

CANWest (Climate Action North West Tasmania)

CANWest is a group of people living on Tasmania's North West Coast, concerned about the impact of climate change. Our membership includes people living along the coast from Port Sorell to Smithton.

Recommendations for updating the Climate Change Act

Our understanding of the current state of the planet is that governments at all levels need to readjust their way of governing in light of the climate crisis we are in which is only going to become much more serious.

In this regard the following points summarise what we see as the direction all governments should be promoting:

1. Public and private investment to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support jobs in clean and low carbon industries, and secure clean air, clean water and healthy food as basic human rights.
2. Integrating climate and health disaster and emergency planning in order to effectively manage threats from concurrent climate and health emergencies
3. Investing in education to train the workforce required for the low carbon transition, and to ensure health professionals and the community better understand links between climate change and health.
4. Investing in climate resilience and low carbon healthcare to ensure the health system and the health and aged care workforce can cope with climate impacts and continue to provide safe, quality care.
5. Prioritising sound and transparent governance, and committing to an integrated approach to policy leadership which includes establishing clear responsibilities across multiple government portfolios to deliver on climate and health strategies.
6. Investing in research and knowledge sharing to guide understanding of climate risks and vulnerabilities and effective solutions, including policy.
7. The recognition that human health and the health of our planet are inextricably linked, and that our civilisation depends on human health, flourishing natural systems, and the wise stewardship of natural resources.
8. Recognising the value of, and benefits from, being guided by the unique insights and wisdom available from First Australians' traditional cultural knowledge and practice.

In line with the points above we strongly suggest the following:

Separate LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry) emissions from other sectors.

Establish sector based targets for the major emitting sectors (Agriculture, Energy (non-transport), Industrial Processes, Transport & Waste).

Create interim targets for 2030, reviewed every 5 years. Incorporate a carbon budget method of accounting, such that if interim targets are not achieved then greater effort must be made in the subsequent period.

We recommend reinstating a Climate Action Council to provide both specific expertise and community voice?

We recommend that the Act protects our natural carbon sinks (forests) from construction projects including clean energy developments such as wind farms and pump hydro.