

5 January 2024

Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania
Climate Change Office
10 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Director,

Re: Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan - Waste - Consultation Draft

The Cradle Coast Authority is pleased to respond to the *Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan - Waste - Consultation Draft*.

The paper provides a good overview of the opportunities and challenges. As mentioned in the paper; our emissions profile is largely due to the carbon sink in our managed forest estate and our longstanding investment in renewable electricity generation. Our emissions profile is not guaranteed into the future and this work is important for the long-term prosperity of Tasmania.

How can we build on the work already underway to reduce emissions and build resilience in the waste sector?

We hope the Tasmanian Government avoids duplicating measures already taken by the Australian Government and instead focuses on strengthening ties and collaboration. Some Australian Government initiatives require co-contribution. By creating an alignment with existing programs, we can inspire more impactful investment in the waste sector. As an example we hope to see initiatives that complement the National Reconstruction Fund and Clean Energy Finance Corporation programs.

What future opportunities do you think will have the most impact?

As noted in the draft; while the construction and demolition industry does not produce much organic waste, it does account for approximately one-third of the total waste stream in Tasmania (Source: <https://epa.tas.gov.au/business-industry/waste-resource-recovery/business-and-industry-waste>)

The construction and demolition sector needs to be supported to reduce waste. The construction and demolition industry in Tasmania produces around 44,000 tonnes of waste annually. Merely 1% of this waste is reclaimed for reuse or recycling, marking the lowest rate in Australia and falling 63% below the national average for resource recovery. Avoiding and reducing waste has the potential to lower costs. We hope to see innovative solutions in this area and we hope to see construction and demolition included as the work of Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania progresses. (Source: <https://rethinkwaste.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Rethink-Construction-Demolition-Fact-Sheet.pdf>)

From a building and construction perspective there are 3 aspects that need to be addressed:

1. Operation
2. Maintenance
3. Construction

Combined the built environment accounts for almost a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia. To truly reduce emissions, a holistic approach encompassing the entire lifecycle of buildings, from planning and design to construction, operation, and decommissioning, is required. Experts highlight the need for stronger government commitment, effective regulations, and community engagement to communicate the significance of emission reduction strategies.

(Source: <https://theconversation.com/buildings-produce-25-of-australias-emissions-what-will-it-take-to-make-them-green-and-wholl-pay-105652#:~:text=The%20construction%2C%20operation%20and%20maintenance,approved%20for%20construction%20every%20month>)

Are there any priorities or future opportunities missing from this draft Plan?

As we transition to net zero economy, more than \$10 billion of renewable energy projects are anticipated and currently planned for the Cradle Coast region.

Renewable energy projects will create waste in the region that will need to be processed. It is essential that the Tasmanian Government plans for this significant increase in construction waste. This also raises questions of responsibility and which level of government/private sector should fund additional capacity.

Are there other ways we can collaborate to reduce emissions and build resilience in the waste sector?

As mentioned in the paper; *wastewater is removed from households and treated by TasWater.*

We understand the rationale behind bioenergy being included in the energy sector. It is however essential the waste sector report points to the energy sector report in a way that is meaningful, practical and functional. Bioenergy has the capacity to take a waste problem and create a dispatchable energy solution. Bioenergy also has the capacity to enhance our state's resilience by increasing the diversity of our energy supply.

King Island and West Coast Council areas

It is challenging for remote communities such as West Coast Council and King Island to fund innovative waste management solutions. Investment in waste and recycling infrastructure can create a disproportionate strain on councils' annual budget when compared to larger council areas, as economies of scale are difficult to achieve. Recycling can also result in further emissions as waste must be transported to be recycled.

It is possible that more innovative waste minimisation strategies would be useful in these areas. This can increase self-sufficiency, and disaster resilience. If remote businesses are supported to

dramatically minimise the creation of waste, this may also enhance economic opportunities from an export perspective as consumers are increasingly more likely to pay a premium for environmentally friendly products.

Finally, the Cradle Coast Authority acknowledges the Tasmanian Government's intention to take action on climate change. We look forward to engaging with place-based initiatives that provide cross-sectoral benefits.

Kind Regards,



Sheree Vertigan AM

Chief Executive Officer