

Your details

Name / Organisation name:

Pen and Ben Clark

Reducing Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions

1. What do you think are the key opportunities to reduce Tasmania's emissions?

Please choose your top three:

Based on the sectors with a high contribution to our emissions profile, we nominate these three: 1. Emissions from agriculture - improving soil carbon through regenerative farming practices, using precision agricultural technologies, and including seaweed in the feed of livestock to reduce methane emissions from enteric fermentation. 2. Emissions from transport - fuel switching to low and zero emissions sources, such as battery electric vehicles, renewable hydrogen fuel cell technologies and biofuels; and supporting the transition to alternative means of transport such as walking, cycling or public transport. 3. Reduce emissions from the direct combustion of fossil fuels - i.e. electrification and fuel switching to bioenergy to replace natural gas and coal fired boilers in commercial and industrial applications, and the use of heat pumps to replace residential wood and gas heating.

2. What do you think are the key gaps in Tasmania's current efforts to reduce emissions?:

Building on our previous response: 1. Improving soil carbon through regenerative farming practices. Whilst we aren't in the agriculture sector, from our reading it seems as though regenerative farming is still a novel concept - this needs to become mainstream practice over the coming decade. 2. Transport - the Government's electric highway is commended, as is the commitment to State Govt fleet being 100% electric by 2030. Suggest an reduced pricing on EV registration within a specified timeframe (i.e. 50% of rate for 4 cylinder, for 2022-2025) to help incentivise their uptake. This will boost number of EV in Tasmania, and build a market for second hand EVs. 3. Transition to alternative means of transport such as walking, cycling or public transport. More needs to be done in this - as funding is heavily weighted toward roads, and our infrastructure makes it easy to drive and hard to ride or use public transport. a) We suggest at least \$20 per person per year through a \$44.4 million bike infrastructure program over the next four years (2021/22 - 2024/25). b) Establish an ongoing cycling infrastructure fund for local councils to apply for funding. c) Fund the Ride2School program over the next four years, for \$840,000. 3. Reduce emissions from the direct combustion of fossil fuels - is there a program to electrify or fuel switch to replace natural gas and coal fired boilers in commercial and industrial applications? 4. Integrated land use planning - it seems the suburban sprawl and satellite centre model prevail in most of the state, which embeds car dependent commuters. We realise the pandemic allowed some people to work from home which reduces this - however the traffic times from Sorell, Brighton, Huon Valley are all back to what they were previously, so the problem persists. The traffic fixes to cater to this are enormous (~\$570m for Bridgewater Bridge, \$187m for Sorell causeway) and will only entice more development out in these locations. Concerted effort to densify the inner and middle suburbs of Hobart (and possibly the other regional centres), coupled with tighter planning controls in the outlying areas would reduce pressure for further development on the city outskirts.

3. What do you think are the main opportunities for Tasmania to transition to a low carbon economy?:

1. Transport - we've heard it cited on ABC Radio the state spends ~\$1bn per year importing vehicle fuels. Switch to EVs or fuel cells vehicles (i.e. renewable hydrogen) would keep that money in Tasmanian economy to be invested elsewhere. Some examples of how that money could be used to further reduce emissions: a) Implement a no-interest loan scheme or direct subsidies to help more

people buy electric bicycles (similar to the successful TELS). b) Incentivise all new building developments to include bike parking and end-of-ride facilities such as parking loops, secure storage and showers and for businesses and developers to retrofit existing buildings.

Helping Tasmania adapt to a changing climate

1. What aspects of Tasmania's projected future climate most concern you and why?:

1. Increased coastal inundation - so much of our development is in coastal locations, and the cost to repair, or relocate will be significant. This could cripple the state's economy. 2. Increased temperature - for a range of reasons, our biosecurity will likely be compromised as more invasive species are able to survive winters here, our range of soft fruit crops may be diminished due to heat stress (or inadequate chilling), our loss of iconic alpine vegetation within the mountains - and simply the sight of snow on our peaks in the winter.

2. Which parts of Tasmania (for example locations, industries, communities) do you think are most vulnerable to a changing climate?:

Due to the wide-reaching impact, no area or community will be unaffected. Cities/towns - due to proximity to bush, most of the states population centres will be under direct threat from bushfire on an increased basis: 2019 was a foretaste of what is to come. Coastal areas - particularly those with significant areas of low-lying areas (i.e. Lauderdale, Clifton) inundation will be irreversible Alpine areas - loss of iconic alpine vegetation within the mountains - and simply the sight of snow on our peaks in the winter. Fruit industry - range of soft fruit crops may be diminished due to heat stress (or inadequate chilling), and more invasive species are able to survive winters here (i.e. Qld fruit fly)

3. What do you think are the key opportunities to help Tasmania adapt to a changing climate? Please choose your top three.:

1. Precision and regenerative farming practices 2. Electric vehicle uptake coupled with 'mainstreaming' of public and active transport options 3. Integrated land use planning (with aim to reduce vehicle dependence, and reduce energy intensity - i.e. sustainability as the core principle for all new builds) - that also considers a need for staged retreat for low-lying areas that will be subject to inundation or become uninsurable due to other factors (i.e. flooding, bushfire risk)

General

Is there anything else you'd like to add?:

Dear TCCO, Thank you for the opportunity to submit on this Climate Change Action Plan review. Firstly, a note regarding the the negative emissions for Tasmania over past four years. Whilst it seems impressive, we understand that Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry changes in the reporting period have made it seem far more favourable than across all other sectors (which would otherwise indicate a 6% increase). We fear that a major bushfire season (or several in short succession) could wipe out these gains, with the carbon from burnt forests and woodlands being returned to the atmosphere. Therefore, we don't want Tasmania to rest on laurels of being 'net negative' as a reason not to act urgently on all other areas. As school children in the 1980's, we were taught about the significance of climate change and the need to adapt our societies to be sustainable. We have advocated for national and international action in the three decades since, and worked hard at a community level to help bring a sustainability focus to the suburb in which we live - South Hobart. Science-based problem solving and working across all levels of Government was a keystone to Tasmania's successful response to COVID. We advocate for the reinstatement of the Tasmanian Climate Council as a similar structure for replicating this science-led collaborative approach to tackling the climate crisis. From our professional lives, we know that the impacts on ecosystem services and the broader population health will be complex and require expert analysis and understanding to inform decision-making. As parents, we try to explain the ramifications of climate change to our children, while not burdening them with a sense of despair. Based on current

predictions, they are likely to see many of the predicted impacts to our natural environment play out in in their lifetime. After the 2018-19 bushfire season, that is quite a daunting prospect. We look to countries that have taken on board the need to act in an integrated manner to embed sustainability into their planning and regulatory systems, and realise we still have a long way to go here in Tasmania. We consider a near term target (in support of the 2050 target) would also be useful to help galvanise action in the lifetime of the plan. For this reason, we strongly endorse the inclusion of five year emissions budgets and reduction plans – this is a tangible timeframe that allows for Government and business to invest with certainty. This is a critical decade if humanity is to have the best possible chance to limit global warming to 1.5C Kind regards Pen and Ben Clark

Publication

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