



City of **HOBART**

Enquiries to: CEOs Office

Our Ref: 17/230

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Tasmanian Climate Change Office  
Department of Premier and Cabinet  
GPO Box 123  
HOBART TAS 7001

Via Email: [climatechange@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:climatechange@dpac.tas.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

## **CITY OF HOBART SUBMISSION TO THE TASMANIAN STATE GOVERNMENT'S AMENDING TASMANIA'S CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Climate Change Act Legislative Review as well as the sound engagement in the consultation process. The City of Hobart supports the State Government's proposed amendments and welcomes the opportunity to work closely with the Government to achieve lasting and sustainable climate action, particularly in areas of shared responsibility in energy, transport, building and waste.

The City of Hobart congratulates the State Government on its commitment to amend the Act as a further step to become a leader on climate change. It will assist Tasmania to keep pace with other world leading economies, and take decisive action between now and 2030 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, as per the Paris Agreement.

The City of Hobart commends the State Government for its efforts to:

- Legislate a more ambitious emissions reduction target of net zero emissions.
- Request Climate Action Plans as a statutory requirement.
- Develop climate risk assessments.
- Enable sectoral-based Decarbonisation and Resilience Plans.

The City of Hobart is also taking action, and is eager to deepen collaboration with the State Government to accelerate this effort.

The City has a leadership role in the Southern Tasmanian Councils Association (STCA) and Regional Climate Change Initiative (RCCI) through which it has promoted the role of local governments in responding to climate change for over two decades. The City is also an active member of the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) and Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM).

Beyond its leadership and advocacy role, the City of Hobart is committed to real and practical action on sustainability and climate change.

The City is committed to continue to work with the State Government and thanks the State Government's Climate Change Office for its support of the Sustainable Hobart Action Plan, which was endorsed by Council in 2020. This current plan outlines 42 actions that the City is undertaking. Many of these will only be possible with State Government support. For example, the City was dependent on the State's procurement authorising environment to act on its commitment to electrify the City's passenger vehicle fleet.

In 2020 the City was the beneficiary of a State Government ChargeSmart Electric Vehicle Charger grant, which supported the installation of the Dunn Place 50 kW EV charger, Hobart's first and only fast charging facility.

The City is keen to find low-carbon alternatives for its larger vehicles, and looks to the State Government's commitment to producing green hydrogen to establish a viable economic supply chain to deliver a fuel source to replace reliance on diesel for these vehicles.

Local Government's role in the community stretches across tourism, housing, industry support and economic investment, strategic planning, emergency management and beyond. It is the best placed of all spheres of government to create and support local actions: through direct operations, relationships with other authorities and through local opportunities including community grants.

The proposed changes will enable the City and State Government to work more closely to deliver local actions that ultimately support the new sustainable industries, economies and practices Hobart requires to deliver the genuine emissions reductions and sustainable outcomes it needs for a sustainable future.

This legislation is critically important as it will influence the City's ongoing response as part of a global contribution to the Paris Agreement and through local and highly practical implementations of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Therefore, the City of Hobart strongly encourages the State Government to be a genuine leader in climate and sustainability action by following through on implementation of the PESRAC recommendations, particularly as they pertain to the Tasmanian Sustainability Vision.

The City of Hobart looks forward to the continued leadership of the Premier on these whole-of-economy transformations in a way that is just, equitable and inclusive for a thriving future for our island home.

## Recommendations

The City of Hobart affirms that Tasmania has a unique opportunity to be a genuine world leader in growing a climate-ready economy, reducing emissions, building resilience, adapting to climate change and locally implementing the UN2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The City is also aware of the following recommendations that have previously been made by Climate Tasmania and the Tasmanian Independent Science Council of 3 November 2021 and urges the State Government to consider these as it sets future sustainability and climate actions:

- A set of principles complementary with national and international climate change developments, to guide climate action as recommended in the Jacobs Final Report including: sustainable development and social equity, transparency and reporting, a science-based approach, integrated decision making, risk management, and community engagement.
- Additional principles should be included in the revised Act covering intergenerational equity and protection of biodiversity.
- A statutory body should be established under a revised Act to develop an independent capability to understand, forecast and report annually on the capacity for the land use, land-use change and forestry LULUCF sector in Tasmania to contribute to sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>. Present targets should exclude the contribution of LULUCF.
- Require the development of emissions reduction targets for five-year periods between 2030 and 2050 and aligned with the timing of COP meetings.
- Sector based Decarbonisation and Resilience Plans should be developed under a revised Act, as recommended by the Jacobs Final Report, and should be framed to achieve sectoral targets that are, in total, consistent with an overall 2030 emissions reduction target.
- As part of the introduction of a revised Act, the State Government should commit to ensuring that no state government subsidies are paid for exploration or development of oil, gas or coal resources in Tasmania or its offshore waters.
- The state government should announce an investigation, to report in less than six months, on what legislative changes would be required to prevent any future development of oil, gas or coal resources in Tasmania or its offshore waters.
- Private entities whose fossil fuel use exceeds a nominated trigger point and all government agencies should be required to enter information on their annual fossil fuel use into a publicly accessible database.
- Implement recommendation 4 from the Final Report that climate change be considered in the development of government policies, plans and strategies.
- Make provision for the establishment and ongoing resourcing of an independent advisory body to ensure that the best possible account is taken of

emerging climate science in the overall program of activities established under the Act.

- A regulatory body established under a revised Act should be resourced to provide expert assistance and advice in the development of sectoral plans and plans for individual entities.
- A regulatory body established under a revised Act should have the mandate to collect and make public information on greenhouse gas emissions in Tasmania by sector and fuel type.
- Provide for resourcing of public engagement and consultation activities across all aspects of climate adaptation and mitigation policies and plans.
- Parliament should establish a Standing Committee with representation of all political parties and independent members to monitor government activities in response to climate change.

The City of Hobart supports long-partnership sectoral and inter-sectoral partnerships and coalitions to accelerate local implementation of climate actions where equal opportunities exist for local governments, industry, business and community to lead climate and sustainability action. Where local governments lead, this action would accelerate the transition to a climate positive economy through initiatives such as peer-to-peer energy trading, dark skies lighting, smart street lighting and dark skies.

The City would welcome the State Government providing dedicated funding streams to local governments for climate action and sustainability plans, including innovative approaches to track and measure progress, and effectively exchange knowledge and data between councils in Tasmania.

Yours sincerely



(Kelly Grigsby)

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**