

Your details

Name / Organisation name:

John Hughes

Reducing Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions

1. What do you think are the key opportunities to reduce Tasmania's emissions? Please choose your top three.:

1. The early phasing out of old growth logging & the development of local infrastructure to process the entire resource produced through harvesting regrowth forests. 2. Financial & in-kind support for the development of regenerative farming practices on a state wide scale. 3. The early phasing out of regenerative burning in forest management.

2. What do you think are the key gaps in Tasmania's current efforts to reduce emissions?:

As above.

3. What do you think are the main opportunities for Tasmania to transition to a low carbon economy?:

In the forestry industry, move away from harvesting old-growth forests & transporting timber overseas for processing. This will enable the development of local job opportunities in the timber industry, utilising the resource extracted from regrowth forestry activities by the development of local processing industries. This greatly reduces emissions from long distance transport. The old growth forests remain as a carbon sink. The plantation forests are harvested & replanted thus maintaining a neutral emission outcome.

Helping Tasmania adapt to a changing climate

1. What aspects of Tasmania's projected future climate most concern you and why?:

I question whether both state & local governments are fully aware of, or have the resources to deal with, the challenges that the rapid increase in extreme climatic events are likely to bring about. Globally, scientific projections predicting the acceleration of change are being exceeded on an annual basis. Australia's dry eucalypt forests are particularly vulnerable to a drying climate & the resulting wildfire events are becoming a more common occurrence. How prepared are we for this?

2. Which parts of Tasmania (for example locations, industries, communities) do you think are most vulnerable to a changing climate?:

All small towns & suburbs on the fringes of the cities are vulnerable to wildfire when bushland is in close proximity. Housing development located close to the sea will be impacted through coastal erosion, The tourist industry will feel the effects of coastal fragility.

3. What do you think are the key opportunities to help Tasmania adapt to a changing climate? Please choose your top three.:

A turn around in forestry practices as outlined above. The curtailing of development near threatened coastal areas. The support by government to promote regenerative farming techniques that maintain the health of productive soils & assist in moisture retention.

General

Is there anything else you'd like to add?:

Tasmania is fortunate to have an ample supply alternative energy but we should not 'rest on it's laurels' on that account. Despite being a wealthy nation our per capita greenhouse gas emissions are among the highest in the world. In this regard, we should be making every effort to offset this legacy through intelligent use of our natural resources.

Publication

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