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The Climate Change Act & State Government response to climate change	
<p>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?</p>	<p>To the fullest extent possible. Much of the government's, private sector and individual resource allocation seems to be based on assumption of Business as Usual. Dramatic changes to our climate will mean that some economic activities are no longer viable, and some locations are uninsurable. The community should be forewarned, so there isn't significant additional 'stranded assets' in low-lying coastal areas or bushfire prone locations. Consideration in strategic planning, so that major infrastructure doesn't become a stranded asset due to changing climate (i.e. communities or access roads being inundated by rising sea level).</p>
<p>How important is it to you that the Tasmanian government systematically assess and disclose the main risks associated with projected climate change?</p>	<p>Very important. As the 2020 Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements put it, "what was unprecedented is now our future". Recent unprecedented disasters (Black Summer bushfires, flooding) have occurred with 1.4°C average warming in Australia, but the world is on track for 2°C warming before 2050 and 3-5°C warming by 2100. Much of the industrial and individual resource allocation seems to be based on assumption of Business as Usual. Dramatic changes to our climate will mean that some economic activities are no longer viable, and some locations are uninsurable. The community should be forewarned, so there isn't significant additional 'stranded assets' in low-lying coastal areas or bushfire prone locations.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>While having a 2050 target is worthwhile, we strongly suggest the Act also includes provision for five year emissions budgets and reduction plans – this is a tangible timeframe that allows for Government and business to invest with certainty. It also avoids the temptation for Governments to defer the challenge of emission reduction to the next term of office. The Act should be amended to allow the reformation of an Independent Advisory Committee on climate change. Two aspects of such a committee are essential and non-negotiable: (i) independence from partisan politics; and (ii) the appropriate expertise across science, technology/industry/infrastructure, economics, social issues, population health, planning, and ecology. Assuring the independence, transparency and accountability of the IAC is necessary to ensure the government and the public are properly informed on climate change and to enhance public confidence in the scientific advisory system.</p>
<p>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)?</p>	<p>While having a 2050 target is worthwhile, we strongly suggest the Act also includes provision for five year emissions budgets and reduction plans – this is a tangible timeframe that allows for Government and business to invest with certainty. It also avoids the temptation for Governments to defer the challenge of emission reduction to the next term of office.</p>

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<p>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?</p>	<p>1. Principle of effective, efficient and equitable action 2. Principle of informed decision making - the best available academic peer reviewed research and public reports includes research and reports (which take precedence over other sources of information) from the following: (a) the Independent Advisory Commission; (b) the IPCC (c) the Bureau of Meteorology; (d) the CSIRO (e) the Australian Energy Market Operator; (f) the Energy Security Board; (g) the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority; (h) the Australian Securities and Investments Commission; (i) the Reserve Bank of Australia. 3. Principle of risk based, integrated decision making 4. Principle of fiscal responsibility 5. Principle of fair employment transition 6. Principle of community engagement and self determination 7. Principle of national and international cooperation For more detail please refer to Commonwealth Govt, Climate Change Bill 2020</p>

Global Climate Action & Tasmania	
<p>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?</p>	
<p>What would Tasmania be like in 10 years' time if it was a national or international leader in climate change responses?</p>	

Emissions Targets	
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)?	Net zero by 2035. We strongly suggest the Act includes provision for five year emissions budgets and reduction plans – this is a tangible timeframe that allows for Government and business to invest with certainty.
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?	The Australia Institute research shows that differentiated responsibility for emissions reduction between sector would allow for greater and most cost-effective emissions reduction. Capacity and technology readiness mean this will come at a greater cost to some sectors, whereas it would be more cost effective to greatly reduce emissions within the energy sector to compensate for less reduction in agricultural emissions. Sectors such as transport make up a large portion of Tasmania’s greenhouse gas emissions profile and technologies already exist that can readily reduce transport emissions. Modelling commissioned by ARENA, forecasts that with no policy intervention, EVs and PHEVs will represent 100% of sales before 2050, driven entirely by overseas manufacturers shifting away from ICEs. This transition could be accelerated by up to ten years with moderate to ambitious policy interventions (i.e. reduced registration costs for next 3-4 years to increase availability of EV in state).
What key factors should influence Government decisions to set State, sectoral and/or interim targets?	A science-based approach to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions is fundamental to significantly change the warming trajectory we are current on. This is particularly pertinent given the dangerous tipping points and feedback loops that we are at risk of reaching. A key factor should be that decisions under this Act should be consistent with limiting the increase in global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial level.

Low Carbon & Economy & Society	
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?	
What do you consider to be the main roles for State government in supporting Tasmania’s low/zero carbon transition?	

Climate Resilience & Adaptation	
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?	

<p>Is there anything else you would like to add?</p>	<p>Due to having lost a fair part of our submission by clicking onto another page to fact-check, we have abbreviated our contribution. It is close to the deadline, but with more time we would have liked to re-enter the comments we had in the other boxes under "Global Climate Action", "Low Carbon Economy" and "Climate Resilience". As a general comment, as school children in the 1980's, we were taught about the significance of climate change and the need to adapt our societies to be sustainable. It is frustrating that three decades have passed with little significant progress, so it makes the coming decade absolutely critical. The best available science makes clear that 1.5°C of warming is not a safe warming limit. Many ecosystems are being devastated at the level of warming currently experienced and would not survive 1.5°C of warming. Current climate policy commitments place the world on track for 3-5°C of warming by 2100. It is imperative we act swiftly to avoid this catastrophe.</p>
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