

Dear Sir/Ma'am:

I am responding to the request for feedback on the draft *Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021* (the draft Bill).

A number of the provisions of the draft Amendment Bill are not sufficiently strong to respond to the extreme urgency of the climate crisis and require re-drafting.

The Tasmanian government acknowledges the climate crisis. In its *Response 2021* document, the government states that "*there is now overwhelming scientific evidence that the climate is changing as a result of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities*" (p. 5). The Bill does not go far enough in addressing this crisis and driving real action on climate change. We have already achieved net zero emissions by 2030 thanks to the reduction in native forestry and long-standing hydro electricity, and now need to make our emissions targets more ambitious. Tasmania is in the enviable position to be able to take this lead, and become a carbon sink.

There are a number of sectors in Tasmania that contribute to climate warming including transport, agriculture, waste management, business and industry. The Bill needs to provide a strong framework to reduce emissions, protect existing carbon stocks and increase carbon sequestration. We need an ongoing commitment to transition to 100% renewable energy.

I recommend amendments which require:

- sector-based emissions reduction targets that are reviewed every four to five years. This recommendation is in line with the independent review's key Recommendation 7 to amend the Act to include the completion of sector-based Decarbonisation (emissions reduction) and Resilience Plans. (Jacobs Group Independent Review of Tasmania's Climate Change (State Action) Act)
- end native forest logging and clear felling in Tasmania thus preserving our existing carbon stocks and drawing down carbon out of the atmosphere. Last week on 2 November 2021 at the Glasgow COP26 climate talks, Australia signed an agreement promising to end deforestation by 2030. The signatories committed to "*...working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation*". This commitment requires the Tasmanian government to re-draft and realign the provisions of the draft Bill to be explicitly in accord with this international agreement signed by Australia and over 100 other nations.
- climate impact statements on government decisions where there is likely to be an impact on emissions or adaptation measures
- the reinstatement of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council to provide independent expert advice to government.
- the establishment of a Safe Climate Commission and a Safe Climate Committee.

These recommended amendments are in line with the government's Climate Action 21 actions, key priorities and principles which is currently being updated.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft Bill. I look forward to an Act which brings Tasmania into a strong position to assist with the urgent need to reduce global warming to under 1.5 degrees.

Yours sincerely,

Jill Pierce

Tasmania