



13 April 2023

Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania  
GPO Box 536  
Hobart TAS 7001

### **Review of the DRAFT Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25**

To whom it may concern

The Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Association Inc. (trading as NRM North) is one of three formally recognised natural resource management organisations in Tasmania. NRM North is a not-for-profit organisation undertaking natural resource management in the northern region of Tasmania. The role of NRMs is to protect, sustainably manage and improve natural resources for the shared environmental, cultural, social, and economic benefit of the community. We do this by facilitating and managing investment in on-ground programs and projects; by providing leadership to ensure the sound management of the region's natural resources; and by promoting partnerships with all stakeholders to achieve appropriate investment and cost sharing strategies.

NRM North works effectively and collaboratively with landholders, NRM stakeholders and local councils in the region and has incorporated relevant feedback related to the management of natural resources in this submission.

NRM North considers that planning should produce outcomes that:

- enable sustainable use of natural resources;
- protect and improve key environmental values; and
- mitigate impacts of, and improve resilience to, climate change.

This submission focuses on the extent to which *Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25* (the Plan) can deliver on, or create challenges for, achieving these outcomes.

On review of the action plan NRM North is supportive of the intent and actions detailed within the draft action plan. In addition, the action plan broadly supports a number of

activities that NRM North have initiated and participated in to support the management and protection of the natural resource values and assets within the region and state. NRM North commends the Climate Change Office for furthering these actions through the development of this draft action plan.

While we support the draft action plan in general, we have some concerns regarding the lack of emphasis on the natural environment and biodiversity assets within the detailed actions. In particular, there appears to be an absence of action to support the management of ecosystem services and biodiversity assets to enable adaptation to changing climatic regimes. It is recommended that the action plan provide active interventions to:

- maintain and protect well-functioning ecosystems;
- increase the protection of habitat; and
- maintain viable, connected and genetically diverse populations.

If you would like to meet to discuss our preliminary feedback on the draft plan, we would appreciate the opportunity at a suitable date and time.

### **Priority area 1 – Information and knowledge**

Increasing the knowledge and understanding and improving the accessibility and useability of the impacts of climate change does not include actions regarding the impact on the natural environmental assets and biodiversity values of the state. The document acknowledges that significant work has been undertaken in understanding and investigating potential impacts of climate change within the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), however, it does not identify any actions outside of this area. Considering there are also ten listed RAMSAR sites which are recognised wetland areas of international significance, an extensive natural reserve estate outside of the TWWHA area, and a tourism industry which capitalises on the natural environmental values that occur across the state, there is a significant need to understand the implications of climate change on these assets to plan for and manage the transition to future climate regimes.

### **Priority area 2 – Transition and innovation**

Associated with the comments above, there is very limited action detailed in the Plan supporting transition or innovation for the management of natural values outside of the management of natural disasters such as fire and flooding. The action plan should include actions that support the adoption of management strategies with an emphasis on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation that integrate the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into overall adaptation actions. This was emphasised in previous Tasmanian government documents such as the 'Vulnerability of Tasmania's Natural

Environment to Climate Change' (Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, 2010) but are absent from this strategy.

### **Priority area 3 – Adaptation and resilience**

The consideration and use of ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation that integrate the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services into overall adaptation strategies is largely absent from the stated actions. Although there is significant focus on emissions reduction and extreme weather events such as fire and flood, there is limited consideration of progressive climatic change that will impact the natural environment outside of the TWWHA. Actions to accommodate these considerations could be complementary to carbon planting and forest management practices if appropriately planned.

Further to the priority areas identified in the draft Plan, we would recommend that biosecurity considerations be included. Invasive species and disease incidence and prevalence are recognised as significant concerns that are likely to be exacerbated due to changing climatic regimes and greater incidence of disturbance events resulting from increased occurrences fire, flood, and drought. Resilience actions and mitigation provisions should be detailed in this section.

Should you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Baldwin', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Baldwin

Operations Manager

NRM North