



Andrew Wilkie MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR CLARK

The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Premier
Minister for Climate Change
Level 9, 15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Premier

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* and to the next Climate Action Plan.

Tasmania has an opportunity to lead both the nation and the world in producing clean power and reducing carbon emissions. Our new emissions reduction target must be ambitious. Given that Tasmania already has a net-zero emissions profile, we should now aim for as close to real zero as possible, as soon as possible. The target needs to include specific sectoral reduction targets, which means not simply relying on sequestration from our native forests, but actively reducing emissions across transport, agriculture (including aquaculture), energy and waste. This must be backed up by interim targets with clear benchmarks.

Household solar should play a key role in energy generation. To this end the Government should immediately reinstate the higher rate of the solar feed-in tariff. Lower income households in particular should be supported to retrofit and install energy generation and efficiency measures, which will also bring down power prices. Communities and households should be supported to invest in battery technology as it becomes available.

The Government must actively encourage the uptake of electric cars through subsidised registration and other incentives, and certainly not introduce a road user tax for electric vehicles. Public transport needs to be cheap, accessible and environmentally friendly. This means expanding public transport networks in major cities, particularly by introducing light rail in Hobart, and working with councils to develop active transport options like separate cycleways and pedestrian-friendly city centres.

While the Marinus Link project has the potential to assist the rest of the country in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support for the project shouldn't be unqualified. The social, economic and environmental benefits promised by the Government must be delivered, and a fair deal secured for Tasmania. Given the rapid changes taking place in the national energy market, the Government should consider whether the Marinus money is being spent in the most sustainable and forward-thinking way possible.

Sequestration of carbon is essential for limiting global heating to the greatest extent possible, which means our old growth and native forests are more important than ever. As critical carbon sinks they need to be protected. This requires an immediate halt to old growth forest logging, while native forest logging should be significantly limited to small selective operations. Finally, community involvement and consultation in all of these processes is essential. This means protecting the right of the community to peacefully protest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Wilkie'.

Andrew Wilkie MP
Independent Member for Clark

23 April 2021