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The Climate Change Act & State Government response to climate change	
To what extent should climate change considerations (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, climate change impacts, climate resilience) influence policies and decisions by State government agencies and government business enterprises?	To respond in a useful way to a risk as huge and widespread (i.e. global) as climate change means that climate change considerations must influence all policies and decisions by State government agencies and government business enterprises.
How important is it to you that the Tasmanian government systematically assess and disclose the main risks associated with projected climate change?	It is critical that the Tasmanian government - and local governments - assess, manage and disclose the main risks associated with projected climate change. Assessing, managing and disclosing risks aligns with the recommendations of the G20's industry led Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures 2015. This approach was supported by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA). These respected financial organisations have identified that climate change is a material risk to business - and so it is to government and the community.
How might the Act provide you with confidence that successive State governments will continue to act to contain/reduce Tasmania's emissions and build climate resilience?	The Act should require both houses of parliament to vote on any changes to the Act, so that no government can dismiss the objectives of the Act unilaterally.
How might the Act drive further decarbonisation of the Tasmanian economy (e.g. via setting/legislating targets for sectors of the economy, potentially including interim targets)?	By setting ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets for the economy and sectors of the economy including interim targets.
If the Act were to espouse principles that would guide consideration of climate change by government, its agencies and business enterprises, what might they be?	Targets will align with climate science advice on the size of the target and the actions needed to achieve them. Tasmania will align their consideration of climate change with international commitments (Paris Agreement) - and not with national commitments. It is noted that Australia's commitments from the Federal government are inadequate, falling well below the recommendations of their own agency that they set up to advise them (the Climate Change Authority). Answering the next question: The main roles of State government are leadership, establishing carbon emission targets, monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and providing information about climate change related risks and hazards. Also the role of State government is to reduce emissions and build community resilience in areas where State government has control or influence (e.g. transport, water and wastewater, land use, planning, environment).

Global Climate Action & Tasmania	
<p>Within the context of global agreements to action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, what do you consider to be the main roles of the Tasmanian government and how effective do you believe the government has been?</p>	<p>I support that Tasmania has a Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008 and that it established a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 60% on 1990 levels by 2050. I note that this target has already been met and exceeded, with Tasmania recording net zero emissions since 2016. I also note that this is largely due to carbon storage from land use change in Tasmania’s forests compensating for carbon emissions from other sectors particularly energy, transport and industry. To reach net zero emissions is admirable but given it is based on possibly unreliable accounting in the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector, it is not as convincing or as impressive as it sounds. See next box.</p>
<p>What would Tasmania be like in 10 years’ time if it was a national or international leader in climate change responses?</p>	<p>This box blank. From previous box: The State’s Climate Change Action Plan - Climate Action 21 - guided a substantial list of achievements as outlined in the Climate Action 21 Report Card. These are great achievements to date which deserve congratulations and celebrations. The State government’s investment in Climate Futures for Tasmania and the climate change related map overlays in LISTmap are invaluable tools for decision makers. I support continuing practical action over the next five years as part of the transition to a low carbon economy. The Point Advisory report ‘Net Zero Emissions Pathway Options for Tasmania’ lists many actions that could usefully be included in Climate Action 26. Incomplete actions can be carried over from Climate Action 21. The government’s commitment to generating 200 per cent of energy needs from renewable energy by 2040, and their encouragement of a renewable hydrogen industry in Tasmania are effective actions that demonstrate notable leadership.</p>

Emissions Targets	
<p>What would you consider to be an appropriate long-term greenhouse gas emissions or emissions reduction target for Tasmania (in terms of date and level of emissions or emissions reduction)?</p>	<p>I encourage the government to set a target in the new Climate Change Act that is more ambitious than the current one. The new target should be based on the climate science and should align with the international Paris Agreement, or better. Aligning with the Paris Agreement will probably mean a target of net zero emissions by 2050. Given the natural advantages Tasmania has with mostly renewable energy powering the State, a small population and lots of forest, the government should do better than what's needed to contribute their share towards the Paris Agreement goal (to keep global average temperatures to less than 2 degrees C above pre-industrial levels). For Tasmania establishing a target is complicated because Tasmania is not only reporting emissions at lower levels than the target set by the current Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008 but is actually reporting net zero emissions already (well before 2050) and has been since 2016. Continued next box.</p>
<p>What (if any) value do you think targets for specific sectors of the economy would offer, including for the sector itself? If you agree with the concept of sectoral emissions targets, which sectors should have emissions targets? Why?</p>	<p>From previous box. The fact sheets on the TCCO web site say this is due to a decline in forest harvesting which resulted in the forest sector becoming an extensive carbon sink in recent greenhouse gas inventories. I note there was a sudden huge (about 100%) change from about 2008 to 2013 (Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Accounts 2015-2016). Though the forest industry harvested less timber in this decade, the sudden and game changing (from positive to negative emissions) impact on the Accounts suggests very careful interpretation of the numbers is needed. As stated in the Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Accounts 2015-2016 report, the complexity of methods and models used to estimate levels of carbon sequestration and emissions for Tasmania's public and private native forests and plantations make it very difficult to realistically quantify emissions from the forestry sector. Continued next box.</p>
<p>What key factors should influence Government decisions to set State, sectoral and/or interim targets?</p>	<p>From previous box. It was not clear to me from the extensive information on the TCCO website how much of the change in emissions in the LULUCF sector is due to the decline in timber harvesting and how much can be attributed to changes and adjustments in the accounting methodology over time. To answer this question, it appears it would require delving deeply into the accounting methods and models. Such uncertainty and lack of clarity suggests the Tasmanian government should not rely on the land use, land use change and forestry sector (LULUCF) to negate emissions from the sectors that continue to emit greenhouse gases - this sector should be discussed separately and in a way that provides a more realistic picture of Tasmania's emission reduction efforts. Continued in the last box with the question "is there anything else you would like to add"</p>

Low Carbon & Economy & Society	
<p>What do you consider to be the main risks and opportunities for Tasmania as it continues to transition towards a low/zero carbon economy and society? What risks and opportunities may arise if Tasmania transitions more slowly/more rapidly?</p>	<p>I support innovation and developing opportunities to decarbonise the Tasmanian economy, such as exporting renewable energy to the National Electricity Market, transforming the transport sector with electric vehicles, expanding hydrogen research and development, maturing the circular economy, reducing methane generation in the agriculture sector, preserving native forests and using Tasmania's natural advantage to store carbon in vegetation and soil in the agriculture and forestry sectors. Risks - transition of the work force, stranded assets, lots of forest burning down in bush-fires. Strategic transition is preferable to emergency transition, and it costs less too.</p>
<p>What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting Tasmania's low/zero carbon transition?</p>	<p>Supporting innovation and developing opportunities to decarbonise the Tasmanian economy, such as transforming the transport sector with electric vehicles, expanding hydrogen research and development, more energy efficiency programs, maturing the circular economy, reducing methane generation in the agriculture sector, preserving native forests and using Tasmania's natural advantage to store carbon in vegetation and soil in the agriculture and forestry sectors.</p>

Climate Resilience & Adaptation	
<p>What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting Tasmanian communities, infrastructure, economic activities and environments in becoming more resilient to projected climate change?</p>	

<p>Is there anything else you would like to add?</p>	<p>Continued from the question about an appropriate long term greenhouse gas emissions target: If the LULUCF sector is excluded from the inventory, Tasmania's emissions are slightly below the 1990 level used as a baseline in the current Act. This is a notable achievement, given the growth in population and gross state product, but with LULUCF excluded the greenhouse gas reductions are a long way off the 60% reduction target in the current Act. Under these circumstances - i.e. excluding LULUCF - a target of net zero emissions by 2050, aligning with the Paris Agreement, would be an ambitious target. If the LULUCF sector is not excluded from the inventory, setting an ambitious target would involve drawing down carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and setting a negative emissions target.</p>
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