

6 April 2023

Climate Change Office
Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania
Submitted by email to climatechange@recfit.tas.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Hydro Tasmania's feedback on Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

Hydro Tasmania welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 (Action Plan).

We support the Tasmanian Government's target of net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030 and look forward to working with the State Government to maintain Tasmania's net zero status and the delivery of the target. This is complemented by the legislated Tasmanian Renewable Energy Target (TRET) and offers a significant opportunity for Tasmania to maintain its leading role in emissions reduction and renewable energy, nationally and internationally. Hydro Tasmania is continuing to progress the Battery of the Nation initiative which can support further emissions reductions within the electricity sector and underpin further renewable electrification of activities in the Tasmanian economy.

Hydro Tasmania is supportive of the Action Plan. It is important that the State-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment and Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans (ERRPs) are robust, to ensure an enduring and impactful 2025-2030 Climate Change Action Plan. Hydro Tasmania looks forward to further engaging on the Risk Assessment and relevant ERRPs.

Hydro Tasmania has addressed the specific consultation questions in Attachment A of this letter. Broadly our recommendations are as follows:

- Focus on improving the accessibility and usability of climate related data, without duplicating the work already done on fine-scale climate projections at the national level.
- Exploring partnerships and resource sharing with other state jurisdictions and the federal government, to build on what is relevant locally to make the most of finite resources and funding.

- Continuing to work with the Australian Government to progress a nationally consistent Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin scheme.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss and engage on the Action Plan.

Yours sincerely,



Erin van Maanen
Executive General Manger Strategy

Attachment A

- 1. Do you agree with the proposed vision and goals for the action plan? Which goals are you most supportive of? Are there any other goals that should be considered?**

Hydro Tasmania agrees with the proposed vision and goals in the action plan. As noted in the 2021 Opportunities Paper, there is opportunity to reduce emissions from the transport sector and the direct combustion of fossil fuels. It is positive to see that the goals include the electrification of government vehicle fleets and increasing the use of public transport.

The Battery of the Nation initiative coupled with increased electricity interconnection with the mainland National Electricity Market jurisdictions will see an increase in renewable energy generation that can underpin further electrification in Tasmania and reduce the state's emissions.

- 2. Will the three priority areas - (1) information and knowledge, (2) transition and innovation and (3) adaptation and resilience, help Tasmania achieve its legislated 2030 emissions reduction target, and its vision for action on climate change? Are there other issues not covered by the three priority areas?**

Hydro Tasmania believes these three priority areas are sensible for the two year period to 2025. It will be encouraging to see a greater focus on building resilience and disaster response resources to climate change in a future action plan.

- 3. Will the key actions under Priority area 1 help support decision making for you and your community or organisation? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?**

Hydro Tasmania believes that Tasmanian businesses and community require access to the best available climate projections, as they become available, and that this is an ongoing need. Hydro Tasmania therefore supports downscaled projections as part of a collaborative national effort in preference to Tasmania 'going it alone' for repeated significant investment each time. As raised in our submission on 29 April 2021 to the Review of the Tasmania Climate Change Act and Developing a New Climate Change Action Plan for Tasmania, we believe an important area is the new generation of the downscaled climate projections as part of national approach leveraging the AR6 models, to deliver nationally consistent downscaled projections that are easily accessible and freely available. Hydro Tasmania recognises that substantial information is already available from other providers (for example, Climate Change in Australia website). We encourage the Tasmanian Government to focus on transforming model outputs and data into information that is usable by the Tasmanian community in local decision making processes.

- 4. Will the key actions under Priority area 2 support Tasmania to achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target and continued emissions reduction across Tasmania? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?**

Yes, Hydro Tasmania is supportive of these actions. The development of ERRPs is a positive step forward in addressing emissions and resilience on a sectoral scale. It is important that these are done in consultation with industries and create an effective forward plan to achieving Tasmania's 2030 target. There is also a need to consider how they intersect with other state policies, for example, the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan or the Tasmanian Future Draft Gas Strategy.

Current and future emissions reduction targets must be underpinned by appropriate emissions and renewable energy reporting frameworks. Examples of this include the Guarantee of Origin certification scheme for hydrogen and renewable electricity - currently being developed by the federal Department of Climate Change,

Energy, Environment and Water (DCCEEW). The final action plan should note and support the development of the national Guarantee of Origin scheme which could potentially be broadened to other products overtime.

5. Will the key actions under Priority area 3 build resilience and support adaptation planning across Tasmania? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?

Hydro Tasmania believes the actions under Priority area 3 are a positive step towards building Tasmania's resilience and adaption planning. We look forward to further engaging on the ERRP and State-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment.

6. Are there other ways the government could make its action on climate change, and progress towards meeting its targets, more transparent and accessible?

Hydro Tasmania suggests that the Tasmanian Climate Change Action Plan could consider the Tasmanian Government's Accessible Island Framework (and any future iterations), as part of this framework encompasses accessible information and websites. Hydro Tasmania's Disability and Inclusion Action Plan development was informed by the Tasmanian Government's Accessible Island Framework.