Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

Tasman Council comments

Tasman Council is highly supportive of a plan to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Council understands the action plan is a high-level document and subsequent initiatives will be announced to assist communities and businesses to take actions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to build resilience against the effects of climate change. The comments below include areas where those initiatives could be directed as well as comments on the action plan itself.

- **Coastal Risks**

Tasman has a small ratepayer base with a relatively long coastline. Coastal erosion and inundation are significant issues for Council's infrastructure (predominantly roads and stormwater drainage) and for dwellings in certain townships. Current costs (eg. repairs to Saltwater River Rd) and future costs for Council to repair or relocate roads subject to coastal erosion will have a large impact on its budget.

Council is providing advice to all those planning to build/renovate in a mapped coastal erosion or inundation zones where the planning scheme allows new works to take place. This allows the owner/developer to properly consider the risks involved. However, a significant number of dwellings in the same mapped areas were constructed prior to the risks being known. It is not clear what options are available to homeowners in these areas.

Providing support to Councils as they implement the *Regional Strategy – Adapting to a Changing Coastline in Tasmania* would be helpful.

- **Households**

Households could be usefully treated as an additional sector. There is little information in the plan as to what households can currently do to lower their emissions. Many households in the municipality have gas hot water / cooking and wood fire space heating. Initiatives such as 'electrify everything' could encourage people to consider alternatives for new builds and when replacing appliances (although may not be practical in every circumstance).

Council has realised the cost savings of solar PV at its offices. The last time the data was compiled, Tasman had the lowest uptake of solar PV per premises of all the southern councils' areas. Continued encouragement to install solar PV will help local households and businesses enjoy the benefits of cheaper power and assist with mitigating emissions.

- **Wastewater**

Wastewater is mentioned in the document but there is no discussion of how methane missions from the sector will be addressed. The vast majority of households in the Tasman municipality are connected to their own septic system presumably resulting in high per capita methane emissions. Options such as Aerated Wastewater Treatment Systems may be a better alternative but the rate of uptake is low due to the higher initial cost and there is little information available on their emissions. If Tasman is not considered by TasWater as an area to introduce reticulated sewerage with methane capture, information to allow households and businesses to choose better on-site sewage treatment options would be helpful and may encourage change.

- **Other Comments**

The graphs (p28) are confusing. The business-as-usual or reference case (purple line in the emissions graph) shows higher emissions than the best-fit emissions reduction pathway (blue line) as expected.

The subsequent two graphs also show a purple and a blue line but now both relate to the best-fit emissions reduction pathway? It also appears GSP is 0.9% higher from the graph and the text states 0.2%.