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Tasmanian Climate Change Office

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Submission: Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021

By way of background, the South Hobart Sustainable Community (SHSC) was formed in 2009 as a community-based organisation and has over 360 members. Since its inception, SHSC has led a number of community projects with a strong focus on emissions reductions, including Australia's first community bulk buy of electric vehicles, and five other bulk buys including e-bikes, rooftop solar photovoltaic and solar/heat pump hot water systems. We have also been building resilience in the community through initiatives such as a Growers Group that has met over 140 times, and establishing a thriving Community Garden that will shortly celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Our community has a great sense of pride in banding together on these initiatives, but recognises that all levels of Government and civil society have a role to play for our society to respond to the risks and contribute to stabilising the climate.

In preparing this submission we have read the Independent Review by Jacobs, the Tasmanian Government Response to the Independent Review of the Act, the draft Bill, and Tasmanian Policy Exchange's "A blueprint for a climate-positive Tasmania". Our response is structured in the sequence the amendments to the Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill are listed.

Part 1 – Objects of the Act

We support the consolidation of the current objects of the Act, from 10 to 5. We concur with the rationale of making the Act better at guiding effective climate action, and evaluating the effectiveness of the Act.

Part 2, Division 1, clause 5 – Tasmania's emissions reduction target

We support the target of net zero emissions being legislated for 31 Dec 2030.

About us: The SHSC group is South Hobart residents who recognise that transitioning to a sustainable way of life is one of the key challenges of the 21st century. We want to work together and share what we learn along the way.



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We acknowledge that while Tasmania has already met that target, the potential for 'business as usual', and decrease in carbon sequestration from native forests and plantations over the coming decade (or bushfires) would see the emissions rise above net zero again.

Part 2, Division 1, clause 5A – Climate change action plan

We support the legislated requirement for the Minister to prepare an action plan at least every five years, with the triple aim of reducing emissions, building resilience (adaptation) and managing risks/taking opportunities.

We note subclause (d) refers to the latest and best available science, and (e) refers to consultation with industry, business, research institutions and a broad range of the Tasmanian community. *Has there been consideration given to an independent advisory committee?* The success of working together to solve problems based on science was clearly demonstrated in the Tasmanian Government's response to COVID-19.

To help the Minister deliver the best plan for Tasmania, we suggest an independent advisory committee would help embed this science-led approach to tackling the climate crisis at this level of government, whilst also considering economic, social and other relevant factors. A potential skills base for this committee could comprise up to 10 members with experience in, or knowledge of, the following:

- (a) climate science;
- (b) climate change policy;
- (c) human health;
- (d) financial investment, economic analysis and forecasting;
- (e) energy production and supply, technology development and diffusion;
- (f) ecology and natural resource management;
- (g) regional development, industrial relations and business competitiveness;
- (h) social services;
- (i) agriculture, and
- (j) infrastructure and natural disaster management.

We also suggest at least one member of the committee must have a climate science background, and one member must have a climate policy background. We also suggest a gender diverse membership, with at least one Tasmanian Aboriginal member.

It could also make sense to draw members from the various sector-based working groups (as foreshadowed in page 17 of the Tasmanian Government Response) to

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be on the committee (in a similar way to Local Government, as Councillors often have various sub-committee roles).

Part 2, Division 1, clause 5B – Statewide climate change risk assessment

We support the legislated requirement for the Minister to prepare a risk assessment at least every five years, with the first due by July 2022.

Our community organisation has already formed a ‘resilience’ working group, to explore concepts of disaster resilience, adaptive capacities (wellbeing, connection, knowledge, and security), shared responsibility and risk. We aim to conduct a series of facilitated workshops in early 2022, in conjunction with other community organisations, Red Cross and the City of Hobart.

Part 2, Division 1, clause 5C – Sector-based transition planning

We support this measure, as a way of customising the emission reduction task for specific sectors. We particularly like the requirement that Ministers are responsible for the development of these plans for sectors of which they have oversight. We agree with the five primary sectors nominated, and allowing for additional sub-sectors to also develop plans.

While Tasmania has an advantage towards reaching net zero due to our extensive hydro power energy resource – and increasing our wind and solar power resource use is increasingly viable - in a climate emergency, we feel that it is imperative to set ambitious individual targets for emissions for all sectors: LULUCF (i.e. forestry), industrial processes (i.e. mining), agriculture and infrastructure, in order to achieve safe outcomes for future generations.

We note that Recommendations 3 (principles to guide climate action) and 4 (relevant policies and strategies informed by climate change) of the Independent Review did not make it into the draft Bill. We understand the Government’s rationale being that these measures will be addressed through a whole-of-government policy framework. The list of considerations did not explicitly state Treasury guidelines but we think they should. Examples include Better Practice Guidelines, Treasurer’s Instructions and Procurement Principles. It is critical that the measures identified through the above action plans and risk assessments have the follow-through at a procurement level. Otherwise there is a risk the desired outcomes of the legislation (and associated plans) may be stymied through continued use of benefit-cost analysis or weighted evaluation that doesn’t properly account for emission outcomes or climate risk.



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Climate change is a significant threat to life on this planet. Already we have seen loss of significant marine resources (i.e. giant kelp on eastern waters) due to temperature increases and uncontrollable bushfires. We thank the Tasmanian Government for taking the time to seek community and industry input – and for bringing forward the target date for net zero by two decades within the legislation.

We see the climate action plan, risk assessment and sector-based transition plans as the next critical steps in working toward significant emissions reduction and adaptation across the state. We would like to contribute ideas to these plans at the appropriate time.

Our group is happy to clarify any query the TCCO or members of Parliament may have regarding our submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "U. Green", written over a horizontal line.

Public Officer – Uta Green