

COMMISSIONER
FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE
AMBASSADORS
Climate Change
Consultation Summary

AUGUST 2021





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➤ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

In recognition of the deep history and culture of this Island, we acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners, and ongoing custodians of lutruwita/ Tasmania and pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

➤ THANK YOU

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office would like to thank all Commissioner for Children and Young People Ambassadors of Tasmania who attended an event or provided feedback on the independent review of Tasmania's climate change legislation and development of Tasmania's next climate change action plan. Thank you also to all the parents, carers, educators and friends who supported the Ambassadors to take part in the consultation.



➤ BACKGROUND

From cargo bikes to cows

In early 2021, members of Tasmania's Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP)'s Ambassador Program expressed an interest in having more opportunity to talk to decision makers on issues including climate change and the environment.

The CCYP Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for children and young people to have their voices heard on how things could be improved for young Tasmanians.

CCYP Ambassadors range in age from 9 to 17, come from all regions in Tasmania and from varied backgrounds.

In May and June 2021, the Tasmanian Climate Change Office (TCCO) met with CCYP Ambassadors to listen to their opinions and concerns as part of consultation on the independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* (the rules) and the development of Tasmania's next climate change action plan (the actions).

Four face-to-face consultations were held across the State:

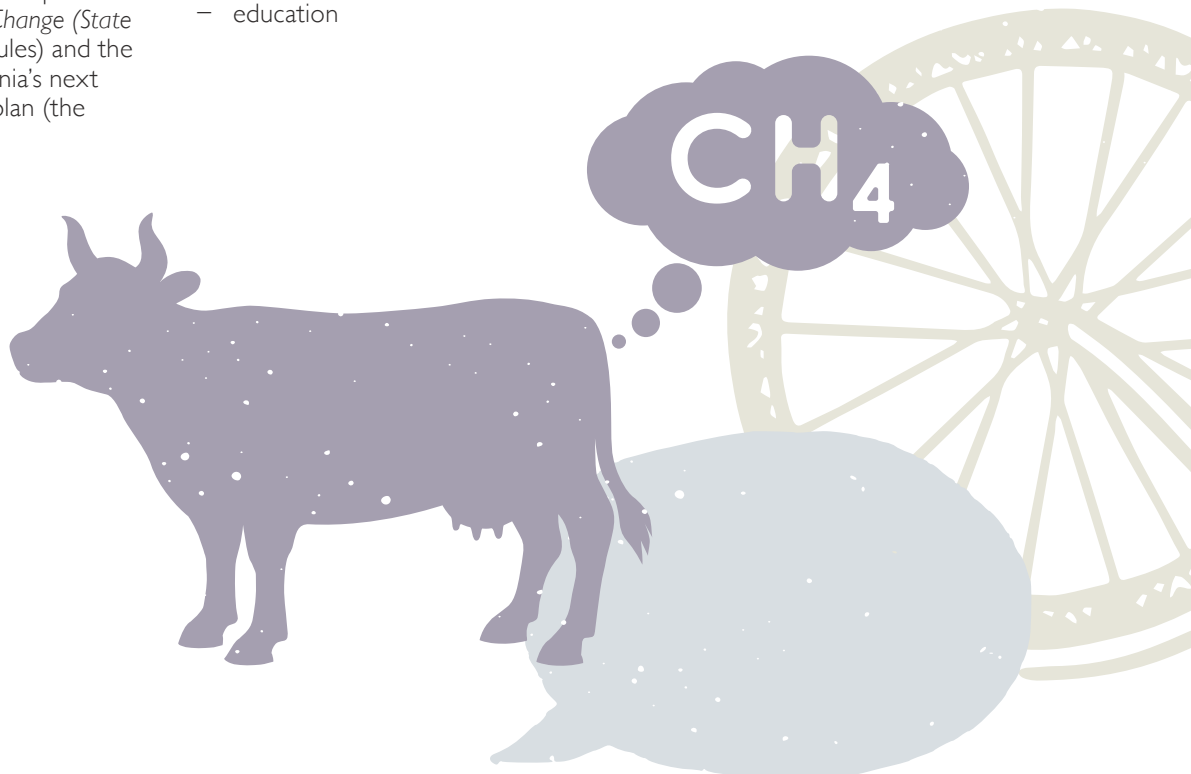
- Devonport: 31 May (10 attendees)
- Launceston: 1 June (7 attendees)
- Hobart: 3 June (8 attendees)
- Hobart: 4 June (21 attendees)

A fifth consultation was also held online on 7 June (5 attendees).

We received an overwhelming response, with 424 ideas being collected across a large variety of topics. Of main concern to the CCYP Ambassadors were:

- the use of single-use plastics
- changing people's behaviours
- preparation for a changing climate
- more readily available environmentally friendly public transport
- education

The CCYP Ambassadors discussed at length the effects of cow farts and burps, the need for more efficient and sustainable public transport, cargo bikes as a new transport alternative, compulsory recycling in schools and the wider community, and the need for better climate change education for everyone. The biggest issue raised throughout the consultation by CCYP Ambassadors was that we need "more action on climate change" and that the "decisions we make today will determine our future".



➤ KEY THEMES BY REGION

North-West

- Sustainable adaptation of agriculture and forestry
- We need jobs but we need to do it while protecting the environment
- More frequent, reliable and affordable public transport
- Make participating in reducing the impacts of climate change more affordable for everyone (solutions are expensive)

North

- Provide places and activities for people to seek climate relief
- Better prepare for emergency evacuation and hazardous events
- Ban single-use plastic

South

- Influence behaviour change around reducing and organising waste, and choosing low emission options, such as local products, and eating less meat
- More frequent, reliable and affordable public transport
- More climate change education and support for young people and adults

» WHAT MEANS THE MOST TO US

recycling
technology innovation
public transport
emergency response regulation
climate relief production innovation
active transport efficiency
single-use plastic
behavioural change
building regulations
preparation
electric vehicles
education



» RULES TO IMPLEMENT NOW

What CCYP Ambassadors would like to see in law right now

1: Ban single-use plastic in Tasmania

2: Require FOGO and REDcycle collection in all Tasmanian council areas

3: Ban native forest harvesting

4: Emissions limits for big companies

5: All government buildings and schools should have solar panels

6: Make sure big companies that supply products to Tasmania don't use single use plastics

7: Make a seat in Parliament for a 'Youth Minister'

8: Stop the Australian Government from supporting the coal industry

9: 80% green buildings in Tasmania by 2035, 100% by 2045

10: Everyone to move to electric cars by 2045-2050 with 50% by 2030

11: Emergency response plans for all communities with permanent nominated evacuation hubs and relocation plans for animals and livestock

12: Mandatory Clean Up Australia Day participation

13: Require media representation around environmental practices to be mandated to teach a good example

» WHAT WE WOULD TELL THE PREMIER

If we don't do it now, we won't do it ever!

Please no coal, it's our future

Why do you care more about jobs than the future of humanity?

Make electric cars cheaper

Listen to children, they are the future

Invest in more public transport, and make it electric and cheaper

We need to look out for each other

Ban single use plastic!

There's no planet 'B' so help planet 'A'

Be prepared for bushfire and flood risk

We need more awareness about climate change, like ads on TV

Tell the Premier, the future is in his hands

Stop prioritising the few people who work in areas bad for the future and focus on everyone being affected

More action on climate change

➤ HOW TO REDUCE EMISSIONS

Actions and programs by sector

ENERGY

Solar	<i>Subsidise solar panels</i>
	<i>All government buildings and schools should have solar or other renewable energy source</i>
	<i>Solar and wind farms</i>
Technology/innovation	<i>Explore hydrogen, nuclear, geothermal, gas and biomass</i>
Efficiency	<i>Be more careful of water consumption (put timers on taps)</i>
	<i>Store excess renewable energy</i>
Behaviour change	<i>Use Rubik's cubes instead of iPads or other technology</i>
	<i>Lobby other Australian states and territories to stop using coal power</i>

TRANSPORT

Public transport	<i>More frequent and reliable buses that are electric</i>
	<i>More affordable (free) public transport</i>
	<i>Better (accessible) bus routes</i>
	<i>Bigger buses so more people can fit on them</i>
	<i>Invest in boats and ferries</i>
Active transport	<i>More and safer bike paths and lanes</i>
	<i>Subsidise e-bikes and other e-transport, or provide salary sacrificing arrangements</i>
	<i>More bike hire facilities</i>
	<i>Education on safe bike use</i>
Electric vehicles	<i>Make electric cars cheaper</i>
	<i>Provide more charging stations (every petrol station)</i>
	<i>Electric trucks and rail</i>
Rail	<i>Passenger train across Tasmania</i>
	<i>Electric light rail or trams in cities</i>
Behaviour change	<i>Carpooling</i>
	<i>Don't use cars for short distances (we need more facilities closer to home)</i>
	<i>Reward people for using public/active transport (like school points)</i>



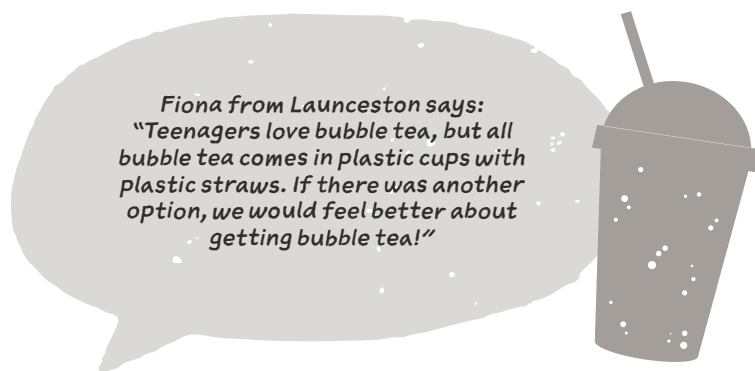
AGRICULTURE

Technology/innovation	Use seaweed, vaccines, or other biological interventions to reduce cow methane production
	Reduce pesticide and synthetic fertiliser use
	More efficient farming practices
Land use change	Prevent agricultural expansion from cutting down trees, leading to soil erosion
Behaviour change	Encourage less meat consumption, or increase alternatives such as plant-based meat and algae

INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES AND PRODUCT USE

Regulation	Strict laws for big companies on emissions production
	Regulations for unsustainable and unethical clothing producers
Behaviour change	Manufacture less unnecessary items
	Reduce import and export from and to other countries
	Require big organisations to address emissions reduction





WASTE

Single-Use plastic	<i>Legislate statewide ban on single-use plastic (straws, plastic cup lids)</i>
	<i>Phase out soft plastics (packaging, bags)</i>
	<i>Encourage reusable container use in supermarkets, fast-food, schools and businesses</i>
	<i>Reward and encourage businesses that use sustainable practices, resource reduction and alternative materials</i>
	<i>Promote alternative technologies, such as sugar cane straws, seaweed packaging, compostable baking paper etc</i>
Recycling	<i>Compulsory recycling in schools (financial help for small schools to get recycling collected)</i>
	<i>Introduce REDcycle kerbside collection and in public places</i>
	<i>Greater public awareness and accessibility</i>
	<i>Separate bins for glass, paper and plastic</i>
Composting	<i>FOGO collection in all Tasmanian council areas</i>
	<i>Encourage people to do their own composting</i>
Behaviour change	<i>Grow food at home to reduce packaging from shops</i>
	<i>Stop people from littering (in schools)</i>
	<i>More water fountains in public spaces so people stop buying bottled water</i>

LAND USE, LAND USE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

Logging	<i>No old growth logging</i>
	<i>Don't stop logging completely, but only log plantation timber</i>
Reforestation	<i>Every time you log a tree, plant two in its place</i>
	<i>More forest industries based on planting trees</i>
Forest management	<i>Protect our forests, especially sacred spaces</i>
	<i>Better prevention of bushfires, adopt Aboriginal burning practices</i>

**All names have been changed to protect identities*

HOW TO ADAPT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

Actions and programs for Tasmania

AT HOME

Building regulations	<i>Have more laws around where you can live and build, making sure houses can withstand fires, flood and be evacuated easily</i>
	<i>Reinforce certain areas against erosion (eg by using plants that double as homes for wildlife)</i>
	<i>Better rules on where you can and can't cut down trees to build new homes</i>
Preparation	<i>Have flood and fire evacuation plans for homes</i>
	<i>Prioritise things to do/take in case of an emergency</i>
	<i>Review and refine plans after an event</i>
	<i>Prepare for transporting animals/livestock in an emergency</i>
Emergency response	<i>Develop permanent evacuation centres that are well known and fit-for-purpose</i>
	<i>More government support for people who are affected by natural disasters</i>

WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

Climate relief	<i>Subsidise air conditioning or provide a special tariff for vulnerable/elderly people</i>
	<i>Greater community access to centres for cooling down/warming up ie Swimming pools, community centres, shaded areas etc</i>
	<i>More urban greening</i>
	<i>More support for those struggling with eco-anxiety</i>
Education	<i>More information about climate adaptation and effects of a changing climate</i>
	<i>Extend Fireman Craig program to apply to bushfires, floods, and other natural disasters</i>
	<i>Make sure people are aware of the risks in their area</i>
	<i>Develop climate resilience among people</i>

Libby had to leave her home in the North-West for over a week because of a flood. She had to leave before she was able to pack everything she needed, so having a plan in place may have helped!

Rob in Devonport had great memories of the Fireman Craig education program in primary school, even though he was now in high school! "Why couldn't we do the same with bushfire and flood preparation?"

WITHIN OUR ORGANISATIONS (SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES)

Climate relief	<i>Flexible working arrangements</i>
	<i>Accessible, onsite temperature controls for buildings</i>
	<i>Make sure all schools have air conditioning</i>
	<i>Thoughtful landscaping ie No astroturf as it heats up more than grass</i>
	<i>Make sure that school/work uniforms are weather appropriate ie Offer shorts/short sleeves/singlets; make sure material is breathable and sustainable</i>
Preparation	<i>Evacuation plans for bushfires and floods, not just building fires, and make sure they're put into practice</i>
	<i>Plan for road and school closures</i>
Building regulation	<i>Invest in the Green Cities initiative</i>



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