

City of Hobart Submission to Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

April 2023

The City of Hobart welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25. The City of Hobart recognises the commitment of the Tasmanian Government to transitioning to a low emissions economy and the importance of the Climate Change Amendment Bill passed in late 2022.

The Draft Climate Change Action Plan is a key step for Tasmania to take decisive action between now and 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as per the Paris Agreement. Tasmania's net zero status, our renewable electricity, the protection of our forest carbon sinks and proven capacity for innovation provides a unique opportunity to set a global standard as a leading resilient island economy.

The Tasmanian Government plays a vital role in this transformation. It can be a valuable enabler for collective climate action across Tasmania to not only address the risks but leverage opportunities. As a small island capital city, we are keen to explore how to enable genuine collaboration and partnership in climate action with the Tasmanian Government to allow our communities and island home to thrive.

The City of Hobart has been a leader in climate action for more than two decades. In June 2019, the City of Hobart declared a Climate and Biodiversity Emergency. Building on this declaration, in November 2021 Council endorsed the Sustainable Hobart Action Plan 2020-2025: Towards zero emissions Hobart¹.

To continue to accelerate our action in this decisive decade, the City of Hobart is developing the 2030 Hobart Climate Strategy to enable an evidence-based and integrated response to climate change by the City and with the community. The development of this Strategy will help the City of Hobart to strengthen its evidence-base to inform our strategic priorities for action including opportunities for collaborative action with the Tasmanian Government.

It is important to note that due to the short timeframe of this first Action Plan consultation period, the priorities contained in this submission are based on the existing policies of the City of Hobart. In future, a consultation period of at least 3 months would allow local governments to have formal endorsement of submissions with engagement and endorsement of elected members.

We look forward to the ongoing collaboration with the Tasmanian Government in delivery of action to move toward a zero emissions and resilient future that leaves no one behind.

¹ The City has led climate action since 1999. The Sustainable Hobart Action Plan builds on previous climate strategies and is guided by the 'pillars' of "Hobart: A community vision for our island capital" and the Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-29. <https://www.hobartcity.com.au/Council/Strategies-and-plans/Sustainable-Hobart-Action-Plan>

1. Do you agree with the proposed vision and goals for the action plan? Which goals are you most supportive of? Are there any other goals that should be considered?

Vision: It is important that the vision of the Tasmanian action plan reflects the urgency of our Climate & Biodiversity Emergency and moves decisively toward a zero emissions and resilient Tasmania that leaves no one behind. For example, “By 2030 we will have significantly reduced our emissions and built our resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.”

Goals: The City of Hobart is supportive of the goals of the Action Plan. Increased ambition and action are encouraged in:

- Public and active transport: Tasmanian Government could include a modal shift target for public and active transport.
- Reducing the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 50 per cent – City of Hobart has a commitment of zero waste to landfill by 2030. The City encourages the Tasmanian Government to increase its organic waste target to above 50%.

Principles: City of Hobart is supportive of the principles and recommends inclusion of ‘collaboration and partnership’ as a principle for implementation.

2. Will the three priority areas help Tasmania achieve its legislated 2030 emissions reduction target and its vision for action on climate change? Are there other issues not covered by the three priority areas?

The City of Hobart supports the three priority areas of ‘information & knowledge’, ‘transition & innovation’ and ‘adaptation & resilience’.

The City of Hobart would like to be engaged as a key stakeholder in design and use of the decision-making support tools/materials being developed such as climate projections, climate risk assessment etc.

3. Will the key actions under Priority area 1 help support decision making for you and your community or organisation? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?

The City of Hobart is supportive of the Tasmanian Government providing information and knowledge to support climate action. Downscaled climate projects and ideally modelling and mapping based on the most to date climate science is vital to support informed decision making and action at local, regional and state-wide levels. The Tasmanian Government providing accurate and reliable climate projections will help local governments focus efforts into translating this evidence base to action.

Projects:

- Capacity building and training in use and application of climate projections.
- Financial support for a review of local government partnerships and collaborations to provide recommendations on how to enhance collaboration between local governments for climate action across the State. This review should include existing institutions and partnerships such as the Southern Tasmanian Council Authority and regional collaborations

such as the Greater Hobart Strategic Partnership (Clarence, Glenorchy, Kingborough and Hobart City Council) as well as national and international collaborations.

- Provide downscaled mapping of climate hazard and vulnerabilities.
- State-wide communications campaign focused on household and business actions to transition to a zero emissions and resilient economy.

4. Will the key actions under Priority area 2 support Tasmania to achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target and continued emissions reduction across Tasmania? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?

The City of Hobart is supportive of the Tasmanian Government supporting local governments and our communities to make the most of the opportunities of the transformation to a zero emissions economy. The City of Hobart requests local government be invited to relevant sectoral roundtables.

Projects:

- Public and active transport: City of Hobart encourages State Government to provide resourcing to local governments to support city/transport planning to encourage public & active transport, putting in place zero emissions mass transit in urban areas.
- Zero emissions transport: supporting local governments to plan and prepare for the transition to electric vehicles including defining the role of government in supporting the emergence of this technology. Supporting local governments to adopt/trial transition of heavy fleet vehicles to low or zero emissions.
- Methane action plan: given the potency of methane as a greenhouse gas, development of a methane specific action plan to identify pathways to reduce this emission from household septic to agriculture and industry.
- Reducing the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 50 per cent –The City encourages the State to provide support to local governments to provide Food and Organic Waste services as well as in planning and establishing regional FOGO processing facilities.
- Support to “leave no one behind” – The City encourages the Tasmanian Government to provide grants and subsidies for means tested, low-income households to electrify, and/or prioritise report with recommendations on how to best support low-income households to reduce cost of living costs via adoption of solar panels, electric appliances, and transport options.

5. Will the key actions under Priority area 3 build resilience and support adaptation planning across Tasmania? What types of projects should be supported under the final action plan?

In addition to climate projections, mapping, support to undertaking Climate Risk Assessments, the Tasmanian Government could engage local governments in an annual local government and stakeholder forum/roundtable to identify shared priorities and actions to adapt to climate change and build resilience.

6. Are there other ways the government could make its action on climate change, and progress towards meeting its targets, more transparent and accessible?

The City of Hobart is willing to develop project proposals or host project co-design sessions to develop proposals for the local government sector that can be scaled across the State to help the Tasmanian Government's progress toward meeting its targets. This could be in the areas of: funding to establish regional FOGO processing facilities in Greater Hobart, developing approaches to EV readiness.

The City encourages the Tasmanian Government's Greenhouse Gas Reports to include profiles of greenhouse gas emissions at regional, municipal and/or postcode scales. This would enable councils and communities to target local actions to meaningfully contribute to local, state and national targets.