



Date: 20 April 2021

Tasmanian Climate Change Office
Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 123,
HOBART TAS 7001

Dear Department of Premier and Cabinet, att: Jacobs Consulting,

Submission: Review of Tasmania's Climate Change Act

The Tasmanian Government's efforts on climate change are to be commended, noting the achievement of net zero emissions (due to a reliance on Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) and 100% renewable electricity in recent times.

Brighton Council acknowledges climate change requires leadership, and in response have developed the Brighton Climate Change and Resilience Strategy 2019, have solar systems on council buildings, installed an electric vehicle charger, manage two hybrid electric vehicles, provide local climate change science impacts information, and have a Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2012.

In contribution to the review of the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008 and the review of Tasmania's next whole-of-government climate change action plan, Brighton notes how the following changes will assist local government to play their part and address existing barriers:

- To drive emission reductions across the economy **Tasmanian emission targets should become more ambitious over time and align with the latest science.** Legislative obligations are one of the most effective means to drive change. Additional interim and sectoral targets are the best way of driving targeted change and acknowledge the relative opportunities of transport versus industry versus waste
- **Establish a legislative climate change fund for holding and distributing grants, philanthropic funds, and government funding across financial years.** Without consistent funding and a financial mechanism to leverage private sector funding large community programs can fail to deliver ongoing savings
- **Climate impacts information can be delivered at least cost across the region with State Government assistance.** Regular and localised climate change impacts information assists local government to identify and communicate with the community on key risks, whether it be flooding, heatwave, cold snaps, bushfire, or storm damage projections. Councils rely on scientific advice, yet it can be costly to commission on a council-by-council basis



- Provide **clear and consistent planning scheme requirements that remain ahead of the challenges, particularly in moving land areas subject to significant change such as the Derwent River foreshore**, to allow for better natural resource management and help manage community expectations around development
- **Assist councils with internal capacity building to improve resource and improved council asset risk management**, for example, through the development of active waste and street lighting management programs and advanced risk analysis skills
- **Assist councils with infrastructure and amenity projects that have a climate change benefit**. For example, the revegetation of stormwater systems, tree planting programs, better management, and ecological restoration of areas of Crown Land and State Growth controlled land.

Despite the significant resource constraints local government face and lack of regulatory mandate to engage in climate change action, Brighton is committed to working in partnership with all levels of government.

Significant opportunities remain developing a hydrogen hub at the industry/railway node in Brighton that focuses on key areas of emissions reduction in the transport and industry sectors.

The Brighton Hub is also the ideal location to achieve the most efficient state-wide circular economy solutions to issues such as waste management and reuse and recycling.

In addition, there are many low socioeconomic households in Brighton that would benefit from systematic upgrades to the housing stock in pursuit of warmer, healthier homes.

Brighton Council appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the development of Tasmanian climate change action.

Yours faithfully,

Mr James Dryburgh
General Manager Brighton Council