

Stakeholder Feedback Discussion Paper Questions on Tasmania's Climate Change Act – Robert Cassidy, Bothwell

1. To what extent should climate change considerations (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, climate change impacts, climate resilience) influence policies and decisions by State government agencies and government business enterprises?

Ans.: Acknowledging Climate Change, firstly, should guide all government policies and decisions, as well as legislation.

2. How important is it to you that the Tasmanian government systematically assess and disclose the main risks associated with projected climate change?

Ans.: It is sufficiently important that an annual review and report of progress toward 2050 targets be presented to the public and in Parliament, annually.

3. How might the Act provide you with confidence that successive State governments will continue to act to contain/reduce Tasmania's emissions and build climate resilience?

Ans.: Create legislation.

4. How might the Act drive further decarbonisation of the Tasmanian economy (e.g. via setting/legislating targets for sectors of the economy, potentially including interim targets)?

Ans.: Mining, Energy production, Road transportation of passengers, cargo and logs, Forestry, Ships in harbour, should all be regulated and have mandatory emissions targets. MetroTas should progressively remove all diesel vehicles from service according to a schedule. All trade and government vehicles that are diesel should be progressively eliminated according to a schedule. Any privately owned passenger vehicle, i.e. 4X4, 2WD, SUV, pickup truck that is a diesel vehicle must have annual inspections, to assure they do not emit smoke and noxious pollutants or be decommissioned, should they not be repaired within 30 days of failing to pass a State Certified Testing Station. Any privately owned passenger vehicle that uses petrol and is older than 30 years must have an annual inspection, to assure they do not emit smoke and noxious pollutants. Plant trees.

5. If the Act were to espouse principles that would guide consideration of climate change by government, its agencies and business enterprises, what might they be?

Ans.:

6. Within the context of global agreements to action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, what do you consider to be the main roles of the Tasmanian government and how effective do you believe the government has been?

Ans.: Leadership, education, setting an example, then legislate for others.

7. What would Tasmania be like in 10 years' time if it was a national or international leader in climate change responses?

Ans.: Hard to imagine –considering the current situation, especially with all the smoky diesel vehicles on our roads.

8. What would you consider to be an appropriate long-term greenhouse gas emissions or emissions reduction target for Tasmania (in terms of date and level of emissions or emissions reduction)?

Ans.: I have no answer. It should be based on science.

9. What (if any) value do you think targets for specific sectors of the economy would offer, including for the sector itself? If you agree with the concept of sectoral emissions targets, which sectors should have emissions targets? Why?

Ans.: Please refer to the answers to question 4, above.

10. What key factors should influence Government decisions to set State, sectoral and/or interim targets?

Ans.: How will it affect the health of the population? How will it affect the economy?

11. What do you consider to be the main risks and opportunities for Tasmania as it continues to transition towards a low/zero carbon economy and society? What risks and opportunities may arise if Tasmania transitions more slowly/more rapidly?

Ans.: Main risk of doing nothing or progressing at the current level contributes to the global temperature rise in the Southern Hemisphere. The cumulative global contribution to temperature rise for Tasmania may make Tasmania unrecognizable and possibly uninhabitable sometime in the future. The opportunity if Tasmania progresses more slow would be increased wealth for short-term thinkers only concerned with getting theirs for themselves now. Addressing and affording climate change will be painful and cost money.

12. What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting Tasmania's low/zero carbon transition?

Ans.: Refer to the answer for question 6, above.

13. What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting Tasmanian communities, infrastructure, economic activities and environments in becoming more resilient to projected climate change?

Ans.: So, Tasmanians spend too much money for electricity or purchasing legally obtained wood to heat their homes. The production of electricity and heating homes with wood burning

stoves creates a lot of pollution. Considering Tasmania's weather is influenced by Antarctica, all homes, regardless of age should have at least double-pane windows, insulated walls, ceilings and under floor (if raised on pilings). The State Government in concert with utility companies should offer interest-free long term loans to insulate their homes and convert their windows to double-pane. All electric lights Tasmania-wide must be converted to reduced wattage LED for the same lumens. These two steps would ultimately serve to reduce demand for electricity, Tasmania-wide as well as reduce air pollution. The excess electricity could be sold interstate. Low income householders, i.e. those not earning a six figure income would not be able to afford to insulate their homes or convert all the incandescent and fluorescent lights in their homes to LED. So, that is why the State needs to provide financial assistance.