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“Tasmania can show the way” says Climate group

Policy advisory group *Climate Tasmania* is seeking bipartisan support for world leading, beefed up legislation to help guide the state through challenges presented by climate change in coming decades.

The group has released proposals for major revision of Tasmania’s existing 2008 Climate Change (State Action) Act which it has sent to party leaders and MPs in an effort to begin sensible dialogue about the future of the Act.

“Our aim is to persuade the Tasmanian parliament that it can and should to do much more to address climate change,” Climate Tasmania spokesperson Dr Mel Fitzpatrick said today.

“Tasmania is in a great position to be a climate leader and at the same time to strengthen its economy and support vulnerable communities through well managed action on climate,” she said.

“Many Tasmanians aren’t aware that we pay over \$1billion for petroleum fuel imports every year, most of which is lost from our economy. Local solutions that can lower both our need for fossil fuel imports and our emissions will lead to a stronger and tougher economy.

“Over the years we have seen numerous climate policy documents produced by successive Tasmanian governments on both sides of the political divide jettisoned by new ministers and governments, severely hindering progress.

“It’s time the whole Parliament came together to develop a comprehensive, detailed, inclusive, Climate Change Act which confronts and deals with the threat of climate breakdown while protecting the Tasmanian community from climate disruption,” Dr Fitzpatrick said.

She said Climate Tasmania has discussed this with members from all parties and both Houses of our Parliament and continues to look for opportunities to put forward its ideas for this important legislation to politicians and to the wider Tasmanian community.

“We acknowledge the reasonable concerns of many Tasmanians about how climate action might affect their income and the cost of living,” Dr Fitzpatrick said.

“Equity and protection of the vulnerable are essential principles in this ‘just transition’ away from coal, oil and gas. With many Tasmanians struggling, we are concerned that climate disruption could make things worse for them. Our leaders need to engage with the whole community on this.

“Tasmanians would benefit from a well-planned and managed transition. Tasmania could be the State that shows how significantly stronger climate legislation helping to guide a Just Transition from coal, oil and gas can deliver a stronger, more resilient economy.”

Climate Tasmania has prepared a presentation about its proposals for a much strengthened Climate Change Act (see www.climatetasmania.org) and would like to discuss its proposals with as many Tasmanians as possible. Tasmanian groups who would like to hear more should email climatetasmania@gmail.com