



Policy Paper: What Do We Need in a Tasmanian Climate Change Act?

The existing [Tasmanian Climate Change \(State Action\) Act 2008](#) includes:

- A target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Tasmania to at least 60% below 1990 levels by the end of 2050
- provisions for regulation, measurement and reporting of emissions
- a legislated requirement for a review of the Act every four years (one such review is currently underway).

The Act does *not* include:

- any interim targets prior to 2050 or any targets for particular sectors or fuel types
- establishment of any mechanism to independently report on, review, or set targets.

What level of ambition is appropriate?

The state government has recently committed to “Undertake community consultation on an ambitious Net Zero Emissions Target” involving “a detailed analysis of the pathway Tasmania would need to take to achieve a target of net zero emissions prior to 2050”. While the 60% target was seen as ambitious in 2008, many governments and businesses now accept that a minimum commitment towards a safe climate is a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050 at the latest. Tasmania is well placed to set and achieve ambitious targets that are beyond commitments by other states and countries.

The need for stable, non-partisan policy framework

Successive state governments have produced Climate Change Action Plans (there have been six of these since 2007) but again none of these have set firm targets for emissions reduction. Climate Tasmania believes that effective climate action requires a legislated framework for targets, independent advice, and implementation mechanisms that are supported by all political parties. Within such a tri-partisan framework, parties can then promote their own individual approaches.

A framework and targets supported by all political parties will send a clear message to the community and business on the type of sustainability goals that all Tasmanians can work towards.

An effective Climate Change Act for Tasmania needs:

- Sectoral (eg transport, agriculture) and fuel specific (eg oil products, gas, coal) interim targets. As with the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, these targets should be minimums which can be made more ambitious in line with new technological developments or updates in climate science.
- Explicit targets and mechanisms for phasing out use of fossil fuels.
- Provision and funding for an independent Climate Change Commission to provide ongoing specialist advice to the Tasmanian government, Parliament, and the community.

More information

- Climate Tasmania policy paper on [An Independent Climate Change Commission for Tasmania](#)
- Climate Tasmania [submission to the review](#) of the Climate Change Act
- Climate Tasmania has developed a detailed set of [Drafting Instructions](#) which set out the requirements and arrangements for an effective Climate Act.

Climate Tasmania is a group of concerned professionals who have a diverse range of expertise, spanning scientific, legal, economic, health, energy, social and policy aspects of climate change. Our aim is "To provide timely, independent and authoritative advice to Tasmanian business, government and community leaders on climate change and appropriate policy responses."

Details of the members of the Climate Tasmania board and expert advisers are available at www.climatetasmania.org/members/

Postal: PO Box 3199 West Hobart, Tasmania 7000

Telephone: 0427 355 951

Email: climatetasmania@gmail.com

Web: www.climatetasmania.org