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Sarah Russell
Acting Director
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Department of Premier and Cabinet
GPO Box 123
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Via email: climatechange@dpac.tas.gov.au

17 November 2021

Dear Ms Russell

The World Wide Fund for Nature-Australia (WWF-Australia) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft *Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021* (the Draft Bill). We are pleased to be able to offer advice on clean energy solutions and biodiversity conservation to help the Tasmanian Government position the State on a global scale, particularly in relation to climate change. Specifically, this submission reflects WWF-Australia's submission to the Jacobs Independent Review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* (Jacobs Review), the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan, WWF-Australia's 'Renewable Energy Powerhouse' policy paper, and 'Energising Australia with Hydrogen' policy paper.

WWF-Australia is part of the WWF International Network, one of the world's largest conservation organisations. WWF's global mission is to 'stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature'. WWF-Australia as an organisation has a 40-year history of working on wildlife conservation in Australia with scientists, communities, farmers, business and government and has approximately one million financial and non-financial supporters.

WWF-Australia welcomes the Tasmanian Government's response to the recommendations of the Jacobs Review. We see this as a starting point to build and develop a comprehensive strategy that will position Tasmania as a global leader in addressing climate change. This will enable Tasmania to capture significant benefits of its renewable energy driven economy and the opportunities that will flow from sectoral decarbonisation.

WWF-Australia supports the provisions in the Draft Bill, in particular the substitution of Division 1 of Part 2 of the Principal Act to set Tasmania's emissions reduction target to achieve net zero from 31 December 2030.

WWF-Australia welcomes the formation of a central division - Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT)- to guide and drive a coordinated, cross government approach to delivering the necessary policy and leadership to achieve and exceed the 2030 target.

In particular, we believe that building on its leadership in renewable energy and climate expertise there are significant opportunities for Tasmania to:

- build on its strengths and grow Renewable Energy Industrial Precincts at Bell Bay, Burnie and beyond as hubs for advanced manufacturing, hydrogen, ammonia, green metals, and technology and expertise development that would position Tasmania as a global leader;
- focus on transport sector decarbonisation and innovation through strong policies driving uptake of electric vehicles, and strategies for heavy freight, passenger and marine transport - both in domestic use but also for advanced manufacturing and expertise for export; and
- continue to grow and develop Tasmania's exceptional science and capacity in climate research, innovation and resilience - evidenced by Tasmanian Climate Futures and significant contributions from CSIRO, UTas/IMAS, and the Australian Antarctic Division to global understanding of climate change.

WWF-Australia makes the following points:

1. There is an urgent and essential need to adapt to the impacts of climate change that are being felt across many ecosystems and throughout society.
2. It is in the best interest of Australian communities and the natural resources they depend on, for all jurisdictions to unlock Australia's economic opportunities associated with our world-leading renewable resources, mitigating the worst impacts of climate change and to ensure a foundation on which to grow greater action and to decarbonise key sectors – specifically transport and industry.
3. Net Zero Emissions targets and five-year climate budgets are critical to driving change.
4. Governments need to undertake climate risk and opportunity assessments and plan accordingly for each sector of the economy.
5. Legislation, such as the *Climate Change (State Action)* Act 2008 and the Bill, are critical in setting the framework for action and establishing a guide to ensure accountability.

As noted in our submission to the Jacobs Review, WWF-Australia recommends that sectoral targets or as a minimum an overall emissions reduction target should also be included to support the Net Zero by 2030 target.

WWF-Australia notes *Towards a climate-positive Tasmania: A discussion paper* released by the University of Tasmania¹ and the proposed minimum emissions reduction target of 37% on 2019 levels, the targets of 50% in NSW, SA and Victoria, and Climate Tasmania's call for 60% reduction target. Further, we note the current reliance on LULUCF sector abatement for Net Zero status, and the vulnerability of this mechanism into the future, and that emissions have increased over the past decade from all other sectors in Tasmania.

The commitment to sectoral reporting and risk assessments is welcome, but WWF-Australia also notes Climate Tasmania's desire for further transparency and independence of reporting. Further, we recommend that the timing of reporting cycles should align so that progress and data is available prior to UNFCCC Conference of Parties meetings.

¹ <http://ecite.utas.edu.au/147352>

WWF-Australia acknowledges the significant and ongoing role of First Nations peoples and communities to care for country, lutruwita. We recognise their expertise and the importance of including First Nations knowledge within planning the next steps in Tasmania's future. In the process of finalising the Draft Bill, WWF-Australia recommends that Indigenous communities are actively included, and their leadership listened to.

WWF-Australia would be pleased to provide further detail or discuss any of the matters raised. To do so please contact WWF-Australia's Energy Transition Manager Nicky Ison.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Lowry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Lowry
Chief Conservation Officer
WWF-Australia