

Climate Change Office



Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

June 2023

In recognition of the deep history and culture of these islands, we acknowledge all Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the continuing Custodians of this Land and Sea Country and pay our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

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Minister's message

Hon Roger Jaensch MP
Minister for Environment
and Climate Change



Tasmania has a nation-leading emissions profile, having recorded net zero emissions for the last nine reported years. This accomplishment reflects the carbon sink in our forests, and our longstanding investment in renewable energy generation.

The Tasmanian Government recognises that climate change is an important issue for Tasmanian businesses, industry and the community. As we transition to a low emissions economy and manage the impacts of climate change, there are risks but also opportunities for Tasmania to make the most of our net zero status.

The government is committed to taking practical action on climate change to secure a prosperous future for all Tasmanians, including children, young people and future generations.

Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 sets our agenda for action on climate change for the next two years and our plan to maintain net zero greenhouse gas emissions, or lower, from 2030, in line with our legislated target.

A central part of the action plan is the development of emissions reduction and resilience plans for the transport, waste, energy, industrial, agriculture and forestry sectors. The preparation of Tasmania's first statewide climate change risk assessment is also a key measure that will assist the government to prioritise actions that support adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

The two-year timeframe of the plan reflects the urgency to act while we deliver important initiatives to improve our information about climate change impacts and risks. A new Action Plan will be developed for the period 2025-2030 to ensure it can take into account the findings of the Risk Assessment and all Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans, consistent with the requirements under the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*.

Funding of \$10 million has been allocated to implement new actions in this Action Plan, in addition to significant investment already underway in climate change activities in other portfolio areas such as environment, primary industries and water, health, energy, infrastructure and transport, tourism, and emergency management. The Tasmanian Government recognises the need for a coordinated, whole-of-government response to climate change.

Less than seven years remain to take the necessary actions to achieve our legislated 2030 emissions target. The priorities and actions in this Action Plan provide clear steps to achieve our target, continue to reduce Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions, build resilience in our communities, and deliver on our legislated requirements under the Act.

Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 sets our agenda for action on climate change for the next two years and our plan to maintain net zero greenhouse gas emissions, or lower, from 2030, in line with our legislated target.

Introduction

Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 (the Action Plan) outlines the government's plan for action on climate change for the next two years. It will support Tasmania's transition to a low emissions economy, in line with our target to maintain net zero greenhouse gas emissions, or lower, from 2030. The objectives and actions in this Action Plan are grouped into three priority areas:

1 Information and Knowledge



We will ensure our businesses, industries, governments and communities can make informed decisions by providing up-to-date, high quality and user-friendly information about Tasmania's emissions, our future climate, and emissions reduction, sequestration and adaptation opportunities.

2 Transition and Innovation



We will reduce our emissions and increase our carbon sequestration by making the most of opportunities using existing and emerging technologies, and support business, industry and the community through the transition to a low emissions economy.

3 Adaptation and Resilience



We will manage the risks and take advantage of the potential opportunities from climate change, support planning and decision making, and build the resilience of our communities, environments, industries and infrastructure.

This Action Plan has been informed by consultation with state and local government, business, industry, non government organisations and the community, the best available science, the outcomes of the most recent independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* and the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review.

Consultation on *Tasmania's Draft Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25* included written submissions, three online public workshops, meetings with key stakeholders, and workshops with the Premier's Youth Advisory Council and the Commissioner for Children and Young People Ambassadors. In total, over 140 individuals or organisations shared their feedback. A summary of the feedback and all submissions are available on the ReCFIT website at: www.recfit.tas.gov.au/draft_climate_change_action_plan_2023-25

This Action Plan includes measures to address many of the issues raised in each priority area. Additional measures will be considered as part of the development of sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans. We will also consider the feedback when we are developing the annual greenhouse gas emissions report and climate change activity statement.

The Action Plan has been developed in alignment with other government policies such as the AgriVision 2050 target and White Paper: Competitiveness of Tasmanian Agriculture for 2050, Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan, Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Action Plan, Strategic Growth Plan for the Tasmanian Forests, Fine Timber and Wood Fibre Industry, Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and Draft Waste Action Plan.

The Action Plan takes into account developments in other Australian jurisdictions and where possible is designed to complement Australian Government climate change measures. Many actions in the Action Plan will be delivered in partnership with government, business, industry and the community, emphasising the value of action from all Tasmanians.

The government acknowledges the strong interest and expertise across the community in Tasmania's approach to reducing emissions and responding to climate change, and the importance of continuous communication and information sharing. The Climate Change Reference Group has been established to provide a forum to discuss the government's strategic climate change priorities and gain an understanding of the emerging priorities, risks and opportunities in climate change mitigation and adaptation in different sectors of Tasmania's economy and communities. The Reference Group includes members from industry, community and business stakeholder groups, state and local government and individuals with relevant expertise.

The government also recognises the importance of ensuring information about climate change is accessible to all Tasmanians, including children and young people. A plain language version of this Action Plan is available on the ReCFIT website. This Action Plan contains actions to develop user-friendly information about climate change, and educate and empower children and young people.

A new climate change action plan for Tasmania will be developed in 2025, informed by the findings of Tasmania's first statewide climate change risk assessment, and sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans, which are due to be completed by late 2024.

Why we need a climate change action plan

The latest data show that Tasmania recorded net zero greenhouse gas emissions for the first time in 2013 and has maintained its net zero status in the nine reported years since. Our emissions profile is largely due to the carbon sink in our managed forest estate and our longstanding investment in renewable electricity generation. However, our emissions profile is not guaranteed into the future. Emissions are influenced by factors such as population growth, major bushfire events, changes in consumer demand, market forces and technological advancements. We know we must do more to maintain our net zero status by reducing emissions in all our sectors, while also increasing the carbon stored in our forests¹.

The *AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023* by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)² confirms that humans are causing global warming, and makes it clear that we need to act now. Global temperatures are now 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels and are likely to reach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in the early 2030s. In Tasmania, the impacts of climate change will have environmental, economic and social impacts on Tasmania's businesses, industries, communities and our natural values. It is important that we adapt effectively to a changing climate and build strong, resilient communities, while continuing to reduce our emissions.

The global transition to net zero emissions also offers opportunities for Tasmania. Our research indicates that Tasmania can reduce emissions across all sectors while maintaining economic growth and creating jobs.³ Action on climate change to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate offers opportunities and co-benefits for Tasmania, including:

- investment attraction
- new skills and industries
- future-proofing our economy
- creating new markets and export opportunities
- brand promotion
- tourism attraction
- improved liveability, and health and wellbeing
- environmental protection, with cleaner air and water.

This Action Plan sets out how we will reduce our emissions and increase our carbon sequestration, manage the risks and make the most of the opportunities associated with the transition to a low emissions economy, and build our resilience to the projected impacts of climate change.



Chris Crerar

¹ Point Advisory and Indufor 2021, *2021 Update of Tasmania's Emissions Pathway Review – technical report* (prepared for the Tasmanian Climate Change Office) www.recfit.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/348948/Tasmanian_Emissions_Pathway_Review_-_Technical_Report.pdf

² IPCC 2023, *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report – Summary for Policymakers*, <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>

³ Victoria University and Point Advisory 2021, *2021 Economic Impact Analysis – Emissions Pathway Review: Final Report* (prepared for the Tasmanian Government) www.recfit.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/348946/Economic_Impact_Analysis_-_Emissions_Pathway_Review.pdf

Our vision for Tasmania

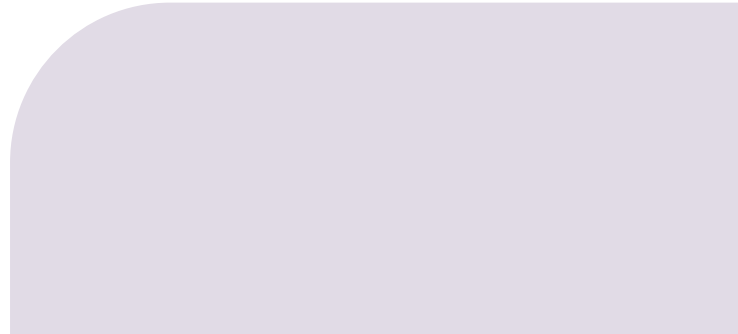
By 2030 we will have met our target by reducing our emissions and increasing our carbon storage.

We will have increased the resilience of our communities, environments, industries and infrastructure to the impacts of a changing climate.

Targets

Our government has committed to:

- Net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030 – the most ambitious legislated emissions reduction target in Australia.
- Reduce food waste by 50 per cent by 2030 and reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 25 per cent by 2025 and 50 per cent by 2030.
- 100 per cent electric government fleet vehicles by 2030.
- Double Tasmania's renewable electricity production (from 2020 levels) by 2040, with an interim target of 150 per cent by 2030.
- Maintain the lowest, or among the lowest, regulated prices in the National Electricity Market.
- Become a significant producer of renewable hydrogen by 2030.
- No loss of fire-sensitive vegetation and other high conservation natural, cultural and historic values in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.



Chris Crerar

Fast facts

Tasmania was the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve net zero emissions in 2013 and has maintained net zero for the last nine reported years.

Tasmania has the lowest emissions per person in Australia (minus 8.5 tonnes CO₂-e, compared to the national average 18.1 tonnes CO₂-e).

Tasmania's emissions (excluding the LULUCF sector) per person have declined by 18 per cent since 1990.

Tasmania will be the first Australian state to have a statewide electric vehicle charging network. Once installation of all Electric Vehicle ChargeSmart grant-supported chargers is complete, each station will have another station within 47 km on average.

100 per cent of our electricity needs have been generated from renewable sources since 2020.

Under this Action Plan, the government will deliver the following priority actions:

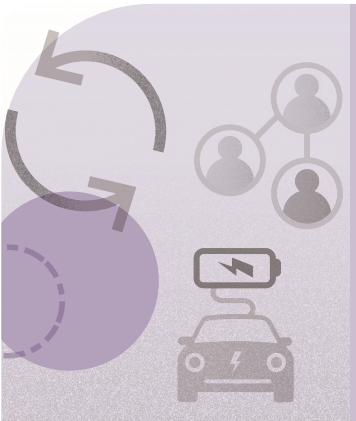
Funding of \$10 million has been allocated to implement new actions in this Plan, in addition to significant investment in other portfolio areas. New actions have been developed based on the feedback from consultation, the outcomes of the most recent independent review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*, the 2021 Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review and the latest science.

This plan brings together both new and ongoing actions to deliver a coordinated, whole-of-government response to climate change. New initiatives are clearly identified throughout the Action Plan, and the key priorities are outlined below.



Information and Knowledge

- Update Tasmania's fine-scale climate projections
- Improve accessibility and useability of information about climate change, including public education about climate change impacts and opportunities
- Develop a whole-of-government policy framework to embed climate change in government decision making
- Develop climate change resources for Tasmanian schools
- Deliver a review of climate change governance arrangements in Tasmania



Transition and Innovation

- Develop sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans, including supporting research into emissions reduction and resilience opportunities to inform the development of the Plans
- Deliver a Community Climate Action Grants Program
- Financial incentives to support the uptake of electric vehicles in Tasmania
- Financial incentives for Tasmanians to purchase e-bikes and e-scooters
- Support large-scale research and development to reduce emissions from livestock
- Support the delivery of an agroforestry grants program



Adaptation and Resilience

- Deliver Tasmania's first Statewide Climate Change Risk Assessment
- Work with local government to co-design and implement a program to build climate change capability in Tasmania's councils

Our approach to action on climate change

Legislative framework

The *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* (the Act) establishes a legislative target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions, or lower, from 2030 and sets the government's plan for action on climate change.

The Act includes requirements for the government to:

- Prepare a climate change action plan by November 2023, and then at least every five years.
- Work with business and industry to develop sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans. The first Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan for the transport sector is to be developed by November 2023, and all other sectors are to be completed by November 2024. The plans are to be updated at least every five years.
- Prepare a statewide climate change risk assessment, which includes consideration of the economic, social and environmental implications and the associated risks to Tasmanian communities, natural environments, ecosystems and economic activity. The risk assessment is also to consider the impact of climate change on the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians and future generations. The initial risk assessment is to be prepared by November 2024 and updated at least every five years.
- Prepare and publish an annual greenhouse gas emissions report and an annual climate change activity statement.
- Undertake an independent review of the Act every four years.

This Action Plan outlines the government's plan to fulfil the requirements under the Act and deliver on its policy commitments.



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Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans

To support businesses, industry and the community to make the transition to a low emissions future, the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* establishes a legislative framework for the government to collaborate and consult with industry to develop sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans (ERRPs).

The requirement to develop ERRPs was established in response to the most recent independent review of the Act, which included extensive consultation with business, industry and the community.

A consistent theme in relation to sectoral emissions reduction and resilience planning was that a partnership approach between the government and industry is preferred, rather than regulated sectoral targets. Industry stakeholders also noted that appropriate education and training may be required to prepare Tasmania's industries for a lower emissions future, due to the emerging skills and roles required to decarbonise operations, products, and services.

The ERRPs will ensure that a practical and balanced approach is taken to reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.

ERRPs will be developed for the following sectors:

- Energy
- Transport
- Waste
- Agriculture
- Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU)
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

The government has also committed to develop an ERRP for its own operations.



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Timeframes

All ERRPs are due to be completed within two years (November 2024), with the exception of the transport ERRP which is due for completion by November 2023.

Key outputs

- State of Play reports, which will be publicly released and inform targeted consultation with key stakeholders.
- Draft ERRPs, which will be released for public consultation.
- A final ERRP for each sector.



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Opportunities to reduce emissions

The Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review identified emissions reduction opportunities that are already technically and economically achievable and align with current policy settings. Other emissions reduction opportunities are likely to become technically and economically achievable with further research, development, investment and time.

This Action Plan includes programs to support the uptake of a number of these opportunities. These opportunities will also play an important role in the development of the sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans.

Transport

- Increase uptake of low emissions vehicles, including electric vehicles, in the passenger fleet
- Increase uptake of public and active transport
- Decarbonise the heavy transport fleet by using electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel cells, and renewable hydrocarbon fuels



Waste

- Reduce landfill methane emissions by diverting more organic waste from landfills and increasing landfill gas capture



Energy

- Reduce diesel use in the agriculture industry through precision agriculture and improved irrigation technologies
- Increase implementation of measures to improve energy efficiency and manage energy demand in manufacturing industries
- Electrification of boilers for process heat applications in manufacturing industries
- Use of bioenergy or renewable hydrogen in manufacturing industries
- Renewable hydrogen, biogas or synthetic gas substitutes for natural gas



Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU)

- Use of locally-sourced wood in construction in place of emissions-intensive building products



Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)

- Reduce conversion of plantations to other land uses
- Increase plantations, including agroforestry
- Introduce new measures, and maintain existing measures, to reduce the risk of major bushfires in forests
- Increase proportion of forestry logs directed to long-term wood products, and increased domestic processing



Agriculture

- Reduce agricultural soil emissions through precision agriculture and regenerative farming practices
- Reduce methane emissions from livestock by introducing feed supplements that inhibit enteric fermentation



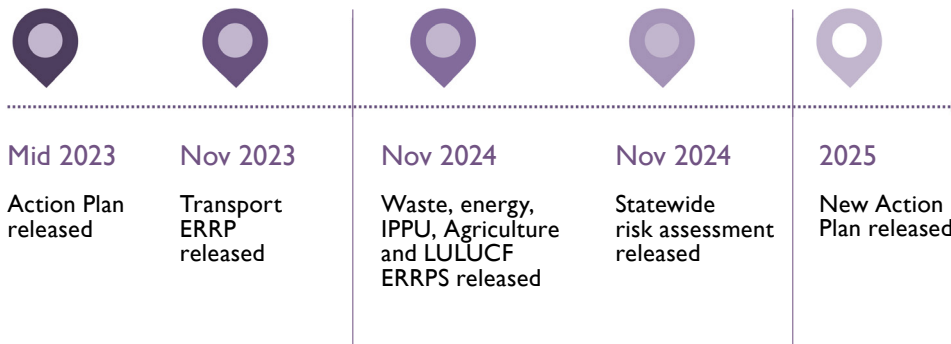
Timeframes

This Action Plan will be in place for two years and will lay the foundation for work moving forward.

A new climate change action plan for Tasmania will be developed for release in 2025, to enable the new plan to take into account the findings of Tasmania's first Statewide

Climate Change Risk Assessment and all Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans.

The next plan will build on this Action Plan to guide our action through to 2030 and ensure we reach our target of net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030.



Guiding principles

The government's action on climate change will be guided by the following principles, recommended by the most recent independent review of the Act.

Principle	Description
Sustainable development and social equity	Climate change action, and any government action that has a direct impact on climate change mitigation or adaptation efforts, should benefit both current and future generations of Tasmanians. In particular, vulnerable communities and First Nations practices should be considered.
Transparency and reporting	Reporting on climate change action should be timely, transparent and accurate, and made available to the public.
Science-based approach	Climate change action should be scientifically substantiated and align with limiting global warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
Integrated decision making	Decision making on climate change action is integrated, addressing environmental, social and economic considerations over short-, medium-, and long-term timeframes.
Risk management	Climate change action adequately reflects assessed risks, and risks of action and inaction are addressed.
Community engagement	Proposed climate change action takes into account the views of interested and relevant members of the community, through appropriate engagement.
Complementarity	Climate change action should reflect an appropriate level of cohesion with relevant state, national, and international climate change developments.

Overview: Climate change in Tasmania

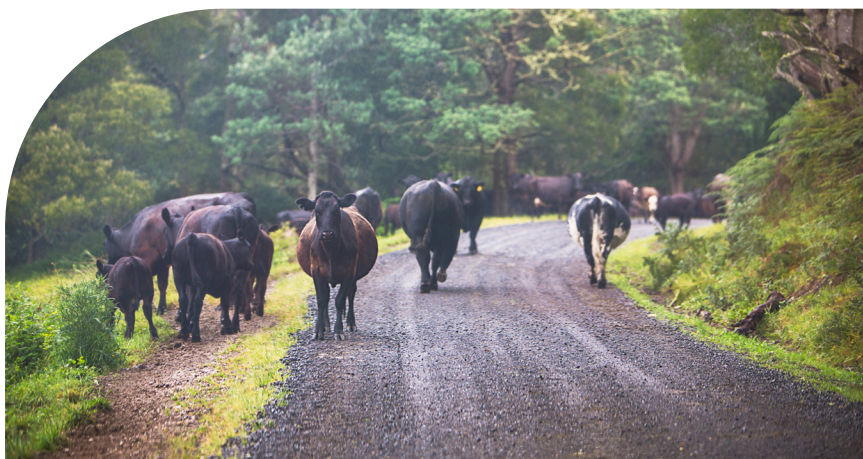
Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions

Tasmania was the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve net zero emissions, and has done so for the last nine reported years. In 2021 (the most recent reported year) Tasmania's emissions were minus 4.80 megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO₂-e).

More information about Tasmania's emissions is available in the greenhouse gas report published annually by the Climate Change Office and available on the ReCFIT website:

www.recfit.tas.gov.au/tasmanias_greenhouse_gas_emissions

Where do our emissions come from?



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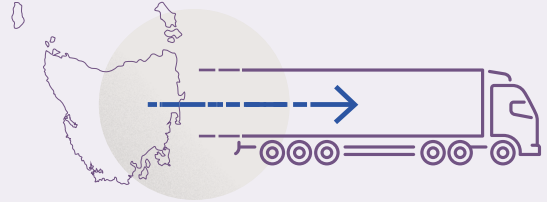
Where do our emissions data come from?

The main source of data on Tasmania's emissions is the Australian Government's State and Territory Greenhouse Gas Inventories (STGGI), which are prepared each year as part of the reporting requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

STGGI data are released as part of Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts and the National Inventory Report, which run two years behind the current date and represent the most recent official annual emissions data in Australia.

What do our emissions data include?

The STGGI data relate to production-based, rather than consumption-based emissions in Tasmania. These emissions are called Scope 1 emissions. The data account for emissions from goods and services produced in, and exported from, Tasmania.



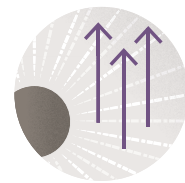
Impacts of a changing climate



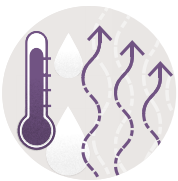
Significant change in rainfall patterns



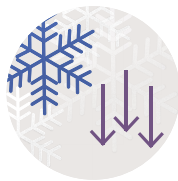
Increase in storms, creating coastal erosion



Rise in annual average temperatures



More hot days and heatwaves



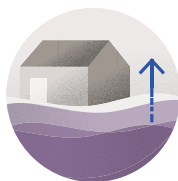
Fewer frosts



Longer fire seasons, more days of high fire danger



Increased ocean acidification and water temperature



Rise in sea levels



Increased windspeed

Under a changing climate, we are expected to experience increased storm events and changes in rainfall patterns, which are likely to result in increased flooding, coastal inundation and erosion. We are also expected to experience increased temperatures, more hot days and heatwaves and longer fire seasons, with more frequent and intense bushfire events.

We are expected to experience marine heatwaves, rising sea levels and increased windspeed. Extreme weather events are projected to increase in frequency and intensity over time. These events will have environmental, economic and social impacts on Tasmania's businesses, industries, communities and our natural values.



Priority Area I: Information and Knowledge

We will ensure our businesses, industries, governments and communities can make informed decisions by providing up-to-date, high quality and user-friendly information about Tasmania’s emissions, our future climate, and emissions reduction, sequestration and adaptation opportunities.

Ensuring Tasmanian businesses, industries, governments and communities are well informed about climate change, how it may impact them, and how they can reduce their emissions and prepare for the impacts will play an important role in the transition to a low emissions, resilient future.



We recognise the importance of collaborating to ensure we understand the risks and opportunities for different groups, and empowering children and young people with the knowledge and opportunities to shape their future.

Having accurate, accessible information about our future climate will provide the foundation for Tasmanians to make informed decisions. It will allow us to take advantage of potential opportunities and prepare for risks in areas such as agricultural production, health services, our natural environments including biodiversity, water and land use planning, infrastructure planning and investment, and emergency management.





Importantly, we will continue to act to reduce our emissions and build resilience while we improve our information and knowledge. The actions under this priority area will inform future plans, policies and programs, including by embedding climate change considerations in Tasmanian Government decision making.

Our actions to improve information and knowledge about climate change mean that in 2030:


I.1. Tasmanians will have up-to-date information about our changing climate

Action	Approach	Lead agency
Updating the fine-scale climate projections for Tasmania  New initiative	Develop new fine-scale or “downscaled” climate projections for Tasmania, using the latest global climate models (CMIP6). The updated projections will support business, industry, community and government to understand the projected future climate for Tasmania, and plan for and build resilience to the impacts of a variable and changing climate.	ReCFIT
Updating our information on the impacts of climate change on Tasmania's natural environments and resources  Already underway	Prepare a State of the Environment Report that documents baseline environmental data, trends and risks across Tasmania to inform strategic priorities and land use planning, including in relation to environmental management and sustainability issues.	Tasmanian Planning Commission
	Explore options for updating hydrological estimates of water catchment yields using contemporary climate change projections through the Water Catchment Yield Science Update.	NRE Tas
	Work with the University of Tasmania under the Sustainable Marine Research Collaborative Agreement (SMRCA) to better understand the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems, marine industries and cultural practices, and develop options for adaptation.	NRE Tas





1.2. Tasmanians will have improved access to resources about climate change and skills training in key industries

Action	Approach	Lead agency
Improving accessibility and useability of information about climate change  <small>New initiative</small>	<p>Deliver a public education program on climate change impacts and opportunities.</p>	ReCFIT
	<p>Develop a suite of resources that meet user needs to support state and local government, industry and the community make informed decisions about managing climate risks and opportunities.</p>	ReCFIT
	<p>Raise awareness about the links between climate change and health, and the ways communities can take action and respond to climate change.</p>	Health
Updating Tasmania's enterprise suitability mapping  <small>Already underway</small>	<p>Update Tasmania's enterprise suitability maps to incorporate the latest climate projections and extend the maps out to 2100 to support decision making in our agriculture sector.</p>	NRE Tas
Promoting science engagement  <small>Already underway</small>	<p>Participate in and promote citizen science engagement in the Range Extension Database and Mapping Project (Redmap) in partnership with the Centre for Marine Socioecology at the University of Tasmania.</p>	NRE Tas
Investing in skills  <small>Already underway</small>	<p>Continue to provide subsidised training in key transition industries, agriculture, aquaculture and primary industries.</p>	State Growth
	<p>Build the skills and capacity of the energy sector workforce to deliver Battery of the Nation, Marinus Link, major renewable energy and other projects, including hydrogen and transport electrification.</p>	State Growth



1.3. Climate change considerations will be embedded in government decision making

Action	Approach	Lead agency
Ensuring government entities consider climate change  <small>New initiative</small>	<p>Develop a whole-of-government policy framework to embed climate change consideration into government decision making by late 2024. The framework will consider Ministerial guidelines, guidance material and decision support tools, information on scientific, legal and market developments, and training opportunities. It will be informed by the principles recommended by the independent review of the Act.</p>	ReCFIT
	<p>Develop a whole-of-state sustainability vision and strategy for Tasmania, which includes the social, environmental and economic objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</p>	DPAC
	<p>Work with Government Business Enterprises and State-owned Companies to continue to improve their understanding of the impact of climate-related risks and the provision of information on those risks.</p>	Treasury

I.4. Our children and young people will be empowered to shape their future

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Developing climate change resources for schools	 New initiative	Develop climate change resources for Tasmanian schools. The resources will aim to build a generation of young Tasmanians who are critical thinkers, involved in exploring and understanding the science of climate change, its causes and solutions, and how society and our economy will need to build resilience and adapt to its impacts.	ReCFIT
Supporting the delivery of Youth Climate Leaders	 Already underway	Support a tailored program for Tasmanian high school students to inspire, educate and empower young leaders. The program will include a climate change initiative, sustainability solutions for local communities, potential national and international collaborative opportunities, mentoring and support, and presentations from keynote speakers, as well as conferences in each region.	ReCFIT
Consulting with children and young people	 New initiative	Work with key partners to develop appropriate mechanisms and resources for consulting with children and young people, in accordance with the Act.	ReCFIT
Addressing the impacts of climate change on mental health and wellbeing of children and young people	 New initiative	Work with key partners to explore additional options to address the impacts of climate change on the mental health and wellbeing of Tasmanians, with a focus on children and young people.	ReCFIT

I.5. We will be continuing to collaborate and consult with key stakeholders to improve our understanding of climate change impacts, risks and opportunities

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Improving climate change governance in Tasmania	 New initiative	Consult with the Climate Change Reference Group on the government's strategic priorities and emerging opportunities in climate change mitigation and adaptation.	ReCFIT
		Review climate change governance arrangements in Tasmania.	ReCFIT
Incorporating Tasmanian Aboriginal knowledge	 New initiative	Explore options for incorporating Aboriginal knowledge into action on climate change.	ReCFIT



Priority Area 2: Transition and Innovation

We will reduce our emissions by making the most of opportunities using existing and emerging technologies, and support businesses, industry and the community through the transition to a low emissions economy.

Tasmania's net zero emissions profile is not guaranteed into the future, due to factors such as population growth, global market forces, and the uptake of new technologies. The carbon sink from our managed forest estate is not fixed and could be impacted by external factors, such as bushfires, which are projected to increase in both frequency and intensity under a changing climate.

It is important that we play our part in reducing global emissions in line with the Paris Agreement aim to keep global warming to well below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.


Climate change is a global issue, but many risks and opportunities are unique to Tasmania due to our emissions profile, expertise in marine and climate science, natural resources, size and location. We are committed to reducing emissions by driving the uptake of opportunities for our transport, agriculture, industry, waste, forestry and energy sectors that suit the Tasmanian context. We are also committed to supporting business, industry and the community in the transition to a low emissions economy.

Many opportunities to reduce emissions will have co-benefits that will increase the resilience of our businesses, industries and communities, such as increased energy efficiency, improved productivity, employment in new industries, attracting trade and investment, and improved health and wellbeing of our communities.








Detailed Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans will be developed in partnership with key sectors of the Tasmanian economy, but action will also be taken on identified emissions reduction opportunities that are already technically and economically achievable.

Our actions to reduce emissions and support the transition to a low emissions economy mean that in 2030:









2.1. We will have plans in place to support our key sectors to transition to a low emissions future

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Developing and implementing Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans	 <small>New initiative</small>	Develop sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans, in consultation with business, industry and the community, to ensure that a practical and balanced approach is taken to reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.	ReCFIT
		Support research into climate change risks and opportunities for our key sectors, to inform the development of sector-based Emissions and Reduction and Resilience Plans.	ReCFIT
		Establish a fund to implement priority actions identified in the Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans, with an initial focus on the transport sector.	ReCFIT




2.2. Our communities and businesses will be supported to innovate and reduce emissions

Action	Approach	Lead agency
Delivering a Community Climate Action Grants Program  <p>New initiative</p>	<p>Deliver an open grants program to support community-level actions to improve information and knowledge about climate change, reduce emissions and build resilience.</p>	ReCFIT
Supporting electrification and energy efficiency in homes and businesses  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Continue the Energy Saver Loan Scheme to support households, small businesses and community organisations by providing interest-free loans of up to \$10,000 for eligible applicants to invest in energy efficient products to help lower their electricity bills. Supported products include solar panels and battery storage systems, heating and cooling systems, electric and solar hot water systems, insulation, window glazing and energy efficient appliances.</p>	ReCFIT
	<p>Help natural gas users in Tasmania make informed choices and investment decisions through the development of the Future Gas Strategy for Tasmania.</p>	ReCFIT
	<p>Develop a Tasmanian Housing Strategy which considers the impacts of climate change and energy efficiency on housing sustainability and ongoing standards of liveability.</p>	Homes Tasmania
Reducing emissions from tourism and hospitality  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Deliver a program to support tourism and hospitality operators to undertake carbon audits, implement measures to reduce their emissions, promote the stories of tourism and hospitality businesses who have actively reduced their emissions, and develop a business case to consider how visitors to Tasmania may voluntarily contribute to local offset projects.</p>	State Growth, Tourism Tasmania
Providing energy price relief  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Work with the Australian Government to deliver the jointly funded National Energy Price Relief Plan to provide temporary financial support to vulnerable customer groups and small businesses.</p>	Treasury
Supporting community solar power installation  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Continue to roll out solar panels for schools. The energy savings from the \$5 million Renewable Energy Schools Program will be reinvested to fund further solar installations and sustainability improvements in our schools.</p>	DECYP
	<p>Continue to support Tasmanian sporting clubs with their broader infrastructure needs including installation of solar power systems.</p>	State Growth
Improving business resource efficiency  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Continue to deliver the second Business Resource Efficiency Program to improve productivity, and reduce waste and emissions of Tasmania's small- to medium-sized businesses.</p>	ReCFIT
Supporting innovation  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Maximise opportunities through existing programs such as Enterprize to support establishment of innovative, high growth startups in renewable energy.</p>	State Growth




2.3. We will have reduced emissions from our transport sector by increasing the uptake of electric vehicles and public and active transport

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Supporting the uptake of electric vehicles	 New initiative	Provide financial incentives to support the uptake of electric vehicles in Tasmania.	ReCFIT
Supporting the uptake of active transport	 New initiative	Deliver a grant program to support Tasmanians to purchase an e-bike or e-scooter.	ReCFIT
	 Already underway	Update the Tasmanian Walking and Cycling for Active Transport Strategy to capture the contemporary policy and infrastructure context regarding active transport across all levels of government.	State Growth
		Work with local government to improve active transport and micro-mobility infrastructure and facilities.	State Growth
Trialling zero emissions public transport	 Already underway	Continue to work with Metro Tasmania to trial zero emissions buses. An electric bus trial is due to commence in the north of the state in 2023 and work is underway to commence a hydrogen bus trial in the south.	ReCFIT, State Growth
Supporting the uptake of public transport	 Already underway	Continue exploring ways to improve Tasmania's public transport network. For example, the introduction of a statewide fare structure in mid-2023 will deliver fare reductions to a majority of passengers travelling to and from non-urban localities to urban interchanges. This will help to encourage people living in regional areas to use public transport.	State Growth
Transitioning the Tasmanian Government vehicle fleet	 Already underway	Continue to progress the commitment to transition the fleet to 100 per cent electric vehicles by 2030, including consideration of infrastructure, procurement, education and policies. This will reduce emissions from the government fleet and increase the number of electric vehicles available in the secondhand market.	ReCFIT
Planning for electric vehicles	 Already underway	Embed consideration of electric vehicle charging infrastructure into the Tasmanian Planning Scheme and develop a whole-of-government master plan for electric vehicle charging infrastructure.	DPAC, ReCFIT
Chairing the EV Working Group	 Already underway	Continue bringing together key partners to develop a coordinated approach to support the uptake of electric vehicles in Tasmania.	ReCFIT



2.4. We will be implementing emissions reduction opportunities for the agriculture sector, including new livestock feed supplements and precision agriculture

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Supporting research and development to reduce emissions from livestock	 New initiative	Support a large-scale trial of <i>Asparagopsis</i> or other feed supplements to reduce emissions from livestock.	ReCFIT
Supporting the transition to low carbon agriculture	 Already underway	Continue to encourage farmers and other businesses to understand the growing carbon market, through the Carbon Farming Advice Rebate Pilot Program.	NRE Tas
		Expand the Landcare Action Grants program of practical on-ground works for sustainable agriculture to support carbon farming initiatives.	NRE Tas
		Encourage dairy farmers to participate in the DairyTas 'The 10 Steps' program, which provides information to reduce the carbon footprint of Tasmanian dairy farms.	NRE Tas
		Support the adoption of precision agriculture through the Strategic Industry Partnership Program, including a pilot program to develop and test a grower-led agtech adoption framework in Tasmanian agriculture.	NRE Tas
Supporting seaweed production	 Already underway	Support emerging seaweed production activities, including <i>Asparagopsis</i> , to support decarbonisation in other sectors and expand ocean carbon sequestration.	NRE Tas



2.5. We will have increased the carbon stored in our forests by increasing new timber plantations, expanding the adoption of agroforestry and reducing the conversion of plantations to other land uses

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Supporting landowners to sequester carbon on their properties	 New initiative	Support Private Forests Tasmania to deliver grants for landowners to plant more trees on their properties, building on its successful Integrated Farm Forestry Program. This will increase Tasmania's carbon sequestration and has additional benefits including improved farm productivity, water quality and biodiversity and reduction in soil erosion.	ReCFIT
	 Already underway	Support Private Forests Tasmania and the Tasmanian Forestry Hub to deliver the Farm Forestry Carbon Tool. The tool will enable landowners to estimate their carbon emissions and sequestration and potential tree offset opportunities, with the goal of encouraging landowners to plant more trees on their properties.	NRE Tas
Supporting a sustainable forestry sector	 Already underway	Work with the forestry sector to develop a policy framework that identifies barriers to agroforestry and plantation forestry, promotes plantations and wood products, promotes using locally-sourced timber instead of more emissions-intensive building materials, and explores opportunities for bioenergy and biofuels to reduce fossil fuel use.	NRE Tas



2.6. We will have reduced the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 50 per cent and be moving towards a circular economy

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Increasing organic waste reprocessing capacity in Tasmania	 Already underway	Partner with the Australian Government and industry to deliver two state-of-the-art composting facilities, reducing the volume of organic material sent to landfill and reducing emissions.	NRE Tas
Growing the circular economy	 Already underway	Phase out single use plastics by 2025 and continue to improve plastic recycling in Tasmania.	NRE Tas
		Partner with the Australian Government to support improved recycling in remote communities.	NRE Tas
		Continue to support the use of recycled materials such as crumbed rubber from waste tyres in the construction and maintenance of the state road network, and research the use of other recycled products and the feasibility of increasing their use in state road construction in Tasmania.	State Growth




2.7. We will be supporting our industries to improve their energy efficiency and reduce emissions

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Providing financial support for businesses and industry to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency	 Already underway	Continue the \$50 million Business Energy Efficiency Scheme (BEES) to support electricity customers with annual consumption of more than 150 MWh to invest in energy efficiency and electrification opportunities.	ReCFIT
		Support large Tasmanian greenhouse gas emitting businesses and industries to trial existing clean technologies, or test new innovative production processes, that will lead to reduced emissions. Ensure the program scope and design complement relevant state and national programs.	ReCFIT
Advocating to the Australian Government	 Already underway	Continue to advocate for the best outcomes for Tasmanian business and industry under the Australian Government's initiatives to reduce industrial emissions, including reforms to the Safeguard Mechanism and establishing the Powering the Regions Fund.	ReCFIT

2.8. We will have achieved our target to generate 150 per cent of our 2020 electricity generation capacity from renewable energy sources, and be continuing to increase our renewable electricity generation to reach 200 per cent in 2040

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Increasing renewable energy generation	 Already underway	Continue to implement the Tasmanian Renewable Energy Action Plan and Renewable Energy Coordination Framework.	ReCFIT
		Continue to implement the Tasmanian Renewable Hydrogen Action Plan to become a significant producer of renewable hydrogen for local use and export by 2030.	ReCFIT
		Update the Renewable Energy Action Plan to develop the Powered by Tasmania Plan, focusing on accelerating renewable energy developments.	ReCFIT
		Continue to invest in hydro-electricity assets, considering the findings of relevant studies to further Tasmania's renewable electricity generation and progressing opportunities for further renewable energy development.	ReCFIT
Attracting renewable energy investment	 Already underway	Continue to progress national-scale renewable energy projects such as Marinus Link and the Battery of the Nation.	ReCFIT
		Continue to work with and support a wide variety of proponents across renewable energy projects.	ReCFIT

2.9. The government will be leading by example

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Reducing emissions from government operations	 New initiative	Develop an Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan for Government Operations in conjunction with the whole-of-government policy framework, which will incorporate emissions reduction, transition to a low emissions economy, and resilience to climate-related risks.	ReCFIT
		 Already underway	Continue to monitor the government's energy use and the associated greenhouse gas emissions from its operations.
	 Already underway	Develop a boiler replacement action plan to guide the replacement of fossil fuels used in government boilers with renewable alternatives, with a focus on bioenergy solutions.	ReCFIT
		Implement renewable energy alternatives for government-owned fossil fuel boilers, with a focus on bioenergy solutions.	ReCFIT



Priority Area 3: Adaptation and Resilience

We will manage the risks and take advantage of the potential opportunities from climate change, support planning and decision making, and build the resilience of our communities, environments, industries and infrastructure.

Under a changing climate, Tasmania is projected to experience a rise in annual average temperatures, significant changes in seasonal and regional rainfall patterns, increased windspeed, an increase in rainfall intensity and associated flooding, and longer, more intense fire seasons. Our coastal and marine environments will be impacted by rising sea levels, an increase in storm events and associated coastal erosion and inundation, increasing sea surface temperatures, ocean acidification, changing nutrient levels, and changes in species distribution. Extreme weather events are projected to increase in frequency and intensity over time.



The IPCC's *AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023* confirms that we are already seeing the impacts in weather and climate extremes around the world, with widespread loss and damage to both nature and people. In the past decade in Tasmania, we have seen extreme flooding, fires, drought, biosecurity concerns and marine heatwaves.

These climate-related events have environmental, economic and social impacts on our state, including on our health and wellbeing, housing and infrastructure, food security, natural values and many more.


Managing the risks of a changing climate and making the most of opportunities that may arise will help to minimise disruptions to our economy and damage to our environments and help communities to adapt and recover. Although we cannot remove the risks entirely, we will be more resilient if we understand them and plan appropriately to lessen their impacts.

Our actions to support adaptation and build resilience mean that in 2030:




3.1. Our response to climate change will be informed by an improved understanding of its economic, social and environmental implications

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Preparing Tasmania's first Statewide Climate Change Risk Assessment	 New initiative	Develop a statewide climate change risk assessment by November 2024. The Risk Assessment will assist the government to prioritise actions that support adaptation to the impacts of climate change.	ReCFIT
Analysing Tasmania's strategic disaster risks	 Already underway	Pilot a horizon scanning framework that will analyse and prioritise Tasmania's strategic disaster risks across a range of threats and hazards (including climate change). This action includes developing an implementation plan to embed an ongoing horizon scanning process into Tasmania's whole-of-government disaster prevention and preparedness arrangements.	DPAC



3.2. We will have plans in place to support our key sectors to adapt and build resilience

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Developing and implementing Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans	 New initiative	<p>Develop sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans (ERRPs) in consultation with business, industry and the community, to ensure that a practical and balanced approach is taken to reduce emissions and build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.</p> <p>ERRPs will be developed for the Energy, Transport, Waste, Agriculture, IPPU, LULUCF and government sectors. All ERRPs are due to be completed by late 2024, with the exception of the transport ERRP, due for completion by November 2023.</p>	ReCFIT



3.3. We will continue to collaborate with local government to prepare for the impacts of climate change

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Building climate change action capability in local government	 New initiative	Work with local government to co-design and implement a program of statewide climate change action in local government that builds the sector's capacity to respond to the impacts of a changing climate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	ReCFIT
Managing coastal hazards	 New initiative	Work with coastal managers across the state and local government to develop a consistent statewide approach to managing the impacts of coastal hazards under a changing climate.	ReCFIT
Developing a Risk Information Portal	 Already underway	Explore the development of a Risk Information Portal for Tasmania that spatially enables municipal emergency risk assessments. The risk assessments will seek to identify and utilise hazard models (for example: flood, fire, coastal hazards, drought) that incorporate climate projections.	DPAC





3.4. We will have improved our preparedness for natural disasters

Action		Approach	Lead agency
Improving bushfire preparedness	 Already underway	Deliver a six-week program in Spring 2023 to empower Tasmanians to improve their bushfire preparedness. The program will support Tasmanians to understand their bushfire risk, create a bushfire plan and prepare their properties.	Tasmania Fire Service
		Continue delivering the Statewide Fuel Reduction Program to reduce the risk of bushfires impacting on communities.	NRE Tas, Tasmania Fire Service
		Continue to work with Tasmania Fire Service to mitigate the risk of ignition on the road verge and undertake vegetation management in accordance with Machinery Operating Guidelines.	State Growth
Improving Tasmania's disaster resilience	 Already underway	Develop Tasmania's Disaster Resilience Strategy 2026-2030 that will outline the government's vision, goals and priority actions to improve Tasmanians' resilience to disasters.	DPAC




3.5. We will have increased the resilience of our natural environments and unique biodiversity

Action	Approach	Lead agency
Managing the risk of fire in the TWWHA  <small>Already underway</small>	Undertake planned burning in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area to reduce the risk of bushfire and protect natural and cultural values.	NRE Tas
Mitigating biosecurity risks  <small>Already underway</small>	Assess the increased risks of temperate and sub-tropical pests and diseases establishing in Tasmanian marine and terrestrial environments. Prioritise those pests and diseases of highest risk and impact and develop mitigation strategies to address the highest risk species.	NRE Tas

3.6. We will have increased the resilience of our communities and built environments

Action	Approach	Lead agency
Addressing the impacts of climate change on the physical health and wellbeing of Tasmanians  <small>Already underway</small>	Support actions that protect vulnerable Tasmanians from the impacts of climate change, such as bushfires, extreme heat and cold weather events.	Health
	Support community action on climate change and health through the Healthy Tasmania Fund - Healthy Focus Grants.	Health
	Create more liveable communities that improve health and wellbeing and address climate change. This includes active living strategies and supporting local food production, as well as actions to support good water and air quality.	Health
Improving the resilience of Tasmanian businesses  <small>Already underway</small>	Promote information and capability-building opportunities for small- and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profit organisations to improve continuity planning and build resilience to the physical and transitional impacts of climate change.	State Growth
	Promote and support cross-sectoral opportunities for businesses to work together to improve their capacity and capability to respond to climate change.	State Growth
Embedding climate change in planning  <small>Already underway</small>	Ensure the impacts of climate change are considered in Tasmania's planning policies and regional land use strategies and planning regulations.	DPAC
	Ensure climate change modelling is incorporated into strategic planning and decision making at state and local level to inform land release and the location of future housing. This action aims to mitigate the impacts of climate change on future residents and housing developments.	DPAC
Delivering sustainable and resilient infrastructure  <small>Already underway</small>	Work across state agencies to establish sustainability and resilience best practice principles in the planning and delivery of infrastructure.	State Growth
	Identify opportunities for improving resilience as part of the upfront planning work when developing corridor strategies for state roads.	State Growth

3.7. We will have increased the resilience of our agriculture and fisheries sectors

Action	Approach	Lead agency
Supporting the agriculture industry to prepare for the impacts of climate change  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Deliver the joint Australian and Tasmanian Government Farm Business Resilience Program from mid-2023 to 2025, designed to give farmers the tools they need to prepare for and adapt to a changing climate and build business resilience through business planning.</p>	NRE Tas
	<p>Partner with regional development authorities, local government, industry, businesses and community stakeholders to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans for the north, north west and south that prioritise and guide local actions to build Tasmania's resilience to future droughts.</p>	DPAC
	<p>Partner with DairyTas to deliver a climate adaptation and environmental sustainability program for the dairy industry.</p>	NRE Tas
Extending irrigation infrastructure  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Roll out Tranche III of Pipeline to Prosperity to meet increased demand for irrigation schemes and support Tasmanian Irrigation to develop a business case for the south east extension scheme.</p>	NRE Tas
Improving the resilience of our fisheries  <p>Already underway</p>	<p>Improve the design of Harvest Strategies for commercial and recreational fisheries to better incorporate climate resilience.</p>	NRE Tas
	<p>Reduce the impacts of range-extended urchins on Tasmania's marine ecosystems caused by warming waters on Tasmania's east coast.</p>	NRE Tas
	<p>Work with CSIRO on integration of new national climate adaptation guidelines into fishery management approaches.</p>	NRE Tas
	<p>Work with Blue Economy CRC on a range of approaches that will promote greater resilience and adaptation by aquaculture and energy industries working in offshore marine environments (for example, co-production of finfish and seaweed).</p>	NRE Tas



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Engaging with the community

Recognising the need for statewide action on climate change from all levels of society, many actions use a partnership approach with government, business, industry and the community. We will continue to engage with stakeholders and the community on specific actions.

Under the Act, the government has a legislative requirement to consult with relevant business, industry, scientific, environmental and community bodies, children and young people, local government, relevant unions, the peak body representing trade unions, and the Tasmanian community.

Our consultation requirements will be met through meetings, targeted workshops, public forums, written submissions, the Premier's Youth Advisory Council and the Climate Change Reference Group.

The Climate Change Reference Group was established in 2023 to provide advice and feedback on the government's strategic priorities and emerging opportunities in mitigation and adaptation. Advice from the Reference Group will

support the government to work towards Tasmania's 2030 net zero emissions target and increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change. The government has committed to reviewing climate change governance arrangements in Tasmania by mid-2024.

Keep up to date with our progress

The Climate Change Office will keep stakeholders and the community informed on the implementation of the Action Plan through our website, newsletter and social media.

We encourage you to sign up for our newsletter through our website: www.recfit.tas.gov.au/climate and follow the Tasmanian Climate Change Office on Facebook to stay informed about opportunities to have your say in the development of actions and participate in programs as they are implemented.

You can also contact the Climate Change Office by email at climatechange@recfit.tas.gov.au

Keeping track

Implementation

The Climate Change Office will develop an implementation plan that clearly outlines timelines, outputs and performance indicators for each action in the Action Plan.

Reporting

The Act includes a legislative requirement to prepare an annual climate change activity statement, showing the status of the actions in the action plan, and the Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans. The Act also includes a requirement to prepare an annual greenhouse gas emissions report detailing Tasmania's emissions for each sector.

These reports will be prepared each year and are required to be tabled in Parliament.

Wherever possible, estimates of emissions reduction for actions and projects will be included in our reporting. Calculating emissions from specific projects is complex and based on a range of variable assumptions. Emissions estimates require a comprehensive assessment of all inputs into the project, and there are many factors that can influence the energy use and emissions reductions from projects (such as weather and climate variability, technologies deployed, production levels, occupancy of buildings and use of vehicles).

Monitoring and evaluation

We will determine whether actions in the Action Plan have been effective by monitoring and evaluating individual actions. Monitoring will be based on the approach identified for each of the actions. Evaluation methods will vary, as they will be tailored for each action.

Lead government agencies, working with partner organisations, will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the actions they deliver. The Climate Change Office will coordinate reporting on whole-of-government actions.

An adaptive management approach will be used to ensure we are continuously improving our programs and processes. Implementation of actions will be adjusted based on what we learn from our monitoring and evaluation activities.

Learning from our experiences and sharing this information with others is a priority, as we implement the Action Plan and build our capacity for effective action on climate change.

Glossary and acronyms

The Act	<i>Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008</i>
Climate projections	Description of likely changes to the Earth's climate in future decades, based on scenarios describing plausible concentrations of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere
CMIP	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project
CO ₂ -e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
DECYP	Department of Education, Children and Young People
DPAC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Emissions	Unless otherwise stated, "emissions" refers to Tasmania's net greenhouse gas emissions, which means the greenhouse gases that are emitted from our activities minus the carbon sequestered (for example in our forests).
ERRPS	Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans
Health	Department of Health
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPU	Industrial Processes and Product Use
Low emissions economy	An economy based on energy sources that produce low levels of greenhouse gas emissions
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
Mt CO ₂ -e	Megatonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent
Net zero emissions	The greenhouse gases that are emitted (for example through the burning of fossil fuels) and removed from the atmosphere (for example through restoration of forests) balance to an overall result of zero
NRE Tas	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
ReCFIT	Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (Department of State Growth)
State Growth	Department of State Growth
Treasury	Department of Treasury and Finance

ReCFIT

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Future Industries Tasmania

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