

Break O'Day Council submission

## Tasmanian Government reviews of its Climate Change Act and Action Plan

Break O'Day Council welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Tasmanian Government's framework for action on climate change.

Our community appreciates the past initiatives and support of the Government on climate change locally and state-wide. With the rest of Tasmania we enjoy the favourable net zero emissions (NZE) position Tasmania has gained in recent decades. However, climate change remains a serious concern for Council and we respect the challenges and risks we face in the future.

A key challenge for smaller Council's such as ours is finding the specialised and substantial resources required to act locally for our community, local economy and environment.

We encourage the Tasmanian Government to lead the state on mitigation and adaptation strategies and to provide clear and strong support for communities and local governments to act with, including small ones like Break O'Day.

We take a risk-based approach to addressing what our municipality faces from climate change. We have distilled from our priorities for climate change risks in Break O'Day the following points relevant to this review of the Tasmanian Climate Change Act and Action Plan.

### **Climate change risk management**

Tasmanian communities and municipalities face similar ranges of climate change risks but often lack the capacity to assess and manage them effectively.

State level frameworks and support have been valuable help in the past. This should be increased in future, to provide more planning, technical and financial support for local communities to design and take mitigation and adaptation action and strengthen outcomes across the state.

### **Mitigation**

Primary industries, transport and energy are important sectors for emissions reduction in Break O'Day. The solar energy Break O'Day's sunshine offers may be our best renewable energy opportunity.

We encourage the Act and state action plan to provide for research, development and assistance to Break O'Day, for low-carbon futures in our primary industries, for transport including electric vehicles, and local energy generation and grids.

### **Natural hazards**

Break O'Day is subject to significant flood, bushfire and drought risks that climate change projections indicate will increase over time. Public infrastructure, homes and businesses face future shoreline erosion/inundation risks, for example to main roads and access to St Helens Point and airport. We also face health and welfare risks as climate changes and natural disasters increase - housing, heat stress, disease and mental health for example.

Our community and economy depend on the state's climate change frameworks, actions and agencies to support planning for avoidance, emergency management, recovery programs and adaptation pathways anticipating changes and impacts.

State-local government collaboration on delivery of these should continue to grow and be supported. However, to manage rising natural hazards risks local governments will need more regulatory, policy, technical and financial backing to play their part in this partnership. The state's

climate change frameworks and actions need to do more to enable local government's role, but also take responsibility for state issues and benchmarks.

### **Opportunities**

Climate change tends to be cast negatively, as a threat to how things are. Mitigation of global warming is essential and urgent. However, there can be positive opportunities over the decades of change communities are expected to experience. There has been research for many primary industries already and adaptive development, such as in the wine industry.

Greater and wider opportunities may be identified by anticipating longer-term change pathways - social, economic, environmental and responses and pressures coming from outside Tasmania. The state's climate change frameworks and action plan should provide for a broad exploration of Tasmania's climate prospects, including and influences at regional to global scales.

Reflecting on these points and the current *Discussion Paper on Tasmania's Climate Change Act and Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan - Opportunities Paper 2021*, we submit the following further general points for review of Tasmania's climate change legislation and implementation plans.

### **Reducing emissions**

- Tasmania should lock-in the favourable NZE position it has achieved since 2005 to contribute to global mitigation
- Include in monitoring of performance emissions excluding LULUCF and per-capita emissions.

### **Climate change action**

- Continue to provide programs and funding to support local governments, communities and business to implement climate change action priorities
- Include transition programs and support for the economic and social impacts and costs that sectoral emissions reduction targets and mitigation and adaptation actions may have
- Lead, with state legislation and regulation, to direct prudent adaptation strategies for Tasmania

### **Resilience**

- Continue to plan and prepare for the increasing risks requiring avoidance, emergency management, recovery and adaptation
- Build adaptive local communities and economies that are resilient to losses and able to change with recovery.

