

Stuart, Kate

From: Marnie Dixon
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To: Climate Change
Subject: Waste emissions reduction

Categories:

Thank you for consulting with Tasmanians on this critical issue. I think we are well placed with a demographic accustomed to Tip Shops and recycling as part of our culture. But we must build this into the economy and expand.

It is encouraging to note the inclusion of the circular economy in the plan for waste. This forward-thinking approach deserves commendation, as it provides a pathway towards a sustainable future for Tasmania. To improve the outcomes from the plan, there are some recommendations that should be considered, as outlined below.

To truly embrace the principles of the circular economy, it is essential to focus on overall awareness of circular economy practices. This can be achieved through educational initiatives that inform and empower consumers to make conscious choices. By promoting the idea of reusable items, we can reduce littering and illegal dumping. An effective strategy to achieve this is the implementation of the proposed container refund scheme, which encourages the use of reusable containers and discourages single-use disposables. Such initiatives will not only reduce waste but also foster a sense of responsibility within the community.

Product stewardship is an important aspect in a circular economy. A right to repair for consumers would help introduce this concept to the state. By providing individuals with the ability to repair their products, rather than discarding them when they break or become obsolete, we can extend the lifespan of goods and reduce waste generation. The introduction of right to repair legislation would enable consumers to choose repairers of their choice at a reasonable cost, fostering a culture of repair within Tasmania. Additionally, support for repair cafés and maker/mender communities would further enhance the accessibility of repair services and promote the sharing of skills and resources. This not only reduces waste but also creates new economic opportunities and empowers consumers to make informed choices about their products.

Tasmania's rising tide of food waste demands a comprehensive approach. A ban on food waste across sectors, like manufacturing and hospitality, would encourage resource efficiency and divert organic matter from landfills. Complementing this ban, supermarket donation programs and local farmer's markets can effectively manage surplus produce and ensure that it does not go to waste. Innovative schemes like upcycling unwanted berries into jam or potatoes into animal feed can further reduce waste and associated emissions. Initiatives such as 'Food Bank' can truly address the root causes of resource wastage.

Given the pressing issue of rising global emissions, Tasmania's waste emissions plan must reflect a paradigm shift. Echoing the mistakes of the past is unacceptable, as it would compromise the well-being of our future generations. It is therefore imperative that the revised ERRP sets ambitious targets, coupled with adequate resourcing. Utilising tepid terms like "reduce" and "explore" fails to convey the urgency required. To gain public trust and support, we demand measurable targets, clear timelines, and concrete progress indicators for every initiative in the proposed plan. Allocating adequate funds to ERRP initiatives, setting ambitious waste reduction and recovery targets, and exploring innovative solutions like tip shops, repair cafes, and reuse mandates will showcase Tasmania as a leader in waste reduction and resource recovery, setting an example for the world to follow.

While biogas offers the advantage of reducing methane emissions, it is crucial to consider its limitations. Rampant use of biogas could lead to waste being considered a useful 'green' fuel source, which could discourage waste reduction targets. There is also the potential for competition between biogas production

and other uses of organic waste that could have greater benefits for the environment and the economy, such as composting or animal feed. The use of biogas should not overshadow more effective emissions reduction measures - biogas must only be considered as an interim option. The focus must be on reducing waste.

Kindly

Marnie Dixon