

Submission on Tasmania's Draft Climate Action Plan 2023-25

I make the following comments:

1. It is clear from the information presented that Tasmania is currently better than carbon neutral due to favourable results in calculation of LULUCF. The draft also rightly points out that this can't be taken for granted and that a catastrophic bushfire season could easily reverse this. Climate change already underway makes this all the more likely.

It is therefore pleasing to see the work being undertaken and planned to mitigate against this risk and also the intention to double Tasmania's renewable energy production by 2040.

2. There is a large emphasis on converting a large amount of our transport and other energy use to electric, green hydrogen or other renewable source. This is laudable, but little mention is made of just how much energy this represents. It is worth noting that in 2020-21 Tasmania's renewable energy was only 42% of the total consumed (Energy.gov.au). The rest came from burning of fossil fuels. Hence if we are to replace most of our energy from fossil fuels with renewables, this would require a doubling of our renewable energy production (without even allowing for population increase or increase in tourist numbers)

3. There has been a lot of talk (and a lot of money invested) in export of green hydrogen, but in light of the above, this would require more renewable generation on top of the doubling discussed above. We need to seriously consider how feasible this would be.

There are two aspects to this:

Firstly it will be quite a challenge to construct the new renewable generation infrastructure as a good many communities do not readily welcome wind farms, sometimes for good reason. I think it can be done, but it won't be easy and compromises will be required on both sides. Whilst many would be persuaded by the necessity to tackle greenhouse gases, this becomes less persuasive once it is about an export industry.

Secondly, Tasmania has no special advantages when it comes to exporting energy from wind or solar. At the moment hydrogen proponents appear to be sniffing around wherever the subsidies are greater, but when it becomes a real business proposition it will be about the cost of producing and transporting the energy.

4. I note that emissions in Victoria from electricity exported to Tasmania are included on the Victorian emissions balance sheet rather than Tasmania. I do hope this will not be used to sell "green" hydrogen from Tasmanian electricity whilst importing electricity from Victoria produced from fossil fuels. We need to be aware that if this was to occur it would be called out and customers would balk at paying for bogus "green" energy.

5. I can see nothing in the information presented to show how interstate and international travel and freight are treated in disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions. I understand that it is the convention not to attribute emissions from ships or aircraft on international trade to any country. I wonder (and would like clarification) as to whether interstate trade by sea or air is included in the stated figures for

Tasmania.

From a practical point of view they should be (as should international transport). It would be instructive to know how much greenhouse gases are produced by import/export and travel (both inbound and outbound). This would give us a clearer idea of the real carbon footprint of some of our industries, and Tourism in particular. If we were in full possession of these facts (and counted them in our carbon budget) we may well decide that we should not be promoting Tasmanian Tourism in distant places.

6. It may be possible to better use the Hydro infrastructure we have. For instance I note that Lake Gordon is currently 31% below full. If my information is correct this means every tonne of water put through the turbine provides 20% less energy than if it were close to full. Yet this storage is typically 20% below full. I would have to question whether it is run in this inefficient fashion as a way of maximising income in the short term rather than generating maximum renewable energy.

I thank you for this opportunity to comment on Tasmania's Draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2025, and would be pleased to clarify or discuss any of these issues with you.

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