Can the Tasmanian Parliament Show Leadership on Climate Disruption?

Climate Tasmania, Sept 2019
The New Zealand Parliament is developing an all-party, comprehensive Climate Change Act.

Why can’t the Tasmanian Parliament do the same?
Our work

“Provide timely, independent and authoritative advice to Tasmanian business, government and community leaders on climate change and appropriate policy responses”
Tasmania as a leader on climate action
Tasmania is not yet a climate leader

- Tasmania’s hydro system results from past leadership, not leadership today
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- The IPCC emphasises that burning of coal, oil and gas is the dominant cause of rising emissions
Tasmania is not yet a climate leader

- Tasmania’s hydro system results from past leadership, not leadership today
- The IPCC emphasises that burning of coal, oil and gas is the dominant cause of rising emissions
- Mitigation strategies that rely on growing trees while ignoring fossil fuels will have little impact
Tasmania can claim legitimate climate leadership when its political leaders...

- understand that climate mitigation requires effort and a price tag
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- honestly confront climate change and acknowledge the threat it poses
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- understand that climate mitigation requires effort and a price tag
- honestly confront climate change and acknowledge the threat it poses
- accept a role for science and other expertise in decision-making
- engage with the public on climate issues
- work to significantly reduce fossil fuel emissions
Tasmania’s carbon emissions are on the rise

• Much has been made of Tasmania’s reduced carbon emissions resulting from a decline in native forest harvesting

• Reduction of these land based emissions appears to show Tasmania in a good light

• However, this effect has no built in permanence

• It therefore camouflages our real climate performance
Tasmania’s carbon emissions are on the rise

From 2016 to 2017 our emissions have increased across all sectors

- Total emissions increased by 1199 kt per annum
- This rise is mainly due to
  - Land use up by 788 kt
  - Industrial processes / products up by 161 kt
  - Agriculture up by 204 kt
  - Energy up by 27 kt
  - Waste up by 17 kt
- Ignoring land use emissions, our total emissions in 2017 were 8461 kt
- That’s 16 tonnes CO\textsubscript{2} equivalent per person – putting us above approx 31 of the 36 OECD countries
The case for taking urgent action on climate disruption
In 2018, carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning was added to the atmosphere at the rate of over 100 million tonnes a day, or about 13 kg for every person on Earth.
2018 was the 42nd year in a row with temperature above the 20th century global average

Source: NCDC
The Tasmanian trend is the same

Annual mean temperature anomaly
Tasmania (1910 to 2018)

Mean temperature anomaly (°C.)

Year

Based on a 30-year climatology (1981-1990)

Australian Bureau of Meteorology
The longer view

Human activities in the industrial age have caused exceptionally rapid warming.
Effect of current pledges

Likely to experience global warming of more than 3 degrees.

Source: Climate Action Tracker
The 1.5 degree challenge

For a 90% chance of staying below 1.5°C, we would have to stop emitting carbon now.

For just a 50% chance of staying below 1.5°C, our emissions must not exceed 580 billion tonnes of carbon – just 14 more years at today’s level.

DATA SOURCE: IPCC 2018, Global Warming of 1.5°C
Climate policy and legislation in Tasmania
Climate Change Strategies / Action Plans

Action plans produced by state government administrations

2007
Paul Lennon
Climate Change Strategies / Action Plans

2007
Paul Lennon

2008
David Bartlett
Climate Change Strategies / Action Plans

2007
Paul Lennon

2008
David Bartlett

2011
Cassy O’Connor
Climate Change Strategies / Action Plans

2007
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2008
David Bartlett

2011
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2014
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Climate Change Strategies / Action Plans

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2014
Cassy O’Connor

2016
Matthew Groom
Climate Change Strategies / Action Plans

2007  Paul Lennon
2008  David Bartlett
2011  Cassy O’Connor
2014  Cassy O’Connor
2016  Matthew Groom
2017  Elise Archer

Many parallel scoping studies and policy frameworks have also been produced during this period.
## Climate Change Strategies / Action Plans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
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Almost none of this work has ever been acted upon, each report being shelved on change of government or change of responsible minister.
Climate Action 21

This current strategy contains targets and action items that are unlikely to be taken up by a subsequent administration.
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Meanwhile...

The Climate Change (State Action) Act has served no purpose since it was established in 2008.
Stopping the climate policy churn

We need mutually-agreed strategies enshrined in law in a new, comprehensive Climate Change Act.
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Climate Tasmania is developing detailed proposals for such an Act and is engaging with Members of both Houses of the Tasmanian Parliament

The remainder of this presentation is about our proposals
4

Minimising economic disruption
Disrupted economy
Disrupted climate
Or both?

• Burning coal, oil and gas is the greatest threat to a stable climate
Disrupted economy
Disrupted climate
Or both?

• Burning coal, oil and gas is the greatest threat to a stable climate

• But coal, oil, and gas are seen as a bedrock of better standard of living everywhere
Disrupted economy
Disrupted climate
Or both?

• Burning coal, oil and gas is the greatest threat to a stable climate

• But coal, oil, and gas are seen as a bedrock of better standard of living everywhere

• We resist limiting fossil fuel use because we want a stable economy
Disrupted economy
Disrupted climate
Or both?

• Burning coal, oil and gas is the greatest threat to a stable climate

• But coal, oil, and gas are seen as a bedrock of better standard of living everywhere

• We resist limiting fossil fuel use because we want a stable economy

• But not doing so risks destabilising both climate and economy
Investments under risk from changing climate include equipment powered by oil and gas:

- cars, motorbikes, trucks, boats, ships, planes
- mowers, tractors, saws, excavators, bulldozers
- boilers, heaters, furnaces
Stranded assets

Investments under risk from changing climate include equipment powered by oil and gas:

– *motorbikes, cars, trucks, boats, ships, planes*
– *mowers, tractors, saws, excavators, bulldozers*
– *boilers, heaters, furnaces*

As we buy these items today

– do we expect to use them for their full life?
– do we think about future fossil fuel restrictions
Can disruption be avoided?

Avoided completely?  ____________  NO
Can disruption be avoided?

Avoided completely? ____________ NO

Minimised while protecting the most vulnerable? ______ YES
Can disruption be avoided?

Avoided completely? ___________ NO

Minimised while protecting the most vulnerable? ______ YES

This is often called a “Just Transition”
How much disruption?

TIME

Should we act now to reduce fossil fuel use?

Source: Oil Change International
How much disruption?

TIME

Should we act now to reduce fossil fuel use? YES Managed transition

Source: Oil Change International
How much disruption?

Should we act now to reduce fossil fuel use?

- **Yes** Managed transition
- **No** Eventually reduce fossil fuel use?

Source: Oil Change International
How much disruption?

TIME

Should we act now to reduce fossil fuel use?

- YES → Managed transition
- NO → Eventually reduce fossil fuel use?
  - YES → Economic chaos

Source: Oil Change International
How much disruption?

Should we act now to reduce fossil fuel use?

- YES: Managed transition
- NO: Eventually reduce fossil fuel use?
  - YES: Economic chaos
  - NO: Climate chaos

Time

Source: Oil Change International
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
Which emissions?

- Emissions cover...
  - fossil fuel burning
Which emissions?

- Emissions cover...
  - fossil fuel burning
  - methane (notably from agriculture & landfill)
Which emissions?

- Emissions cover...
  - fossil fuel burning
  - methane (notably from agriculture & landfill)
  - other agricultural emissions
Which emissions?

• Emissions cover...
  – fossil fuel burning
  – methane (notably from agriculture & landfill)
  – other agricultural emissions
  – land use change
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- The first two should be regulated ASAP
Which emissions?

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- The first two should be regulated ASAP

- Reducing fossil fuel use requires a Just Transition
Principles for reducing fossil fuel use

- Focus on quantities of fuel used, not emissions
Principles for reducing fossil fuel use

• Focus on quantities of fuel used, not emissions
• Start with the largest users and government (state & local)
Principles for reducing fossil fuel use

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- Ensure transparent process (mandatory public reporting of large scale usage)
Principles for reducing fossil fuel use

- Focus on quantities of fuel used, not emissions
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- Highest users to prepare *Energy Transition Plans*
Principles for reducing fossil fuel use

- Focus on quantities of fuel used, not emissions
- Start with the largest users and government (state & local)
- Ensure transparent process (mandatory public reporting of large scale usage)
- Highest users to prepare *Energy Transition Plans*
- New *Energy Transition Authority* to regulate and co-ordinate
Energy Transition Authority (ETA)

New independent statutory authority to:

- regulate public reporting of fossil fuel use
- approve mandatory *Energy Transition Plans* and assist with voluntary *ETPs*
- ensure equity in the transition
- identify business opportunities during transition
- identify, reduce adverse impacts of transition

*ETA to be disbanded on completion of transition*
Largest users to be dealt with first

• Government can show leadership while developing second-hand EV market
Largest users to be dealt with first

- Government can show leadership while developing second-hand EV market
- Larger organisations more able to find and fund alternatives
Largest users to be dealt with first

- Government can show leadership while developing second-hand EV market
- Larger organisations more able to find and fund alternatives
- Smallest users don’t have to be involved
Mandatory Energy Transition Plans

– Largest fossil fuel users submit draft plans to the Energy Transition Authority

– Plans to be public

– Plans to be revised every few years
Voluntary Energy Transition Plans

– Open to organisations and groups
– Authority provides advice, some funding
– Plans to be public
Controlling methane emissions

• Tasmanian EPA to be given power and resources to control non-livestock methane emissions

• Control to be based on measurements, requiring continuous improvement
The Just Transition

The transition to a cleaner economy must ensure that nobody is left behind

A *Just Transition* requires:

- Managed change
  - people not left to the mercy of ‘the market’
- New jobs/skills in new industries such as biodiesel manufacture, conversions to EVs
- Energy resilience through fuel self-sufficiency and less economic leakage from oil and gas imports
- Cleaner, quieter, healthier urban environment
Preparing for climate disruption
Climate Impacts

- Health?
- Tourism?
- Bushfires?
- World Heritage Biodiversity?
- Snowfields?
- Agriculture?
- Coastal Areas?
- Hydropower?
- Fisheries?
Projections for Tasmania

- Higher temperatures

Source: Climate Futures for Tasmania ACE CRC
Projections for Tasmania

- Higher temperatures
- Reduced summer rainfall

Source:
Climate Futures for Tasmania ACE CRC
Projections for Tasmania

- Higher temperatures
- Reduced summer rainfall
- Fewer frosts

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Climate Futures for Tasmania ACE CRC
Projections for Tasmania

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Projections for Tasmania

- Higher temperatures
- Reduced summer rainfall
- Fewer frosts
- More heatwaves
- More extreme weather

Source: Climate Futures for Tasmania ACE CRC
Climate impacts... are already happening

Bushfires

www.abc.net.au
Climate impacts... are already happening
Climate impacts... are already happening
Climate impacts... are already happening
Climate impacts... are already happening

Tas Energy Crisis 2016
Climate impacts... are already happening
Climate impacts... are already happening

- We will experience events that have never happened before
Climate impacts... are already happening

• We will experience events that have never happened before

• Events that have only occurred occasionally will occur much more often
Non-Local Climate Impacts

- Food supply
- Energy supply
- Other imports
- Export markets
- Increased demand for aid and disaster relief
- Climate-related warfare
- ‘Climate refugees’
- Disease
Specific Acts requiring amendment

- Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993
- Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994
- State Policies and Projects Act 1993
- Water Management Act 1999
- Marine Farm Planning Act and Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995
- Threatened Species Protection Act 1995
- Fire Services Act 1979
The Climate Act should...

1. Mandate the necessary level of urgency
The Climate Act should...

1. Mandate the necessary level of urgency

2. Comprehensively deal with all major elements to:
   - phase out fossil-fuel emissions
   - control all methane emissions
   - build a strong and flexible adaptation system
   - minimise economic disruption
   - improve community knowledge and participation
   - increase community resilience
   - develop soils and forests to store more carbon
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3. Incorporate statutory obligations

4. Deliver intergenerational justice
Further Reading (recent)

A global view of our climate future

• David Wallace-Wells
  ‘The Uninhabitable Earth’

An Australian view of our climate future

• Robert Glasser
  ‘Preparing for the Era of Disasters’
  Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Thank you

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