

Climate Change Office



What we heard: summary of consultation on Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

June 2023

In recognition of the deep history and culture of these islands, we acknowledge all Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the continuing Custodians of this Land and Sea Country and pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

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Publisher: Department of State Growth

ISBN: 978-1-921527-79-1

Date: June 2023

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Summary of consultation on Tasmania's next climate change action plan
Climate Change Office | Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania

Contents

Introduction	1
Consultation on <i>Tasmania’s Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25</i>	1
Consultation questions	2
Feedback	3
Vision and Goals	3
Priority Area 1: Information and Knowledge	4
Priority Area 2: Transition and Innovation	4
Priority Area 3: Adaptation and Resilience.....	6
Keeping Track: Implementation, reporting and monitoring.....	7
What we are doing to address your feedback	8
Who we heard from – appendix of submissions	11
Organisations.....	11
Individuals.....	12

Introduction

Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 will outline the government's plan for action on climate change for the next two years. The plan will support Tasmania's transition to a low emissions economy, in line with our target to maintain net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030.

In March 2022, the government released *Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2025* for public consultation. The draft plan was based around three priority areas:

1. Information and knowledge
2. Transition and innovation
3. Adaptation and resilience.

Key actions in the draft plan include the development of sector-specific Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans in consultation with business, industry and government, delivery of Tasmania's first Statewide Climate Change Risk Assessment, updating the fine-scale climate projections for Tasmania and development of climate change resources for schools.

Feedback on the draft action plan will inform the development of the final plan, including identification of additional priority projects, consistent with the objectives of the Act, consultation and the opportunities identified in the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review.

This 'What we heard' Report summarises the feedback received through public workshops, meetings, and written submissions to the draft action plan.

Consultation on Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

Public consultation on the draft action plan opened on 2 March and closed on 6 April 2023.

Consultation included written submissions, three online public workshops, meetings with key stakeholders, and workshops with the Premier's Youth Advisory Council and the Commissioner for Children and Young People Ambassadors.

The consultation was promoted through the Climate Change Office newsletter and social media, and all documents were published on the Climate Change Office website.

Consultation questions were published online with the draft action plan, to assist those submitting to provide relevant feedback that would help develop the final version of the action plan.

A plain language version of the draft action plan was also developed to engage with a wide range of Tasmanians, including children and young people.

In total, over 140 individuals or organisations shared their feedback.

Consultation questions

Vision and goals

1. Do you agree with the proposed vision and goals for the action plan? Which goals are you most supportive of? Are there any other goals that should be considered?

Priority areas

2. Will the three priority areas, (1) information and knowledge, (2) transition and innovation and (3) adaptation and resilience, help Tasmania achieve its legislated 2030 emissions reduction target and its vision for action on climate change? Are there other issues not covered by the three priority areas?

Information and knowledge

3. Will the key actions under Priority area 1 help support decision making for you and your community or organisation? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?

Transition and innovation

4. Will the key actions under Priority area 2 support Tasmania to achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target and continued emissions reduction across Tasmania? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?

Adaptation and resilience

5. Will the key actions under Priority area 3 build resilience and support adaptation planning across Tasmania? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?

Implementation, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation

6. Are there other ways the government could make its action on climate change, and progress towards meeting its targets, more transparent and accessible?

Feedback

A broad range of stakeholders provided feedback, including business and industry, scientific, environmental and community bodies, children and young people, local government, and members of the community.

Submissions have been published on the Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT) website (www.recfit.tas.gov.au). Where feedback was requested to remain confidential, it has not been published.

Feedback is grouped below by action plan area, showing how much support or interest there was in each theme. The specific feedback covered a broad range of issues in relation to each of the key themes identified.

There are many emissions reduction activities that may also have resilience co-benefits or vice versa (for example, reforestation and urban greening). For the purposes of this report, these have been attributed to only one priority area to accurately reflect the total level of support for these actions.

Some themes are repeated across several priority areas, as they have different meanings and outcomes depending on the priority area – for example “work with local government” was raised in relation to all three priority areas.

For each theme, topics are listed in order from the strongest support or interest to least.

Key:

- ● ● ● Raised 30 or more times
- ● ● ○ Raised 20-29 times
- ● ○ ○ Raised 10-19 times
- ○ ○ ○ Raised less than 10 times

Vision and Goals

Theme*	Level of support
Set strong, measurable goals and targets (such as sector emissions reduction targets)	● ● ● ●
Stronger, more urgent action on climate change	● ● ● ●
Reduce Tasmania's emissions (do not rely on the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector sink or carbon credits)	● ● ● ○

**For the purposes of this report, where feedback on the vision and goals related to a more specific issue, for example “support a circular economy”, this has been attributed to the relevant priority area below. This approach is intended to more accurately demonstrate the total level of support for each issue.*

Priority Area 1: Information and Knowledge

Theme	Level of support
Improve climate literacy of Tasmanians (including education about emissions, impacts, and actions such as electric vehicles or waste reduction)	● ● ● ●
Embed climate change in all government decision making	● ● ● ●
Youth empowerment (for example, education about climate change in schools)	● ● ● ○
Support research into impacts of climate change, and research and development of new emissions reduction opportunities	● ● ● ○
Embed climate change in environmental assessment processes	● ● ○ ○
Use existing information to act now	● ● ○ ○
Support education and jobs in STEM and other relevant fields	● ○ ○ ○
Support community groups to share information and knowledge	● ○ ○ ○
Work with local government (for example, provide information to support planning at the regional level)	● ○ ○ ○
Establish an independent Climate Change Authority	● ○ ○ ○

Priority Area 2: Transition and Innovation

Theme	Level of support
Support uptake of public and active transport (such as e-bikes and buses)	● ● ● ●
Support uptake of electric vehicles	● ● ● ●
Stop or reduce native forest logging	● ● ● ●
Support electrification and energy efficiency in homes and businesses	● ● ● ●
No new fossil fuel developments, support a just transition away from existing coal extraction and use	● ● ● ●
Support for social housing/rental properties/low-income households (such as electrification and energy efficiency)	● ● ● ●
Support industrial emissions reduction	● ● ● ○
Ensure renewable energy projects benefit Tasmania	● ● ● ○

Theme	Level of support
Support the agriculture sector to reduce emissions (such as low-methane livestock, regenerative agriculture and soil carbon projects)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Support community-level action to reduce emissions	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Increase access to Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) and other organic waste processing solutions	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Incentivise and promote resource efficiency and sustainable practices	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Bioenergy only where electrification is not possible, from sustainable biomass only	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Increase plantations and agroforestry	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Support a circular economy	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Advocate to the Australian and other governments (for example in relation to fossil fuel developments)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Increased energy efficiency standards for homes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Sustainable building practices (such as low-carbon materials)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Reforestation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Reduce reliance on livestock industries (for example, promote plant-based diets)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Establish a Tasmanian carbon offset scheme	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Carbon dioxide removal technologies	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Ban advertising of fossil fuel companies	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Work with local government (for example, provide resourcing for local government to reduce emissions)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

Priority Area 3: Adaptation and Resilience

Theme	Level of support
Protect Tasmania's natural environments (including marine environments)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Improve bushfire preparedness	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Address health and mental health impacts of climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Incorporate Tasmanian Aboriginal knowledge into action on climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Amend planning regulations for high-risk areas (such as bushfires, coastal hazards)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Support communities to adapt and build resilience	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Work with local government (for example, to manage coastal hazards)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Protect Tasmania's biodiversity	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Disaster preparedness	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Ensure buildings and infrastructure are resilient to the impacts of climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Address social impacts of climate change (such as population, employment)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Ensure economic growth is environmentally sustainable	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Address impacts of climate change on insurance costs	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Maximise the opportunities from Tasmania's net zero status (for example, carbon neutral marketing of Tasmanian products)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Support adaptation in the agriculture sector	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Environmentally sustainable aquaculture	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Food security	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Urban greening	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

Keeping Track: Implementation, reporting and monitoring

Theme	Level of support
Increased engagement with the community	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Increased transparency about reporting on Tasmania's emissions (especially LULUCF and energy sectors)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Increased transparency of government action to address climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Increased transparency of political donations (in the context of donations from large emitting businesses)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
Increased funding for action on climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

What we are doing to address your feedback

Feedback on the draft action plan has informed the development of Tasmania’s Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25. The best available science, the outcomes of the most recent independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* and the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review were also considered.

The action plan includes measures to address many of the issues raised in each priority area. Additional measures will be considered as part of the development of sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans. Feedback will also be considered in the development of the annual greenhouse gas emissions report and climate change activity statement.

A summary of the key themes from consultation and the measures in the action plan relevant to these issues are outlined below.

Section	What we heard	What we are doing
Vision and Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set strong, measurable goals and targets (such as sector emissions reduction targets) Stronger, more urgent action on climate change Reduce Tasmania's emissions (do not rely on the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector sink or carbon credits) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are developing sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans. The first plan for the transport sector is due to be released in November 2023. We will deliver over 20 new initiatives to address climate change, on top of over 60 actions already underway in ReCFIT and other areas of government. We will deliver new practical actions to implement key emissions reduction opportunities for Tasmania. Actions include supporting the uptake of electric vehicles and active transport, and research and development to reduce emissions from livestock.
Priority Area I: Information and Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve climate literacy of Tasmanians (including education about emissions, impacts, and actions such as electric vehicles or waste reduction) Embed climate change in all government decision making Youth empowerment (for example, education about climate change in schools) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will improve the accessibility and useability of information about climate change, including a public education program about climate change impacts and opportunities. We will develop a whole-of-government policy framework to embed climate change in decision making. We will develop climate change resources for schools, support the Youth Climate Leaders Program, improve how we consult with children and young people and explore how we can address the impacts of climate change on mental health, with a focus on children and young people.

Section	What we heard	What we are doing
Priority Area 2: Transition and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support uptake of public and active transport (such as e-bikes and buses) • Support uptake of electric vehicles • Stop or reduce native forest logging • Support electrification and energy efficiency in homes and businesses • No new fossil fuel developments, support a just transition away from existing coal extraction and use • Support for social housing/rental properties/low-income households (such as electrification and energy efficiency) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop a new grant program to help Tasmanians buy e-bikes and e-scooters, in addition to ongoing work to support Metro to trial zero emissions buses and improve Tasmania's public transport network. • We will develop a program to provide financial incentives to support the uptake of electric vehicles in Tasmania. • We will continue to deliver no-interest loan schemes to support homes and businesses to improve their energy efficiency. • We will launch a loan support scheme for industrial energy users to reduce their emissions.
Priority Area 3: Adaptation and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect Tasmania's natural environments (including marine environments) • Improve bushfire preparedness • Address health and mental health impacts of climate change • Incorporate Tasmanian Aboriginal knowledge into action on climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue ongoing actions to protect the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and Tasmania's biosecurity. • The Tasmania Fire Service will deliver the recently announced Bushfire-Ready Challenge to support communities to prepare for bushfires, in addition to the ongoing Fuel Reduction Program. • We will work with key partners to explore additional options to address the impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians. We will also continue to work with the Department of Health to implement the climate change and health focus area in the <i>Healthy Tasmanian Five-Year Strategic Plan</i>. • We will explore options to include Tasmanian Aboriginal knowledge in our action on climate change.

Section	What we heard	What we are doing
Keeping track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement with the community • Increased transparency about reporting on Tasmania's emissions (especially LULUCF and energy sectors) • Increased transparency of government action to address climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will keep the community informed through the Climate Change Office website, newsletter and social media. • We will deliver a Community Climate Action grants program to support community-level action to improve information and knowledge about climate change, reduce emissions and build resilience. • We will work to improve the way we engage with the community, including children and young people and Tasmanian Aboriginal communities. • We will report every year on our greenhouse gas emissions and will review our processes on an ongoing basis to improve the information we provide, based on the emissions data produced by the Australian Government. • We will produce a climate change activity statement every year to report on our action on climate change.

Who we heard from – appendix of submissions

In total, over 140 individuals or organisations shared their feedback. Organisations and individuals who provided written submissions, through the interactive online form or by email, are listed below.

Eight submissions requested confidentiality and are not included in this list.

Organisations

1. APA
2. Asthma Australia
3. Australian Council of Recycling
4. Australian Medical Association Tasmania
5. Australian Parents for Climate Action
6. Australian Pipelines and Gas Association
7. Bicycle Network
8. Cement Australia
9. Cement Concrete and Aggregates
10. Cement Industry Federation
11. Circular Economy Huon
12. City of Hobart
13. Climate Tasmania
14. Cradle Coast Authority
15. Curious Climate
16. DairyTas
17. Environmental Defenders Office
18. Engineers Australia
19. Farmers for Climate Action
20. Huon Valley Council
21. Hydro Tasmania
22. Hyundai Motor Company Australia
23. Landcare Tasmania
24. Net Zero Channel Inc
25. nipaluna Climate Collective
26. NRM North
27. Palisade Investment Partners
28. Private Forests Tasmania
29. Sorell Council
30. South Hobart Sustainable Community
31. Southern Tasmanian Councils Authority
32. TasCOSS
33. Tasman Council
34. Tasmanian Active Living Coalition
35. Tasmanian Climate Collective
36. Tasmanian Conservation Trust
37. Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
38. Tasmanian Forest Products Association
39. Tasmanian Greens
40. Tasmanian Independent Science Council
41. Tasmanian Policy Exchange
42. The Australia Institute
43. The Tree Projects
44. Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association Australia
45. Wind Song Peace Forest
46. Wine Tasmania

Individuals

1. Dr Fiona Beer
2. Manoj Prajwal Bhattaram
3. Jenny Cambers-Smith
4. Ben and Pen Clark
5. Eliza Duigan
6. Elizabeth Grey
7. Kai Harrison
8. Dr Helen Hutchinson
9. Tom Lewis
10. Ben Marshall
11. Sharee McCammon
12. Fletcher McCormack
13. Graeme McCormack
14. Jasper McCormack
15. Donnacha McGrath
16. Kuba Meikle
17. Des O'Shaughnessy
18. Helen Peters
19. Corey Peterson (UTAS)
20. Dr Jennifer Sanger
21. Dr Anna Seth
22. Caroline Shannon
23. Dr Clare Smith
24. Elizabeth Smith
25. Philip Stigant
26. Frank Strie
27. Margaret Taylor
28. Fran Thompson
29. Keith Thompson
30. Vivianne Vandenberg
31. Alexandra Vaynberg
32. Dr Anne Watson
33. Stephen Williams



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