



## Policy Paper

# An Independent Climate Change Commission for Tasmania

Tasmania needs an independent Climate Change Commission created by legislation to provide ongoing specialist advice for the Tasmanian government, the Parliament, and community. The Covid 19 pandemic is showing us the importance of understanding the science and developing good policies. Climate change is a much more complex set of problems and here for the long-term.

A new Commission would provide independent advice on State emissions targets and carbon budgets, adaptation measures, sectoral policies, and health impacts and draw on the best available science, energy and economic research. As an independent body it would provide Tasmanian governments and members of Parliament with a non-political adviser. For too long, the State has suffered with policy churn in this area, resulting in short-lived or ineffective efforts to reduce emissions. An independent adviser could take a long-term view and support continuity of effort.

Independent Climate Change Commissions and committees are being set up around the world to advise governments at this critical time. They typically take a science-based approach, consult widely with the community, business, farmers and others whose interests and experience need to be considered, and provide transparent advice and reports. Would this involve duplication of current government work? There is no independent advisory body at the State or Federal level looking at the Tasmanian situation. A new Commission would provide a focussed body which could draw on the most relevant expertise from within and outside government.

An essential feature of any effective climate change response will be the transition away from fossil fuels and a separate dedicated body should be created to guide and manage this transition.

Go to the Climate Tasmania website for further statements on climate change science and policy in Tasmania.

[www.climatetasmania.org](http://www.climatetasmania.org)

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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/](http://www.climatetasmania.org/members/)

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