
From: Clarence Climate Action
Sent: Tuesday, 19 December 2023 9:13 AM
To: Climate Change
Subject: Submission_ERRP Tas waste sector

Categories:

We are writing to provide feedback and recommendations on the draft Waste Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan (Waste ERRP). We believe that urgent action needs to be taken to address waste emissions in Tasmania. Waste emissions are a significant contributor to climate change and pose a serious threat to the health and well-being of Tasmanians and the environment. To address this at a local level, Clarence Climate Action partnered with the Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre to initiate Eastside Repair Cafe. Repair Cafes are a fabulous global initiative which build community connections and resilience, share skills and knowledge, and save items from landfill. Eastside Repair Cafe has been running very successfully for the past 18 months, but relies solely on the goodwill and motivation of volunteers to organise and run the events. This community-led initiative is filling a gap and meeting community need, and it would be a good approach by governments to be supporting such initiatives.

The following are our key recommendations for consideration in the State Govt Waste ERRP plan:

Priority Area 1 - reducing amount of organic waste sent to landfill

It is essential that the Waste ERRP sets more ambitious, measurable targets with clear details on resourcing. The plan should include clearly defined objectives and timeframes to ensure effective progress tracking. The current targets are too vague and do not reflect the urgency of the situation – i.e. 25% reduction in landfill volume by 2030 and 50% by 2050. The plan should also specify the sources of funding and the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in achieving the targets.

Priority Area 2 - increasing recycling and recovery of organic waste

The Food Organics, Garden Organics (FOGO) system should be expanded to all sectors of the economy and a public education campaign should be run in parallel. The FOGO system has proven to be an effective way of preventing organic waste from entering landfills and converting it into valuable compost. The plan should aim to increase the coverage and accessibility of the FOGO system and provide incentives and support for those who adopt it. In our local council area, we have been frustrated for many years at their lack of willingness to discuss or plan to introduce FOGO, saying they will only introduce it when it is legislated by State Govt.

Priority Area 3 - building resilience of our waste sector into the future.

Encouragement of recycling pathways expansion along with an emphasis on promoting repair cafes and other community-led waste reduction initiatives would prove beneficial in minimising landfill-bound materials while fostering sustainable practices within local communities. The plan should facilitate the development and diversification of recycling markets and infrastructure in Tasmania and support the creation and operation of local enterprises that offer waste reduction services and products. The plan should also recognise and reward the efforts and achievements of community groups and individuals who are already involved in waste reduction activities.

Incorporating water conservation measures could lead to sizable reductions in wastewater volumes entering treatment plants, aligning with sustainable resource management practices. Wastewater treatment is a significant source of emissions in Tasmania. The plan should mandate the installation of water-efficient fixtures and appliances and the use of alternative water sources such as rainwater and

greywater in new buildings and renovations. The plan should also provide information and guidance on water conservation measures for existing dwellings.

Priority Area 4 - supporting collaboration to reduce emissions and build resilience in the waste sector (surely could be combined with Priority 3 for simplicity?)

A comprehensive public education campaign focused on circular economy principles will play a crucial role in enhancing understanding amongst both residents and other stakeholders about sustainable waste management practices while encouraging active participation at all levels. Circular economy principles aim to minimise waste generation and maximise resource efficiency and value creation. The campaign should explain the concept and benefits of circular economy and how it can be applied to various sectors and activities in Tasmania. The campaign should also inspire and empower Tasmanians to adopt circular economy behaviours and actions in their daily lives.

Future opportunities which would have significant impact, or what's missing from this draft?

a) Addressing Forestry Waste:

The document should address forestry waste as a major emissions source within Tasmania. Given its significant contribution to emissions, comprehensive strategies need to be outlined in the plan for addressing this issue effectively. The plan should propose measures to reduce forestry waste generation, increase waste recovery and reuse, and promote low-emission alternatives.

b) Statewide Community Awareness Program:

The implementation of a statewide community awareness program focusing on circular economy principles and actions related to waste management can contribute significantly towards building support for waste reduction initiatives. The program should educate the public about the environmental and social impacts of waste emissions and the benefits of reducing, reusing, and recycling waste. The program should also showcase best practices and success stories from local communities and businesses and provide practical tips and tools for waste reduction. There is a shocking amount of stuff being sent to landfill each week in my local area, social media outrage if the council fails to collect bins at any point, and a severe lack of accurate knowledge/information/care factor about what can and what cannot be recycled.

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to point your attention towards these critical issues facing our environment today. We hope that you will consider these recommendations and incorporate them into the final version of the Waste ERRP.

In addition, I give permission for this submission to be published on your website.

Kind regards, Ruth Osborne;

Chair - Clarence Climate Action