



13 May 2021

Ms Sarah Russell
Acting Director
Tasmanian Climate Change Office
GPO Box 123
HOBART TAS 7001

Jacobs Group
100 Melville Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Via email: ConsultationTasmania@Jacobs.com

To whom it may concern,

**REVIEW OF THE *CLIMATE CHANGE (STATE ACTION) ACT 2008*
AND CLIMATE ACTION 2021**

The Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission on the review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act (Tas) 2008* and Climate Action 2021. A detailed submission is **attached**.

Overall the STCA supports the implementation and regular review of the Act and Climate Strategy, as part of a suite of actions needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in southern Tasmania and respond to climate change.

Local governments are at the frontline in dealing with climate change and the STCA proactively established its climate program, the Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI), in 2010 to support and coordinate climate change action by its member councils. Through the RCCI it has developed resources to support councils to build capacity to understand their corporate climate risk and to reduce emissions.

Southern Tasmanian councils are important stakeholders as community leaders and managers of over 30,000 council-owned assets. We play a key role in providing up-to-date and reliable climate change information to our communities and assisting them to transition to low carbon economies and prepare and respond to a changed climate and related impacts. Through the STCA's climate program a range projects have delivered positive outcomes for local communities, such as lower energy costs and emissions, increased climate resilience and healthier spaces.

Local governments have a largely voluntary capacity in responding to communities needs/expectations for climate action, both mitigation and adaptation. However, at an institutional level this has not, and cannot be, translated into corporate structural change. This would be appropriately addressed through structural processes – as in legislation, which would provide consistency and harmonisation of council responses and importantly lead to the indemnification of councils.

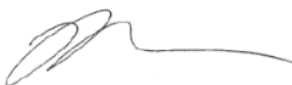
The review and potential strengthening of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act* and programming of next Climate Strategy is seen as a significant compliment to our ongoing climate work program and will provide clear demonstration of the Tasmanian Government's commitment to acting on climate change.

The STCA would welcome the opportunity to co-design a climate program supporting evidence based and systems approaches to mitigation and adaptation. It is considered that these could leverage the STCA's climate resources and be made available to all Tasmanian councils to increase capacity, formalise action and normalise responses as part of day-to-day operations.

On behalf of the southern Tasmanian councils of the STCA, we thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission as well as opportunities to collaborate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in southern Tasmania and respond to climate change.

Please note this submission is made on behalf of the STCA Board, comprised of the Mayors and General Managers of southern Tasmanian councils and its climate change program, the Regional Climate Change Initiative, of which all 12 southern councils are participants. Unfortunately the Review's consultation time frames precluded consideration for formal endorsement by individual councils.

Yours sincerely



Mayor Bec Enders

CHAIR

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN COUNCILS AUTHORITY

Review of the Tasmanian Climate Change Act and the Climate Change Action Plan Discussion Paper

Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority (STCA)

30 April 2021

Discussion Paper on Tasmania's Climate Change Act

Question	STCA comment
<p>To what extent should climate change considerations influence policies and decisions by State government agencies and government business enterprises?</p>	<p>Climate change is a wicked problem and a threat multiplier –it is estimated that natural disasters will cost Australia \$39 billion annually by 2050.</p> <p>Responding to climate change requires an integrated systems and evidence-based approach across <u>all sectors</u>: public and private, with action required across the policy spheres of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation • Mitigation • Leadership <p>Collaborative strategies are considered the most appropriate approach to tackling complex problems, which inherently require behavioural and organisational change as part of their solution. The Tasmanian Government is the dominant actor and as such has a key leadership role across its functions, operations and services to facilitate policies and decisions making processes, and their extension and influence across all Tasmanian sectors.</p> <p>In addition to the Tasmanian Government's central role in influencing agencies and GBE's it also has a key role in supporting local government to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with its adaptation approaches and to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in local communities.</p> <p>Local government does not have constitutional power and as the tier of government established by the State to deliver their legislation, they do this well where there are formal processes and guidelines / templates in place. However where there is no such framing local government responses may be: ad hoc, populist, mismatched, mal-adaptive, duplicate effort and resources, and fragmented. As such there is a clear and demonstrated need for the Tasmanian government to provide systemic climate response applied across its functions and their varied roles in support private and public sectors in responding to climate change. Strong actions would complement and intersect with local government action, promote good governance, mitigate risks and increase resilience across local communities.</p>
<p>How important is it to you that the Tasmanian government systematically assess and disclose the main risks associated with projected climate change?</p>	<p>The Tasmanian government's role includes: managing risks to public goods and assets (including the natural environment), service delivery and creating an institutional, market and regulatory environment to support and promote public/private adaptation. They also have direct relationships with local governments who identify and manage risks within communities.</p> <p>Hence it is critical that the Tasmanian Government systematically assesses and discloses risks associated with projected climate change along with local and regional science and information; and promote a risk management response to climate adaptation. Disclosure of such risk enables informed decision making by key stakeholders, including local government, in their management of climate risks and hazards, and contributes to the wellbeing of Tasmanian communities.</p> <p>Systemic assessment and disclosure by the Tasmanian government is considered critical to the role and good governance of local government. Local government, as the third and non-constitutional tier of government, plays a fundamental role in helping to build resilient communities, contribute to the development of a healthy environment, and promote local economies. Good governance is critical to local government's success in carrying out these functions that inherently includes the management of risk. In this</p>

Question	STCA comment
	<p>capacity local government is acknowledged as having the most significant role in responding to climate change given its immediate proximity to the community. This also exposes it to liability for its decisions in relation to climate responses, and places considerable resource implications on it to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare, respond and recover from climate hazard events; • future proof its assets, programs and services; • ensure its corporate governance systems are suitable to manage uncertainty, transition and disruption; and • engage with the community to inform and support in climate action <p>A key barrier to local government is their exposure to potential liability associated with their climate related decision making, or lack thereof, and a key factor in mitigating this risk is the provision of information and policy settings by State and Commonwealth governments</p>
<p>How might the Act provide you with confidence that successive State governments will continue to act to contain/reduce Tasmania's emissions and build climate resilience?</p>	<p>The Tasmanian Government is to be commended on the retention, under successive governments, of its <i>Climate Change Act (Tas)</i> 2008 and commitment to State-based targets. The continuation of its efforts has been achieved through: the pragmatic program delivered by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office positioned in the Department of Premier and Cabinet; climate friendly state attributes such as renewables making goals achievable; and acute societal awareness of the state-wide vulnerabilities to intensified natural hazards such as bushfire, drought/flood and coastal erosion. It is anticipated that successive governments going forward, given increased societal awareness and acceptance of climate action, will retain these functions and commitments, which have significant reputational and practical social and economic outcomes for the incumbent government.</p> <p>Whilst there are many drivers for ongoing action, and with Tasmania being one of the first state to formalise climate based legislation, there is an opportunity to deepen its action through the review of the Act. Other States have more recently enacted legislation that is more detailed and sets clear processes for the achievement of mitigation and adaptation outcomes, with the effect of greater institutionalisation of climate action. Of particular note is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Victorian Climate Change Act 2017</i> • <i>NSW Coastal Management Framework including the Coastal Management Act NSW 2016</i> • <i>Local Government Act NSW 1993 SECT 733</i> <p>These more recent clearly provide institutional framing for adaptation responses in addition to ongoing commitments to emissions reduction. This is of particular relevance as whilst States have a clear role in contributing towards the Australian Government's Nationals Determined Contributions there needs to be greater engagement in adaptation to unavoidable impacts inherent with 1.5 C of warming. It is considered that carbon reductions are increasingly and more deeply driven through markets, at global scales, whereas significant effort is required in the more complex and area of adaptation of at national, state and local levels. They require high level regional strategic approaches that incorporate systemic and institutionalisation of assessment of integrated risk, along with place-based approaches to understand community values and facilitate social licence and equity of outcomes across communities.</p>
<p>How might the Act drive further decarbonisation of the Tasmanian economy (e.g. via setting/legislating targets for sectors of the economy, potentially including interim targets)?</p>	<p><u>Sectoral emissions:</u></p> <p>Overall there is support for the setting of and/or legislation for emissions reduction targets from identified carbon intensive sectors. This is a recognised and effective ways to drive emissions reductions over time enabling transparency, scalability as technology and capacity increases. Though it is noted that this should occur where there is a clear capacity and responsibility for those emissions and that there is a transparent reporting platform.</p> <p><u>Local government corporate emissions:</u></p> <p>From a local government sectoral perspective corporate council targets have been successful in not only reducing emissions, but have also resulted in significant cost savings through increased energy efficiencies. The City of Hobart's programs realised savings of over \$1m per annum across its corporate assets.</p> <p>Whilst not mandatory corporate council targets should be encouraged and a common reporting platform provided by the State for all councils to be able to register their efforts and demonstrate efficiencies.</p>

Question	STCA comment
	<p>It is noted that the STCA, City of Hobart, Clarence, Kingborough and Brighton councils have prepared various resources to assist councils to establish program including inventory of classes of assets and services, accounting resources and peer to peer sharing, and have recently worked with Launceston to develop theirs. It is further noted that council corporate emissions are typically less than 1% of community (municipal emissions), so whilst not significant contributor they do demonstrate leadership.</p> <p><u>Community (municipal) emissions:</u></p> <p>Given its proximity to community there is ongoing pressure for councils, from local advocacy groups and NGO's, to adopt community (municipal) emissions reduction targets. Whilst these are considered aspirational and are widely engaged in by councils they are also problematic in that there is no agreed/formalised methodology to accurately record and measure community emissions; unlike the State and private sectors councils do not have direct control of community emissions; reporting reductions duplicates or claim efforts of other actors; and they are resource intensive.</p> <p>If it was desirable that there were municipal targets then these should be supported by the State through the provision of annual municipal scale emissions profiles and an aligned reporting platform.</p> <p>It is noted that the STCA has developed a methodology and relevant data sharing agreements to produce community-wide emissions and energy profiles for the 12 southern Tasmanian councils. This has been peer reviewed and met national and international reporting protocols. It would desirable if these were extended to all councils and a platform established where these contributions could be readily and easily accessed by communities to assist in their understanding of the effectiveness of efforts.</p> <p>It is further noted that there are a number of community profile resources available however they are unsuitable and inaccurate in a Tasmanian context as it has a low emissions intensity due to renewable hydro, and the tools are typically an extrapolation from states that have high emissions factors due to their energy being derived from fossil fuels.</p>
<p>If the Act were to espouse principles that would guide consideration of climate change by government, its agencies and business enterprises, what might they be?</p>	<p>It is considered that the principles should reflect the States roles and responsibilities (in italics below) and align to those of other States emphasising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence based decision making - founded on the best scientific knowledge • integrated decision making • risk management • equity/social justice • community engagement • compatibility - harmonisation and standardisation of climate action • leadership and strategic direction for building a more resilient state <p>State Roles and responsibilities: (These are provided from the <i>Roles And Responsibilities for Climate Change Adaptation</i>; Select Committee on Climate Change, COAG 2012):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide local and regional science and information</i> • <i>Manage State assets and programs</i> • <i>Work with Commonwealth to implement reform</i> • <i>Encourage climate action specifically:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>promoting a risk management response to climate change adaptation by government and the private parties through appropriate forums,;</i> ▪ <i>ensuring State and Territory regulatory and market frameworks promote effective adaptation by private parties, using market mechanisms where these are likely to be most effective;</i> ▪ <i>ensuring existing and new state planning, property and environmental legislation and policy encourages effective adaptation by asset owners and managers;</i> ▪ <i>working with the Commonwealth government to identify and implement priorities to improve adaptive capacity and strengthen climate resilience in vulnerable communities;</i> ▪ <i>supporting Local Government to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with State Government adaptation approaches and to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community.</i>

Question	STCA comment
<p>Within the context of global agreements to action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, what do you consider to be the main roles of the Tasmanian government and how effective do you believe the government has been?</p>	<p>The Tasmanian Government has a clear role to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support national commitments for emissions reductions through its delivery of programs and services across its agencies and GBE's • provide leadership to private sector for emissions reduction • coordinate and monitor sectoral emissions • establish regulatory and market framings for decarbonisation across the economy <p>Given the lack of Commonwealth leadership and policy vacuum, State governments Australia-wide have taken leadership role across their communities, including the Tasmanian Government, and are to be commended for their commitments. It is further recognised that the State governments do not set the carbon accounting methodologies (emissions factors) these are led by the Australian government and in the Tasmanian context recent changes to the Land Use and Land Use Forestry Change have benefited the State, resulting in a carbon sink. It recognised that in spite of this the Tasmanian government has continued to implement programs to reduce emissions in more carbon intensive sectors of the economy.</p>
<p>What would Tasmania be like in 10 years' time if it was a national or international leader in climate change responses?</p>	<p>Tasmania's size (population and island) and scale, and proximity to governance and research institutions could make an exemplar of co-design and institutionalisation of climate response and resilience.</p> <p>As a leader in climate change responses Tasmania would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partner and co-design with local government climate resilience programs that increase climate governance, build capacity within councils, and address barriers such as exposure to liability and planning legislation through formalisation of action • understand the climate risks and hazards, be prepared for and resilient to loss (of landscapes, values) • have good climate literacy across all sectors and the community in general • managing its transition low carbon economy • legislation reviewed to integrate climate change risks and hazards therefore proactive rather than reactive • embrace agile decision making formed from a science and evidence based approach • clarity around roles and community engagement and participation in governance processes.
<p>What would you consider to be an appropriate long-term greenhouse gas emissions or emissions reduction target for Tasmania (in terms of date and level of emissions or emissions reduction)?</p>	<p>Tasmania's targets should be evidence based and aligned to supporting sub-national contributions to the Australian government Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement regardless of whether the State is a signatory or not. Emissions reduction efforts should focus on sectors where real emissions can be achieved and will assist in supporting the transition to low carbon economy.</p>
<p>What (if any) value do you think targets for specific sectors of the economy would</p>	<p>Increasingly Tasmanian councils are setting sectoral targets to support their corporate functions to realise emission, energy and cost savings and as a demonstration of leadership to their communities. To date the following councils have set targets: Brighton, Kingborough, City of Hobart, Huon Valley, Southern Midlands, Tasman and Launceston</p> <p>An example of the value of sector specific targets is demonstrated by the City of Hobart that has set and exceeded two tranches of voluntary corporate emissions targets of:</p>

Question	STCA comment
<p>offer, including for the sector itself? If you agree with the concept of sectoral emissions targets, which sectors should have emissions targets? Why?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 70% greenhouse reduction from 2000 levels by 2010 • 20 % greenhouse & 35% energy reduction from 2010 levels by 2020 <p>The City of Hobart’s direct experience of the values and outcomes attributable to their corporate emissions targets include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reputational values increased across local government peers and the community in general • demonstration and acknowledge of leadership leading by example across its community • strategic prioritisation of works and allocation of appropriate budgets • realisation of significant costs savings demonstrating good financial management • increase capacity within the City’s corporate functions, rather than reliance on external sources • improved management and performance of corporate assets • increased awareness internally across its workforce and the broader community. <p>It is considered that these values and outcomes would translate similarly to sectors of the economy setting targets.</p> <p>Sectoral targets for the broader Tasmanian economy should be identified through evidence based analysis and include considerations which include: multiple outcomes, meaningful quantifiable contributions to real reductions and transparency and accessibility to communities</p>
<p>What key factors should influence Government decisions to set State, sectoral and/or interim targets?</p>	<p>The Government should consider impacts and/or unintended consequences where emissions abatement opportunities are limited, require significant capital investment, or are reliant on emerging technology.</p>
<p>What do you consider to be the main risks and opportunities for Tasmania as it continues to transition towards a low/zero carbon economy and society? What risks and opportunities may arise if Tasmania transitions more slowly/more rapidly?</p>	<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The costs of emissions reduction are far less than the damages of inaction, with transitioning to a low/zero carbon economy and society offering a range of co-benefits, including access to more affordable investment capital, improvements in biodiversity and air quality, reduced energy use and costs. <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A low carbon transition will need to be carefully executed to minimise transition risks and impacts on communities and businesses. Need to consider people’s work, stranded assets and operations, regulatory and technological changes and stakeholder expectations.
<p>What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting</p>	<p>The STCA supports targeted funding and consistent tools / processes to support councils in responding to climate change and transitioning to a low/zero carbon society. More broadly, identifying and supporting people in carbon-intensive sectors to transition, providing re-training as necessary, to move to low-carbon sectors.</p> <p>Partnerships – the government to work side-by-side with councils in addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by a changing climate (about working together and involving Local Government).</p>

Question	STCA comment
Tasmania's low/zero carbon transition?	Leadership – framing responses to support climate action, demonstration of what can be done (see above).
What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting Tasmanian communities, infrastructure, economic activities and environments in becoming more resilient to projected climate change?	<p>Climate impacts, physical, social and cultural, do not happen in isolation, require action from all stakeholders through an evidence based integrated systems to facilitate climate resilience. The Tasmanian Government has the key role to coordinate and promote a standardised and harmonised risk management approach to managing climate risk including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promoting a risk management response to climate change adaptation by government and the private parties through appropriate forums,; • ensuring State and Territory regulatory and market frameworks promote effective adaptation by private parties, using market mechanisms where these are likely to be most effective; • ensuring existing and new state planning, property and environmental legislation and policy encourages effective adaptation by asset owners and managers; • working with the Commonwealth government to identify and implement priorities to improve adaptive capacity and strengthen climate resilience in vulnerable communities; and • supporting Local Government to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with State Government adaptation approaches and to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community • Provide local and regional science and information where that information is most effectively delivered at the local and regional scale (eg. where links with ecological, biophysical or social processes are critical such as fine-scaled projections of inundation or coastal erosion) to assist both government and private parties in assessing climate risks and adapting to climate change
Other comments on Discussion Paper	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The <i>Climate Change Act (Tas)</i> has a strong emphasis on emissions reduction, enabling alignment and transparency towards national and international obligation for mitigation, Whilst it is critical that anthropogenic emissions are reduced there needs to be a far greater emphasis on adaptation however there is a considerable gap when it comes to adaptation and framing the integrated system responses, and seeking opportunities to co-design 2. There needs to be a more direct conversation/advocacy around local government and its role in adaptation from an institutional and structural perspective (full credit to all councils that are making efforts in this area) rather than a political one. <p>There is an urgent need for the Tasmanian government to formalise standardised and harmonised adaptation systems and processes. After all councils, in the first instance, are set up by the State to deliver its legislation at the local level. To be effective at the corporate level it needs to be in the same format that local government delivers other jurisdictional functions such development planning, environmental health and emergency management whereby they have a head of power and clear processes/templates for that enable them to tailor for their local community circumstance and characteristics.</p> <p>Without such an approach efforts are: ad hoc, populist, mismatched, uneven, duplication of effort and led by external interests (consultants/NGO's and continual subscription) that do not create, or embed, the necessary corporate climate governance required. Such an approach would enable all council's to get their 'houses-in-order' and provide clarity and transparency enabling broader and deeper action at a community/multi sectoral /regional level where expectations and real outcomes can achieved and trust can be built. Without such an approach adaptation will never be a priority for councils as General Managers/CEO seek to discharge their corporate duties which are measured against the delivery of statutory roles and responsibilities that are inherently reactive and do not effectively provide for the management of strategic future risk. And yes there maybe councils out there doing 'good' adaptation but this definitely isn't the case for all and it certainly isn't embedded into the structural and institutional framing for all local government which ultimately leads to climate mal-adaptation, and social injustice and inequality.</p> 3. Given the complexity and scale of the issues greater attention needs to paid to roles and responsibilities (as outlines below) and co-design and resourcing to support integrated and evidence based approaches to mitigation and adaptation. <p>Local government:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement relevant State/Cth legislation • Manage climate impacts and risks on assets council owned assets and services • Reduce greenhouse gases/energy use across council owned assets and services

Question	STCA comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure council policies and regulations incorporate climate considerations and are consistent with State Cth approaches • Collaborate across councils and the State on regional climate impacts and risks • Facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in local communities by providing climate information (so they can manage climate risk) • Work across key stakeholders (community NGO's, business and residential) to manage climate risk and impacts <p>The State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide local and regional science and information • Manage State assets and programs • Work with Cth to implement reform • Encourage climate action specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ promoting a risk management response to climate change adaptation by government and the private parties through appropriate forums,; ○ ensuring State and Territory regulatory and market frameworks promote effective adaptation by private parties, using market mechanisms where these are likely to be most effective; ○ ensuring existing and new state planning, property and environmental legislation and policy encourages effective adaptation by asset owners and managers; ○ working with the Commonwealth government to identify and implement priorities to improve adaptive capacity and strengthen climate resilience in vulnerable communities; and ○ supporting Local Government to ensure that policies and regulations are consistent with State Government adaptation approaches and to facilitate building resilience and adaptive capacity in the local community. <p>The private sector (community) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be aware of the risks and their responsibility for managing them; • take steps to understand the magnitude and nature of the specific risks to their assets and activities; and • develop and implement strategies and actions to manage the risks and reduce emissions/energy use

Developing a New Climate Action Plan for Tasmania

Question	STCA Comment
<p>What do you think are the key opportunities to reduce Tasmania's emissions? Please choose your top three.</p>	<p>There needs to be a transparent and coherent conversation around roles and responsibilities for emission/energy reductions to provide visibility for all stakeholders as to where emission reductions can be realised, are occurring and opportunities to do so, and who has responsibility to lead, coordinate and collaborate.</p> <p>From a local governments perspective councils have a clear responsibility to reduce emissions (and energy) from their corporate assets, services and programs including waste management, demonstrating leadership within their communities. And whilst there are influential calls from local and global NGO's and community based organisations for the local government sector to set community based zero emission targets across their municipal areas, this can only be achieved in partnership with State governments and private sectors. Whilst the intent is admirable in practice it is flawed as councils typically control less than 1% of their municipal area's emissions meaning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expectations can't be met resulting in the potential for eroding of trust • emissions reductions across the community sector are typically due to the efforts of other actors such as the State or Commonwealth, rather than local government • duplication of accounting can occur <p>For community based targets to be meaningful the leadership of the State is required to ensure that community based emissions programs are aligned, there is clear visibility of who is responsible and the measurement of sectors. Partnerships should be entered into with local governments</p> <p>It is further noted that community based accounting tools such as climate snapshot are not relevant for Tasmanian context as they are based on extrapolation of emissions from other state jurisdictions have much higher emissions factors due to their energy being based on fossil fuels. It is also noted that these emissions intensities have in past precluded Tasmania from various energy efficiency programs as thresholds were not able to be met.</p>
<p>What do you think are the key gaps in Tasmania's current efforts to reduce emissions?</p>	<p>Please refer to comment above Gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders clearly articulated and promoted to enable clarity and transparency for actions • Common reporting methods and platform for stakeholders that aligns to Tasmanian governments contribution to emissions reduction • Partnership between State government and councils for energy efficiency programs to support vulnerable communities and more broadly achieve efficiencies across Tasmania
<p>What do you think are the main opportunities for Tasmania to transition to a low carbon economy?</p>	<p>Tasmania has considerable assets including: renewable energy (wind and hydro); an island state; proximity between the sectors of: local and state government, research, industry and private/community that may give it advantage in transitioning to low carbon economy. For the transition to be equitable and with the least disruption, effort should applied to understanding where the vulnerabilities and transition hinge points exist, who will be effected and how these can be mitigated particularly in the areas of transport and circular economies.</p>
<p>What aspects of Tasmania's projected future climate most concern you and why?</p>	<p>Climate impacts tend to be viewed through a siloed lens and whilst there are undoubtedly significant risks associated with hazards such as bushfire, flooding, coastal erosion and so on it is: cascading, compounding, coinciding and concatenating impacts that are of greatest concern.</p> <p>The complexity of climate impacts and trajectories are not adequately or effectively addressed through the current institutional and structural framings which are geared to management of singular issues rather than issues with significant interplay.</p> <p>Greater consideration is required to support preparedness, and adaptation pathways planning through a harmonised and collaborative approach by key stakeholders including councils and the State government agencies. It should be based on systems thinking and solutions to deal with complexity avoiding possible inconsistent, ad hoc, mal-adaptive, fragmented and social –in-equitable responses.</p>

Question	STCA Comment
	<p>Consideration also needs to be given to secondary impacts such a climate gentrification, economic transition to low carbon economies and financial disruptions and emotional/psychological trauma experienced across communities.</p> <p>Through the auspices of STCA southern councils have sought to understand and manage climate risks and hazards through the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Program. Their experiences have highlighted common risks to councils at both operational and governance functions, regardless of the size, resource capacity or political support and highlight the need for a harmonised and systems based approach to support the development of localised responses based on each council's individual circumstance and communities characteristics and needs.</p>
<p>Which parts of Tasmania (for example locations, industries, communities) do you think are most vulnerable to a changing climate?</p>	<p>Climate shapes our landscapes and communities/society, and its intensification though increased emissions is resulting in changes in ways that are not necessarily anticipated or understood. As such there are no aspects of Tasmania that are not affected directly or indirectly by climate change, however the sectors currently most vulnerable to current risks are anticipated to increase their exposure with the least capacity and resources to adapt.</p> <p>The proximity of councils to their communities, combined with their jurisdictional roles of land use planning, compliance, environmental health and municipal service delivery give them unique insights into their communities. There is a need for the state and councils to partner in climate vulnerability assessments across key indices to identify where vulnerabilities and exposure exist and to enable their prioritisation. It is recognised that vulnerabilities in one municipality may have impacts across others. The impacts Dunalley and Huon bushfires extended beyond their respective municipal areas with impacts (financial, economic, resource) experienced at a regional scale</p>
<p>What do you think are the key opportunities to help Tasmania adapt to a changing climate? Please choose your top three.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tasmanian government and councils partner to co-design a systems-based climate program across the policy spheres of mitigation and adaptation that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. provides transparency to all sectors on roles and responsibility and a series of metrics that are readily understood by communities b. enables the management of risk and impacts to public assets, and land use planning c. harmonises and standardises approaches to avoid mal adaptation, duplication of effort and realise efficiencies in program delivery 2. Extension of the Southern Tasmanian Councils Regional Climate Change Adaptation Program to all Tasmanian councils to provide a harmonised and standardised response including the development of Regional Strategies and Council Climate Adaptation Plans – based on a risk management and systems approach with monitoring, reporting and evaluation approach that indemnify councils when implemented. This would include by dedicated regional technical and policy resources to build capacity and support organisational change within council's corporate governance and operational functions. 3. Establish of a targeted 'Sovereign' Climate Resilience Fund to support the adaptation of public (State and local) assets, based on climate risk assessments 4. Prepare Regional Land Use Strategies with a climate lens to: guide future development investment in public assets and infrastructure and mitigates exposure to climate risk and increased natural hazards; and identify adaptation pathways 5. Prepare Regional Asset Adaptation Strategies and Asset Management Plans that enable the aggregation of public assets (state and local) and identify exposure to vulnerabilities, life cycles based on future
<p>Other comments on Opportunities Paper</p>	<p>The Tasmanian government, through its review of the Climate Change Act and Climate Action 21, co-design with the STCA, a systems based approach to climate action and provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Emission and energy profiles produced at municipal (community) scale</u>, alongside state-wide profile, based on STCA profiles. This would support councils to develop targeted community emissions/energy mitigation programs and enable councils to identify where they can influence and support reduction, these could be included in State-wide emissions reporting, and would provide greater accuracy and relevance than Climate Snapshot and take into account Tasmania's unique energy and greenhouse profiles, many councils do not have the expertise to develop in house resulting in external providers being engaged and a disparate range of methods used which do not enable aggregation of effort

Question	STCA Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary <u>corporate emissions reporting template and portal</u>, based on STCA work program. This would enable councils to: benchmark efforts, apply relevant emissions factors, aggregate action, and importantly embed across council corporate practice (i.e. all council pay energy bills – electricity and fuel – which can be augmented to capture this information rather than relying on external providers) • <u>Extension of municipal climate profiles based on UTAS Climate Futures Tasmania models to all Tasmanian councils</u>: Supports decision making by councils and can be used by technical officers to design climate responses – methodology for selection of climate indices has been developed by STCA in partnership with UTAS and delivered 3 times enabling the identification of relevant corporate climate indices used for council decision making • <u>Development of climate infographics to support municipal profiles that are easily understood by non-technical users</u>: Support councils to communicate climate risk and hazards, aligned to State Govt but at a municipal level, providing transparency for communities across regions and increasing climate literacy • <u>Resources to support the development of a standardised approach for councils for climate responses</u> Extension of the STCA UTAS council climate collaboration project Tasmania wide and increase councils climate governance and resilience • <u>Review of relevant local government legislation to include climate considerations</u>, formalising council’s responses, supporting decision making and reducing council’s exposure to potential liability for its decision making, including review of LUPAA and associated Tasmanian Planning policies to incorporate climate considerations and enable the development whole of hazard climate responses rather than at an individual development/property level. • <u>Prioritisation of climate resilience through the regional land-use strategy review and Greater Hobart City Deal</u> Leverage the STCA’s climate work program to enable fit for purpose, adaptation pathways and resilient climate responses that manage climate risk, hazard and transition to low carbon economies. • <u>Establishment of a ‘Sovereign’ Climate Resilience Fund</u> Support the assessment and prioritisation of public assets (State and local) to increase resilience to climate hazards and impacts. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>The STCA, mirrored by emerging awareness across regional council alliances Australia-wide, recognises the prioritised need for the harmonisation and standardisation of local government corporate climate mitigation and adaptation responses.</p> <p>The STCA’s climate program has developed, and is continuing to develop, key resources, tools and approaches to support this and these can be extended to all Tasmanian councils. Developed by councils for councils the resources address the key corporate needs and evidence-base required for local government climate action (both mitigation and adaptation). They provide the platform councils to act regardless of size and enable sharing of resources, collaboration and greater transparency by communities.</p> <p>The Review of the Climate Change Act and Climate Action 21 provides the opportunity for the State to leverage, collaborate and extend these resources to all Tasmanian councils. Such a co-designed approach would be cost effective, avoid duplication, increase capacity and resilience of councils, enable scalability, be driven by corporate organisational requirements rather than external approaches which are more often than not outside of council’s jurisdictional responsibilities.</p> <p>It is considered that a standardised approach would result in climate action becoming part of business as usual rather than discretionary political and polarising and demonstrate State government leadership.</p> <p>Issue:</p> <p>Local government is established by State to deliver its legislation and where such processes (head of power and template/guidelines) are in place councils do this effectively i.e. development planning, environmental health, emergency management, stormwater, roads etc. However where there is no process responses are: ad hoc, populist, discretionary/resource constrained, driven externally, political and don’t translate into necessary corporate systems or organisational change, as in the case of climate action.</p>