

## Submission to Draft Climate Action Plan

1. Do you agree with our vision and priorities? Can you think of any issues that are not covered by the priority areas?

The priority areas appear to be broad enough to cover all issues.

2. What other types of projects do you think the final action plan should include to improve our information and knowledge about climate change?

It is important to ensure that Tasmanians are well informed about climate change; however, people must not be overloaded by information, as they will disengage with the topic.

Another key area is media literacy. People must know that opinion is simply that, and that presenters, especially those on platforms like Sky News are not necessarily experts. People should be informed on how to search for reliable and unbiased sources of news about climate change, e.g. the ABC, Reuters, DW, etc.

3. How can we make sure the information we make about climate change is suitable for children and young people?

Teaching climate change must tread a fine line. It has to be clear and informative, however we also don't want to induce depression or anxiety related to this crisis. It is also crucial that schools don't shove the message down students' throats. My school did this with "growth mindset", and any student from my grade, including myself, will *instantly* shut off when you mention this concept.

4. What types of projects do you think the final action plan should include to reduce emissions in Tasmania?

The areas with largest emissions are transport and agriculture. Therefore, concepts such as perennial pastures, which minimise fertiliser (and consequently greenhouse gas emissions), should be encouraged to farmers. This not only reduces a farmer's contribution to climate change, but also reduces their costs.

Transport-wise, I believe EVs play a part of the solution, however there should also be a greater focus on public transport. It is great to see that the government has invested \$5 million into an electric bus trial, however the current Metro system fails to operate in a basic capacity. As a result, Tasmanians don't use public transport as it is unreliable and infrequent. Instead of investing in electric/hydrogen buses, Tasmania should pursue a strategy of developing a functioning transport system, as this will increase public transport usage, reducing carbon emissions to a greater extent than EVs.

5. What types of projects do you think the final action plan should include to help Tasmania prepare for the impacts of climate change?

The draft plan heavily relies on ERRPs for adaption and reducing emissions in the private sector. However, these mechanisms will not be enforced as industry opposes regulation. Although I

believe the government's approach to working with business is the best path, this is too lax. Rather than punishment, the government could create tax breaks (or similar) for companies that are in line with ERRPs, as this incentivises reduction without direct intervention.

Oceans are not mentioned at all in the draft plan, which I find very disappointing. For marine life, or the giant kelp forests, changes in water temperature can mean death, and there appears to be no policy to address this. I note that although over half of Tasmanian land is in a national park, less than one percent is in a marine park – this is very concerning, especially considering the contribution of commercial fishing to the Tasmanian economy.

6. How can we make sure Tasmanians (especially children and young people) can access information about climate change and hear about other opportunities to provide feedback on our action to address climate change?

I haven't heard anything in my school about providing feedback on the draft climate plan. I have also not seen anything in my social media feed about giving feedback, although I have seen many ads about the Local Government Review. Whether it be ads, posts or short-form videos, social media is key to engaging young people in such a process.

7. Do you have any other questions or comments?

I am aware that for some goals specific targets have not been set as the resources required for this are too large, and some details are yet to be finalised. However, this reduces scrutiny and makes it easy for governments to claim they have met a goal, even if they have failed to implement any substantial policy. An example is "increase use of active and public transport", this is a great goal, however there should be at least some mechanism to ensure that the government is ambitious in the fulfilment of goals, even if there are no targets.

Thank you for your consultation.

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