

Submission to Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

Climate Change Office
Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania,
Department of State Growth

I am pleased to be given the opportunity to comment on further developments in the state's development of Climate Change Policies. It is pleasing to note that the vision and goals have become more detailed reflecting the community input over this long process.

Vision and goals

The goals need stated measurable targets.

- Establishing an electric fleet of government cars should certainly be open to clear targets of say 60% by 2025 and 100% by 2027.
- The reduction of organic waste to landfill is a necessary objective but the aim should be 100% by 2030.
- Government should be aiming for a 25% reduction of all waste going to landfill by 2030.

There is sufficient data available to support informed decision-making around climate change. Some may find University reports too detailed but Grade 9 Physics makes the effects of a warming planet clear. Continued study and interaction with UTAS is to be encouraged but there is no 'lack of knowledge' and so no excuse for not taking action now.

The State Government must have a strong policy framework to consider climate change risks and opportunities. Government policies and strategies must be resilient to the risk posed by sea level rise, drought, bushfire and flood as climate change increases the intensity of these natural events.

Another goal should be the reduction of vehicle emissions in the private sector. The taxation system provides an easy way to achieve this. Recent figures on personal vehicle choice show sales of 'utes' have jumped from 16 per cent of new car sales in 2012 to 21 per cent in the year leading up to October 2022. Figures showed 14 megatonnes of carbon dioxide were released by utes in 2012, with 17 megatonnes released in 2020.

https://thenewdaily.com.au/finance/consumer/2023/04/05/ute-sales-emissions-surge/?utm_campaign=Morning%20News%20-%2020230405&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra&lr_hash=

Priority areas

The priority areas are limited by weaknesses in enforcement within the Act. The Act requires that the actions in the action plan reduce Tasmania's emissions, build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate, manage climate-related risks and take advantage of the potential opportunities from a changing climate. It is to be hoped that this requirement can be used to achieve the goals.

Tasmania should aim to exceed the legislated 2030 net zero target with much more ambitious targets that are measurable. We rely too much on carbon offsets rather than reduction of emissions.

Decision making processes at all levels of government should be required to take into account the best available science and information about climate change and its potential impacts that are relevant to the decision, policy, program or process under consideration.

Strong sectoral targets would benefit the State and industries more than a net overall target. This rewards those industries which are making a real effort to reduce their emissions.

Information and knowledge

Providing the community and businesses with information and assistance is essential if any action is to be successful. The Education Department working with UTAS and possibly the ABC could prepare information, films and study units which explain matters relating to climate issues. Such materials need to be available to schools and the community.

Provide financial support to industry groups to create computer systems which establish carbon emission data, allow accurate record keeping, and thus produce reliable data.

Support UTAS research into new methods of agriculture and aquaculture in a changing climate.

Support UTAS research into how communities can adapt and prepare for the new regimes of fire, flood, drought and warming oceans.

Transition and innovation

The Tasmanian Climate Collective provides clear suggestions to achieve emissions reduction:

- The sector plans follow the principle of a science based approach and include clear targets that are ambitious, measurable and do not rely on offsets.
- There needs to be incentives for our big polluting businesses to reduce their emissions, not just one specific business (ie. cement works).
- Assistance to support low income sectors of the community, ie. roof top solar and electrifying heating for social housing.
- Greater incentives for electric vehicle uptake.
- Need an end to native forest logging as its the highest emitting sector in the state.
- No new coal and gas developments.
- Biofuels are not the answer, we need to switch to electric alternatives.

Disincentives to those who increase or fail to reduce their impact should be considered.

- Higher taxes on petrol, diesel, coal, gas
- Carbon tax on industries which do not show reduction in emission

Consider a Tasmanian Government run offsets scheme with any income used to fund projects which mitigate or adapt to climate change

Consider a village model for local power micro grids. Tasmania's widespread population would appear to suit local power schemes rather than the mass industrial model.

Adaptation and resilience

The goals for adapting and being resilient to climate change must begin with consideration of protecting our natural environment – particularly healthy soils and fresh water in our terrestrial environment. Maintaining species diversity in terrestrial and marine habitats will be vital for future communities and the work being done by UTAS must be supported and given more exposure to the community.

Encouraging knowledge about planting fire resistant plant species and understanding fire in our environment will assist communities to adapt and become resilient. Community gardens are an

asset in understanding the local environment and neighbourhood, thus helping develop resilience in a changing climate.

Adaptation and resilience require a whole of government framework to embed climate change into Tasmanian Government decision making and strict regulation to ensure that it is enforced.

Planning reform has not met the requirements of a climate change resilient community. The state needs stronger planning laws re the siting of developments and better architectural design to create a resilient community. We do not have sufficient limits on developers re preparation for climate change. There is a need for green and blue space to modify the urban landscape by limiting heat island effects, localised flooding and wind effects. Although fire is a major threat to our state it has not been given sufficient consideration in state planning schemes, building materials or development proposals. fire resistant building materials – hempcrete

Implementation, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation

Developers, Industries and Tasmanian Government agencies should provide a written report on emissions and climate change responses as part of the papers informing decisions to make the process clear and robust.

An adaptive management approach would allow for evaluation of the decision, policy, program or process and encourage continual improvement.

The potential climate change risks associated with a decision, policy, program or process under consideration must be assessed.

I conclude by offering my support to the Tasmanian Climate Collective recommendations.

The goals that we take need to be a science based approach and should include:

- All major projects will be assessed for their scope 1, 2 and 3 climate change impacts and on their impact on environments threatened by climate change.
- No new coal or gas developments would be approved by a government that has embedded climate change in its decision making.
- Real GHG emissions reduction, rather than a reliance on carbon offsets.
- Replacement of native forest logging with agroforestry.
- Tasmania's highly polluting businesses will need to reduce their emissions, without the use of offsets.

TCC encourages RECIT to consider these actions to implement into the Action Plan:

- Need to end native forest logging
- No new coal or gas
- Electrify everything - subsidies and rebates to get households onto solar, heat pumps, more efficient water heating, induction stoves.
- Ensuring big polluting business make reductions to emissions. These have to be real reductions and not just offset by carbon credits.
- New public housing should include rooftop solar, community batteries, insulation and electric appliances. Existing public housing should be retrofitted with these.
- Biomass energy needs to be limited.
- Ensure that new renewable projects met stringent environmental and community standards and properly follow the principle of "community consultation"

- Reform political donation laws that publish all donations over \$1000 in real time. It is important for public transparency to see political donations from carbon intensive businesses.
- Fossil fuel advertisement bans including ban on sponsorships
- Public transport should be 100% renewable by 2030
- Better urban planning to ensure efficient public transport

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Taylor