



29 April 2021

Independent Review of the Climate Change Act
Jacobs
Via email: ConsultationTasmania@Jacobs.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

Submission: Review of Tasmania's *Climate Change (State Action) Act (2008)*

We welcome the opportunity to provide a submission in response to the independent review of Tasmania's *Climate Change (State Action) Act (2008)*.

The Clean Energy Council (CEC) is the peak body for the clean energy industry in Australia. We represent and work with over 900 of the leading businesses operating in renewable energy, energy storage and renewable hydrogen. We are committed to accelerating Australia's clean energy transformation.

Global momentum is growing for the decarbonisation of economies, and as a clean energy leader, Tasmania has a comparative advantage which it should leverage and grow over time to attract investment, stimulate economic activity and create new jobs.

We commend the State Government's commitment via Climate Action 21 to a net zero emissions target by 2050, and urge Tasmania to take the next step and legislate this net zero emissions target by 2050 or earlier.

Having already achieved the target of 100 per cent renewable energy by 2020, and with the benefit of a large forest estate, Tasmania has a head start on most other jurisdictions across the country, and the state could benefit from an early mover advantage if it were to target more ambitious timeframes than other states and territories.

Since the *Climate Change (State Action) Act (2009)* was last reviewed, the state has powered forward with the adoption of a 150 per cent target for renewable energy by 2030 and a 200 per cent target by 2040. It has also made progress on the Marinus Link project which, when delivered, will enable the state to unlock billions of dollars of investment in new wind and pumped hydro projects, and deliver on the state's potential to become the 'battery of the nation' through deep storage capability.

Tasmania can utilise its zero emissions electricity to accelerate the decarbonisation of two other key categories of emissions: transport and industrial processes. Transport is recognised in the Net Zero Emissions Background Paper as a 'large' opportunity for emissions reduction, and with the state's clean electricity advantage and relatively compact geography, Tasmania is in pole position to be a leader in Australia's electric vehicle roll-out.

In relation to industrial processes, renewable hydrogen is emerging as a solution for reducing emissions for traditionally hard-to-abate manufacturing processes. Tasmania, in turn, is making a name for itself as a leading investment contender for renewable hydrogen production, drawing on

its mighty hydro resources and growing wind energy industry, and strong State Government support through its Renewable Hydrogen Fund.

Owners of energy-intensive manufacturing facilities are increasingly prioritising access to *clean*, low-cost and reliable electricity for determining the strategic siting of their plant. Bold, early signalling from Tasmania about its intentions to provide a clean investment destination for long-lived assets, will increase the state's competitiveness.

It should also be noted that not only will Tasmania's clean energy advantage help it to achieve decarbonisation targets for transport and industry, but it will also accelerate the growth of the renewable energy sector itself, by increasing demand for clean electricity, which can in turn promote further investment and job creation.

The Tasmanian Renewable Energy Targets (TRET) and associated projects can unlock thousands of jobs. The CEC recently commissioned the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) to study the workforce needs for the renewable energy sector.

Updated with the latest AEMO Integrated System Plan scenarios, the study found that the clean energy sector in Tasmania directly employs around 1,000 people with half of those working in the wind sector, a third in hydro, and the rest in distributed energy such as rooftop solar, solar hot water and batteries. By 2032, under the Step Change scenario, that workforce could have doubled in size largely due to new wind projects, pumped hydro and both utility-scale and rooftop solar. As many as 400 of these jobs are directly related to the inclusion of the TRET in the modelling. Importantly, trades and technical roles in the operation and maintenance of renewable energy systems could also almost double from just below 500, to almost 1,000. Unlike short-term construction and installation jobs, operation and maintenance roles tend to represent stable ongoing employment in regional areas.

These figures relate to direct and supply chain employment only. The findings do not include induced jobs such as those generated in a community as a result of expenditure from workers involved in construction. Adding in these induced jobs would illustrate the broader economic benefit of renewable energy in Tasmanian communities.

The study and its findings also exclude jobs relating to the construction of the Marinus Link and those relating to industries that are enabled by renewable energy ("load growth"). Employment in both the Marinus Link and load growth areas, in particular hydrogen, therefore present major additional opportunities for employment creation.

In conclusion, as international momentum grows for decarbonisation, Tasmania finds itself in a position of comparative strength which it can and should leverage to increase its attractiveness as an investment destination, stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities. We urge the State Government to seize the opportunity of this legislative review to strengthen its commitment to net zero emissions and unlock Tasmania's full potential as a clean energy powerhouse.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Freeman
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