



22 March 2023

Climate Change Office  
Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania  
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## **Submission on Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25**

Dear Maddy,

Thank you for inviting the Curious Climate Team to comment on the Draft Climate Change Action Plan. We support the vision behind this plan, and the goals described. We offer our feedback on how to best enable this vision to be realised, based on our team's collective expertise in interdisciplinary climate science and effective climate change communication, including four years of climate communication and engagement research and practice in Tasmania through Curious Climate and other climate change initiatives and projects.

An important goal currently missing from this plan is to improve the climate literacy of all Tasmanians. A climate literate population is one that i) understands the increased risks associated with the changing climate, and ii) recognises the need for mitigation and adaptation to reduce these risks. Achieving climate literacy is therefore fundamental to attaining support for climate policy (i.e. social licence) and community resilience to short and long-term climate impacts (including intergenerational impacts).

An aspect of Tasmania's climate expertise that is not yet addressed in Priority Area 1 is the availability of experts to offer communication and engagement to communities (including youth communities and schools) through the [Curious Climate](#) program. Currently, our project team brings together over 80 expert researchers (from UTAS, CSIRO and affiliated organisations) who are available to provide answers to climate questions of all kinds. Further, these experts are supported by communication and education specialists who can ensure that the climate information is shared in ways that suit the target audience(s).

In addition, the Curious Climate team has demonstrated ability to collaborate with primary and high school teachers to facilitate student-led climate education through its Curious Climate Schools program. As a result, Tasmania is the only state in Australia whose schools currently have access to a state-wide climate change education program (via [Curious Climate Schools](#)). Over the last two years, the program has engaged more than 2,000 children in learning about climate change. Curious Climate Schools has been supported by the Tasmanian Government in partnership with CSIRO and the University of Tasmania.

In recognition of the success and innovation of the program, Curious Climate has won several international awards, including the National Academies for Science, Engineering and Medicine's 'Excellence in Science Communication Award', and the Green Gown Australasia Award in the 'Benefitting Society' section. The program is also a key contributor to the University of Tasmania's position as No.1 for Climate Action globally, in the Times Higher Education rankings.

On the basis of this success, we suggest that support for Curious Climate to engage with communities and industries using our innovative model of dialogic communication is included as a key action for Priority 1. This would enable targeted intervention and resourcing for communities and industries with specific climate risks, to help them understand the need for early adaptive action. We also suggest that support for the Curious Climate Schools program should be included in key actions for Priority 1, as a central part of 'supporting the development of climate change resources for schools'. We are already working with partners in CSIRO, Department for Education, Children and Young People, and Doctors for the Environment to develop climate resources for classrooms, and we would be happy to partner with the Tasmanian Government to integrate these into appropriate curriculum areas.

Yours sincerely

Dr Chloe Lucas, Dr Rachel Kelly, Dr Gabi Mocatta, Dr Kim Beasy, Prof Gretta Pecl, Charlotte Jones, Dr Phillipa McCormack and Dr Nick Earl - for Curious Climate Tasmania