

## Your details

Name / Organisation name:

Dr Clare Smith

## Reducing Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions

1. What do you think are the key opportunities to reduce Tasmania's emissions?

Please choose your top three.:

Leave trees, gas, oil and coal in the ground. Work out fair transition for workers in those (already job-shedding) industries such as that undertaken by Germany with their successful 'Coal Compromise'. Maximise small scale distributed power generation. Move seriously towards electrification of transport and legislate for tough standards for fuel and vehicle emissions - currently we are the world's dumping ground for poor quality fuel and inefficient vehicles that most of the developed world has banned.

2. What do you think are the key gaps in Tasmania's current efforts to reduce emissions?:

It is mostly gap at present. Our emissions are actually going up - our 'net zero emissions' are a result of past very poor behaviour cutting down forests at a huge rate that has slowed so some forest is growing back and is a kind of accounting trick. The vested interests (can't think of another explanation) pushing the Marinus cable represent a huge financial threat to Tasmanians as it is likely to be a very expensive stranded asset by the time it is on-line as the rest of Australia gallops ahead with solar, wind, hydro and battery storage without needing us. There are only minor steps being taken to help the transition towards electrification of transport. This needs to include managing the stranding of every fossil-fuel dependent asset including the family SUV. The biggest gap is the lack of a serious legislated framework. To invest, companies need these frameworks. The business world has been pleading for a proper Australia wide energy plan for decades. Just because the Federal Government has failed us, it does not mean that the State Government has licence to do the same. We are still allowing exploration for gas and coal. That is a death wish.

3. What do you think are the main opportunities for Tasmania to transition to a low carbon economy?:

Use our capacity to generate renewable energy to generate jobs and increase the circular economy in plastics by investing in new plastics recycling technology such as pyrolytic processing of soft plastics to recover crude oil and aluminium that can be reused eg <https://www.enval.com> or Cat-HTR™ (Catalytic Hydrothermal Reactor) <https://www.licella.com.au> Another option would be to invest in something like this <https://www.anewenergy.co>. This is a group working on providing open source capacity to manufacture and distribute small scale wind and solar energy generation with battery and smart use technology. This would be a far better investment by Aurora/Tasmanian Government than massive wind towers only viable if the disastrous Marinus Cable was to be built. It might allow Aurora to pay off some of its huge current and forecast debt and generate a large number of jobs. The increase in distributed power generation would keep hydro for base and peak load and allow more energy intense industries like the plastics recycling and cloud computing servers to be undertaken.

## Helping Tasmania adapt to a changing climate

1. What aspects of Tasmania's projected future climate most concern you and why?:

Climate change is the biggest threat to health. Already heat wave days see a 5% increase in presentations to the Departments of Emergency, and domestic violence goes up. The impact of

background climate anxiety is rising, with substantial mental health impacts of coping with increasing climate related natural disasters on top. Physical health impacts of smoke, floods etc are also large. The impact of the influx of climate refugees is already being felt, with housing stocks being bought up and locals forced to move out. In Tasmania, there is not much 'out'. Rural areas are already full, homelessness is clearly on the rise and far from being ready for it, the government has allowed a huge backlog to build up. These impacts, as usual, fall hardest on the most disadvantaged. Single parents, older single women and those with any kind of disability and those with multigenerational disadvantage are the least able to face these increasing challenges. Media concentration as it exists in Australia now makes the toxicity of false news and climate deniers far too powerful. Political donation secrecy prevents us seeing how vested interests are distorting decision making that affects us all.

2. Which parts of Tasmania (for example locations, industries, communities) do you think are most vulnerable to a changing climate?:

Those made homeless by losing their rented homes to incoming climate refugees with more buying power - particularly those already disadvantaged. Forestry and fossil fuel industry workers need a proper strategy for replacing their jobs with safer ones. All fossil-fuel dependent assets are at risk of stranding and there needs to be a plan for this. Those with houses in high fire risk areas are very vulnerable. All of southern Tasmania is at risk in the case of needing to evacuate as every single vehicle has to cross Macquarie St to go north - this is a terrible vulnerability. Reliance on a very small state reserve of fossil fuels would be best addressed by moving as fast as possible to electrification of transport - with rising world tensions aggravated by climate change and consequent conflict and mass migration makes this a material risk to managed.

3. What do you think are the key opportunities to help Tasmania adapt to a changing climate? Please choose your top three.:

Production and use of small scale renewable energy and distribution microgrids with related jobs. Use of renewable energy to recycle plastics and power cloud servers /other high energy uses. Improve mental health services and resilience promotion strategies to support the whole community to cope with climate change. Legislate for truth in political advertising, and transparency of all political donations.

## General

Is there anything else you'd like to add?:

This is the most important challenge facing us. it needs absolutely top priority. Climate change and all the associated ecological disasters that are accumulating are real and urgent and it will be like one long and much more severe pandemic. it needs at least as much attention and multi-party 'above politics' response. There needs to be full transparency so that pet projects like Marinus are dealt with properly with community consultation. This requires proper disclosure of all political donations and controls on fake news in the media.

## Publication

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