

Written Response to Review of Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2017-2021

Name / Organisation name

Action For Climate North West Tasmania

Email or street address

Reducing Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What do you think are the key opportunities to reduce Tasmania's emissions? Please choose your top three.

- Forestry: Stop logging native forests in Tasmania. Make our goal to transition the forest logging industry out of native forests and into becoming a 100% plantation forestry state prior to 2030. (If we do this before 2030 we can benefit from being the first Australian state to do so.) The IPCC report makes it clear that forests are part of the climate *system*, *it plainly states that* "reducing deforestation and forest degradation rates represents one of the most effective and robust options for climate change mitigation." It is widely reported that forestry is a well-established industry in Tasmania which provides large-scale export opportunities. These opportunities can only be enhanced by providing timber that is from 100% plantation timber. Sustainably managing our current plantations in order to take advantage of carbon and biodiversity benefits and ceasing the logging of old growth forest is at the top of the list.

- Agriculture: Given the two biggest carbon emissions polluters from agriculture are methane from livestock and the nitrous oxide produced in soil these two areas provide key opportunities to reduce Tasmania's ongoing emissions. Funding research and farm trials to amass the necessary expertise and fast track the problem solving required to transition practices to low carbon producing practices. Supporting agricultural producers through education to reduce emissions is vital. Agriculture is a key growth sector in Tasmania's economy this needs to be a priority. NB When diesel operated machinery is used on our farms it is not counted in the agricultural part of the emissions inventory, it is counted as part of transport. Recording these things together will provide a more comprehensive representation of emissions from agriculture.

- Transport: reducing our current and future transport emissions by incentivise the uptake of Electric Vehicles for public transport, businesses and private use.

2. What do you think are the key gaps in Tasmania's current efforts to reduce emissions?

- Tasmania's Forests: There is little to no mention of the logging of old growth forests and the potential impact this will have on our climate future. Stopping logging is a powerful climate solution that securely sequesters carbon dioxide. The role of Tasmania's forests as carbon rich ecosystems is not being presented and we are therefore currently presenting a narrow view of what our forest resources have to offer.
- Education: Community education is of the utmost importance as Tasmania make the changes needed to transition to reduce emissions. If we are to develop the capacity of individuals, families, groups and our wider communities to engage with the actions needed there must be a common language around the key concepts to support changing consumer preferences and positively impact climate change. Leadership to engage Tasmanian communities to respond to this challenge is a key gap in Tasmania's current efforts to reduce emissions.

3. What do you think are the main opportunities for Tasmania to transition to a low carbon economy?

- Be bolder around reducing our carbon emissions. All long-term economic stimulus packages must promote developments that incorporate low emissions objectives and consider impacts on climate change.
- With Tasmania on track to accelerate agricultural growth and promote increasing our states population we need to be promoting ways to considerably reduce our emissions in agriculture, transport, industry and resource efficiency.
- Tasmania has the opportunity to position itself as a climate change leader, at both national and global level we should be actively supporting fundamental changes in how we produce and consume goods and services.

Helping Tasmania adapt to a changing climate

KEY QUESTIONS

- 1. What aspects of Tasmania's projected future climate most concern you and why?**

- Habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation. Our climate future sees us moving in a direction which is accelerating the destruction of our natural habitats. This is of major concern to us as it leads to reduced biodiversity, weakened ecosystems, and ultimately a threat to all life, including human life.
- Knowing that climate change will affect low income households and disadvantaged communities disproportionately is of great concern. The negative impact on and disruption to our communities posed by climate changes and the effect that this will have in widening inequality within our communities is disturbing.
- The destruction of our marine environments from shallow-water habitats to deep-ocean communities because of ocean acidification and marine heatwaves are of great concern. As people who use the sea and our coastlines as a source of food the destruction of the resource of our marine environments affects us, our families, communities and future generations.
- Longer and more intense fire seasons are frankly terrifying. The stress our neighbourhoods have lived through as fire has been becoming an increasing threat to our communities and to native habitat is traumatising and deeply scarring.

2. Which parts of Tasmania (for example locations, industries, communities) do you think are most vulnerable to a changing climate?

Tasmania is a predominantly rural and regional state with (according to independent economist, Saul Eslake) below-average levels of education. We are incredibly vulnerable to climate related changes in all our regions and as a state that gains it's income from mining, agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, forestry and tourism our vulnerabilities to a changing climate will impact us all greatly.

3. What do you think are the key opportunities to help Tasmania adapt to a changing climate? Please choose your top three.

The key opportunity in this transition is for our government to promote a transparent, accountable and evidence based commitment to innovation and leadership. Yes, moving towards a climate positive Tasmania is an economic social and cultural opportunity for Tasmania and this is our opportunity to be leaders in our country and globally.

General

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Even though our native forests and renewable energy production have afforded Tasmania the ability to achieve net zero emissions for the last four years the vast majority of Tasmanians have not had to make any changes to the use of fossil fuels or change their high emissions business practices. Being 100% cent self-sufficient in renewable energy is not the same as having a strong record on greenhouse gas

emissions reduction. As Tasmanians consume more energy, drive more and waste more per capita than almost anywhere in the world our reorientation away from 'business as usual' towards a low-carbon needs to centre around honest and open information which permits informed and effective decisions and genuine engagement. The success of working together to solve problems based on science was clearly demonstrated by the Tasmanian Government's response to COVID. We know we have a state that is capable of massive change when information is communicated clearly and honestly.