

## SUBMISSION

### Draft Climate Change Action Plan

CCAA is the peak body for the heavy construction materials industry in Australia. Our members operate cement manufacturing and distribution facilities, concrete batching plants, hard rock quarries and sand and gravel extraction operations throughout the nation.

CCAA membership consists of the majority of material producers and suppliers, and ranges from large global companies to SMEs and family operated businesses. It generates approximately \$15 billion in annual revenues and employs approximately 30,000 Australians directly and a further 80,000 indirectly. We represent our members' interests through advocacy to government and the wider community; assistance to building and construction industry professionals; development of market applications; and a source of technical and reference information.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted Tasmania's economy. The construction sector, supported by an efficient and sustainable heavy construction materials supply chain, provides the engine for Tasmania's economic and social recovery. Cement, concrete, stone and sand are the critical building blocks for Tasmania's vital construction industry, employing 19,500 workers and contributing 57.4% of Tasmania's taxation revenue base.

The heavy construction materials supply sector in Tasmania is largely local and acknowledges its role in mitigating climate change impacts while reducing emissions, provided that viable decarbonisation pathways are identified and incentivised and legislation is equitable and advantageous and does not provide unnecessary regulatory impediment.

CCAA welcomes the opportunity to respond to the questions raised in the draft climate change action plan discussion paper as follows:

#### Draft climate change action plan vision and goals

- 1. Do you agree with the proposed vision and goals for the action plan? Which goals are you most supportive of? Are there any other goals that should be considered?***

*Vision: By 2030 we will have reduced our emissions and built our resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.*

CCAA agrees with and supports the Climate Change Action Plan vision.

*Goals:*

- maintain net zero emissions or lower, by implementing key opportunities for Tasmania.*

CCAA agrees that Tasmania should strive towards maintaining net zero carbon emissions. It will be possible to balance total emissions across all sectors and achieve a net zero carbon by 2030.

- *Up-to-date, high quality, accessible information about our future climate, to support decision making*

The Tasmanian government has a critical role to play in providing visibility and evidence-based data on climate change risks in a consistent and timely way. Predictions about climate change threats should be reviewed, updated and communicated to enable business to better respond with the appropriate investment and development planning

- *A strong policy framework to consider climate change risks and opportunities in the formation of government policies and strategies.*

Policy settings must be grounded in all three pillars of sustainability (economic, social and environmental) if the community and businesses are to be able to support and respond effectively without adverse impacts.

Climate change considerations should not outweigh others but rather support and enable transition and decarbonisation through incentives and innovation. Government should seek opportunities to engage with new technologies which may reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also supporting the local supply industries.

- *be more resilient to the risk posed by gradual (such as sea level rise) and acute (such as bushfire and flood) climate change impacts.*

The state government should offer incentives to business to innovate, to adapt to, and build resilience against changes that are occurring now and are likely to arise because of ongoing climate change. Timely evidence-based reporting on progress across all sectors to drive tangible climate mitigation and abatement is vital to drive investment and innovation and harness competitive advantage.

The state government also has a role to play in building for resilience in developing public infrastructure. The appropriate choice of materials in construction will result in more resilient structures better able to withstand the extremes in weather predicted as a result of a warming climate.

*Draft Climate Action Plan - Priority Areas:*

- 2. Will the three priority areas help Tasmania achieve its legislated 2030 emissions reduction target and its vision for action on climate change? Are there other issues not covered by the three priority areas?***

CCAA supports the 3 priority areas within the draft climate action plan to achieve the legislated 2030 emissions reduction target.

However, priority area 2 should also include promoting efficiency and developing incentives.

### *Priority 1: Information and knowledge:*

- 3. Will the key actions under Priority area 1 help support decision making for you and your community or organisation? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?**

Information and knowledge sharing are a key area for the government to facilitate change and measure progress. However, when information is made public it must be holistic and evidence based. To be useful emissions information should deal with full life-cycle emissions rather than selective activity-based emission information.

Knowledge sharing can help de-risk innovation and promote collaboration. The State Government is ideally placed to support industries to reduce emissions by testing new technologies without losing their valuable intellectual property to the marketplace.

### *Priority 2: Transition and innovation:*

- 4. Will the key actions under Priority area 2 support Tasmania to achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target and continued emissions reduction across Tasmania? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?**

Transition and innovation should be supported by government drivers such as economic incentives to retrofit existing technology and develop new technologies. Access to green funding and low interest loans may also assist. By codesigning action plans with industry, government can help to remove barriers to innovation and encourage the development of lower carbon products.

The state government has a significant role to play in supporting industry to trial new technologies. Partnering with industry will help to de-risk business investment in research and development to test new more efficient and less carbon intensive technologies.

Most sectors have developed or are developing sector-based roadmaps that embrace the adoption of new technologies and innovation to drive decarbonisation. The sector's **Decarbonisation Pathways for the Australian Cement and Concrete Sector**<sup>i</sup> is an example of this.

Guidance from state government will help industry sectors in developing and implementing their own Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans and prioritising actions.

Areas such as performance-based specifications with outcomes focused requirements can also be used by government to drive innovation, support investment and accelerate transition.

The action plans can support greater efficiency, collaboration and be underpinned by incentives.

### *Priority 3: Adaption and resilience:*

- 5. Will the key actions under Priority area 3 build resilience and support adaptation planning across Tasmania? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?**

The state government can build climate resilience within industry and the community by supporting local suppliers to contain or reduce Tasmania's emissions by reducing the State's reliance on imported products and services. Mainland and overseas products and services require carbon intensive transport and freight which are also likely to drive global climate impacts.

A State-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment will help government and its agencies to better understand and articulate the climate change risks and opportunities for Tasmania and develop measurable strategies for response in partnership with the community and industry.

Incentives that then drive innovation and uptake of lower emissions products, more energy efficient buildings, recycling and re-use, waste to energy innovation etc. will then follow.

The actions also need to identify where government can work with industry to overcome barriers that may be preventing adaptation and resilience.

***6. Are there other ways the government could make its action on climate change, and progress towards meeting its targets, more transparent and accessible?***

Tasmania has unique assets which can be better leveraged to lift our global standing in greenhouse gas emission reduction action and drive innovation. A predominantly renewable energy supply provides opportunities for energy intensive businesses to flourish in Tasmania using local materials and a local workforce. A more transparent estimate of the CO<sub>2</sub> entering Tasmania by imported goods and materials could help drive greater use of locally made products.

The government could also identify the decarbonisation assistance priority areas, outline why they are a priority for the state and the associated funding that is available.

Tasmania is in a unique position to further enhance the lives of Tasmanians and other jurisdictions by supporting the Tasmanian economy, environment and society. By 2030, Tasmania could be an innovation hub providing innovative technologies, products and solutions to drive climate mitigation and adaptation well beyond the island's shores.

Driving innovative climate change responses should not be detrimental to the Tasmanian people or the businesses in which they work and the products they rely on. Becoming a national and international leader in climate change response will come as a consequence of a close collaboration between government and business to understand the whole-of-life performance of products and services.

Government's climate change action plan should enable business to reduce emissions while ensuring the economy remains prosperous for the Tasmanian community.

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<sup>i</sup> [Decarbonisation Pathways Report \(cca.com.au\)](https://www.ccaa.com.au)