



## **Submission to the Review of the State Climate Change Act**

To Whom It May Concern

The Launceston Chamber of Commerce is supportive of aspirational carbon reduction targets to be legislated for Tasmania and Tasmanian sectors through the review of the Climate Change Act.

The Chamber is conscious that risks arising from climate change are real for many businesses and, in line with increasing numbers of business advocacy groups, we urge government to pursue appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

We have been supportive of the leadership role Tasmania has taken to date through targets that are more aspirational than other states, and significantly more aspirational than the Federal government's.

We note that Tasmania's status as a low carbon jurisdiction is primarily the result of hydro development in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and our system of reserved land. Now we must look to legislated carbon reduction targets in individual sectors, particularly transport and agriculture as well as greater efficiency from industry and domestic users to really drive our carbon transition.

The competitive advantages of Tasmania will be enhanced from a status as a global leader in transitioning to a carbon negative economy. Aspirational targets will drive innovation and job creation. They will lead to businesses moving here or starting here. A vibrant low carbon business ecosystem will develop which will attract talent and investment to our state. The emerging hydrogen industry at Bell Bay is an example of what may come our way, but it really just the tip of the iceberg. Opportunities to develop circular markets and the circular economy more broadly would benefit from stronger carbon reduction targets.

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Our Chamber has a goal for Launceston to be one of the great regional cities in the world. We note that often, initiatives that work for climate mitigation also work to improve places. The EV transition, active transport, city greening and electrification reduce air and noise pollution and have benefits for city liveability and experience, as well as long term health benefits. In terms of transport, we support an accelerated transition to electric vehicles and investment in active transport infrastructure and public transport. We also support investment in urban/street trees as a climate change adaptation and mitigation initiative that has significant benefits for quality of place.

Finally, we note that a carbon negative economy will provide impetus to develop skills and skills provision for these new industries.

The Launceston Chamber of Commerce is keen to work with the State Government to realise opportunities for our members and build an innovation ecosystem driven by a strong carbon reduction framework.

Yours faithfully

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Launceston Chamber of Commerce

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