the development of Regional Strategies and Council Climate Adaptation Plans – based on a risk management and systems approach with monitoring, reporting and evaluation approach that indemnify councils when implemented. This would include by dedicated regional technical and policy resources to build capacity and support organisational change within council's corporate governance and operational functions. 3. Establish of a Sovereign Climate Resilience Fund to support the adaptation of public (State and local) assets, based on climate risk assessments 4. Prepare Regional Land Use Strategies with a climate lens to: guide future development investment in public assets and infrastructure and mitigates exposure to climate risk and increased natural hazards; and identify adaptation pathways 5. Prepare Regional Asset Adaptation Strategies and Asset Management Plans that enable the aggregation of public assets (state and local) and identify exposure to vulnerabilities, life cycles based on future
<p>Other comments on Opportunities Paper</p>	<p>The Tasmanian government, through its review of the Climate Change Act and Climate Action 21, co-design with the City of Hobart and Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority, and provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Emission and energy profiles produced at municipal (community) scale</u>, alongside state-wide profile, based on STCA profiles. This would support councils to develop targeted community emissions/energy mitigation programs and enable councils to identify where they can influence and support reduction, these could be included in State-wide emissions reporting, and would provide greater accuracy and relevance than Climate Snapshot and take into account Tasmania's unique energy and greenhouse profiles, many councils do not have the expertise to develop in house resulting in external providers being engaged and a disparate range of methods used which do not enable aggregation of effort

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary <u>corporate emissions reporting template and portal</u>, based on STCA work program. This would enable councils to: benchmark efforts, apply relevant emissions factors, aggregate action, and importantly embed across council corporate practice (i.e. all council pay energy bills – electricity and fuel – which can be augmented to capture this information rather than relying on external providers) • <u>Extension of municipal climate profiles based on UTAS Climate Futures Tasmania models to all Tasmanian councils</u>: Supports decision making by councils and can be used by technical officers to design climate responses – methodology for selection of climate indices has been developed by STCA in partnership with UTAS and delivered 3 times enabling the identification of relevant corporate climate indices used for council decision making • <u>Development of climate infographics to support municipal profiles that are easily understood by non-technical users</u>: Support councils to communicate climate risk and hazards, aligned to State Govt but at a municipal level, providing transparency for communities across regions and increasing climate literacy • <u>Resources to support the development of a standardised approach for councils for climate responses</u> Extension of the STCA UTAS council climate collaboration project Tasmania wide and increase councils climate governance and resilience • <u>Review of relevant local government legislation to include climate considerations</u>, formalising councils responses, supporting decision making and reducing councils exposure to potential liability for its decision making, including review of LUPAA and associated Tasmanian Planning policies to incorporate climate considerations and enable the development whole of hazard climate responses rather than at an individual development/property level • <u>Prioritisation of climate resilience through the regional land-use strategy review and Greater Hobart City Deal</u> Leverage the STCA’s climate work program to enable fit for purpose, adaptation pathways and resilient climate responses that manage climate risk, hazard and transition to low carbon economies. • <u>Establishment of a climate investment fund</u> Support the assessment and prioritisation of public assets (State and local) to increase resilience to climate hazards and impacts. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>The CoH and STCA, mirrored by emerging awareness across regional council alliances Australia-wide, recognises the prioritised need for the harmonisation and standardisation of local government corporate climate mitigation and adaptation responses.</p> <p>The STCA’s climate program has developed, and is continuing to develop, key resources, tools and approaches to support this and these can be extended to all Tasmanian councils. Developed by councils for councils the resources address the key corporate needs and evidence-base required for local government climate action (both mitigation and adaptation). They provide the platform councils to act regardless of size and enable sharing of resources, collaboration and greater transparency by communities.</p> <p>The Review of the Climate Change Act and Climate Action 21 provides the opportunity for the State to leverage, collaborate and extend these resources to all Tasmanian councils. Such a co-designed approach would be cost effective, avoid duplication, increase capacity and resilience of councils, enable scalability, be driven by corporate organisational requirements rather than external approaches which are more often than not outside of council’s jurisdictional responsibilities.</p> <p>It is considered that a standardised approach would result in climate action becoming part of business as usual rather than discretionary political and polarising and demonstrate State government leadership.</p> <p>Issue:</p> <p>Local government is established by State to deliver its legislation and where such processes (head of power and template/guidelines) are in place councils do this effectively i.e. development planning, environmental health, emergency management, stormwater, roads etc. However where there is no process responses are: ad hoc, populist, discretionary/resource constrained, driven externally, political and don’t translate into necessary corporate systems or organisational change, as in the case of climate action.</p>