



Climate Tasmania and the Tasmanian Independent Science Council seek significant amendments to the Climate Change (State Action) Bill

Two expert bodies are calling for substantial changes to Tasmania's climate change legislation in keeping with scientific and other evidence for urgent, radical emissions cuts and comprehensive, socially responsible transition planning.

Climate Tasmania and the Tasmanian Independent Science Council are citing last week's massive UN report, "Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" to support their joint submission to State Parliament on proposed government amendments to the Climate Change (State Action) Act of 2008.

A bill to amend the act is to be debated in Parliament this week.

"In the wake of last week's floods on top of earlier climate-related drought, fire and flood disasters, every Australian jurisdiction must urgently overhaul and enhance both mitigation and adaptation measures to prepare our country for future climate disruption," Climate Tasmania spokesman David Hamilton said today.

"Tasmania likes to present itself as a climate leader. To justify such a claim it needs to legislate measures with real teeth that actively work to phase out fossil fuels and to reduce other emissions while preparing us for future climate challenges," he said.

"The Tasmanian Parliament needs to make sure the new legislation aligns with the best scientific evidence on emissions, signalling the urgency of the situation while helping to get Tasmanians ready for significant economic change in the transition to a clean economy.

"While an improvement on the current Act, the proposed Bill does not signal urgency, does not provide a proactive and fair framework to guarantee emissions reductions, does not provide a decarbonisation pathway, and does not provide state of the art adaptation and resilience measures.

"It also does not ensure sufficient accountability, transparency, and community engagement, nor set out how we can achieve collaborative change in our State.

"We are calling both for amendments to the Bill and a commitment to increase funding on climate change starting this year and over the next 5 years," Mr Hamilton said.

Climate Tasmania has circulated a summary of the recommended changes to the Bill to all Members of both Houses of Parliament. The recommendations can be found at:
<https://www.climatetasmania.org/our-submission-regarding-the-proposed-new-tasmanian-climate-act/>

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