

# 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”**

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# Tasmania as a leader on climate action

# Tasmania is not yet a climate leader

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# 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

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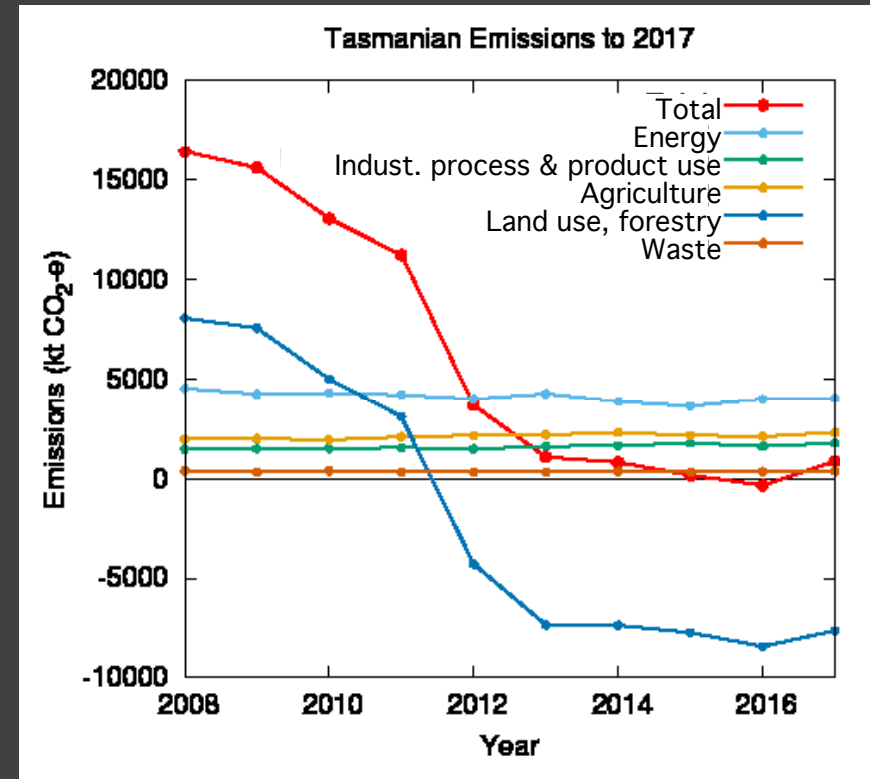
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- engage with the public on climate issues

# Tasmania can claim legitimate climate leadership when its political leaders...

- 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

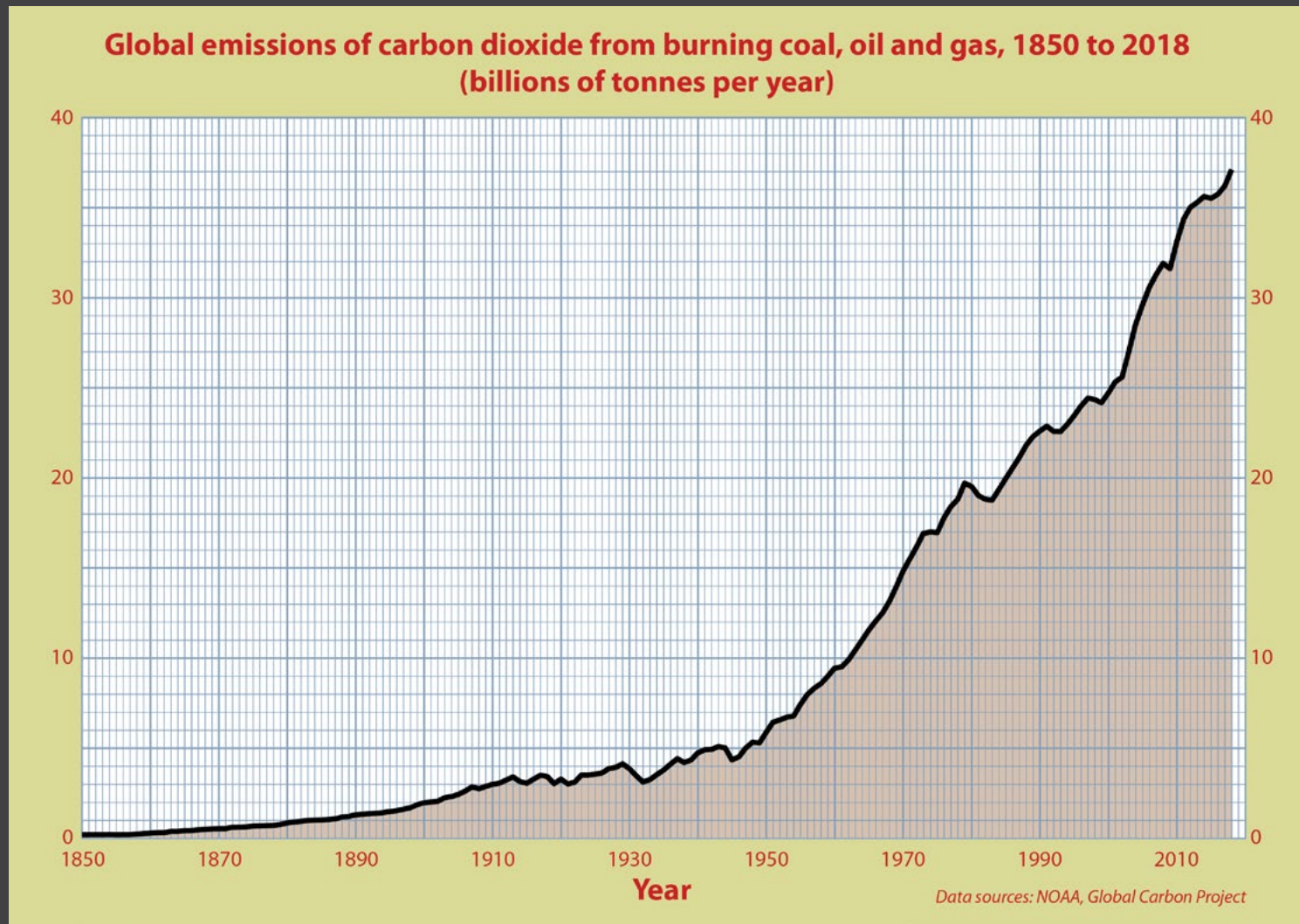
From 2016 to 2017 our emissions have increased across all sectors

- 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<sub>2</sub> equivalent per person – putting us above approx 31 of the 36 OECD countries

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# The case for taking urgent action on climate disruption

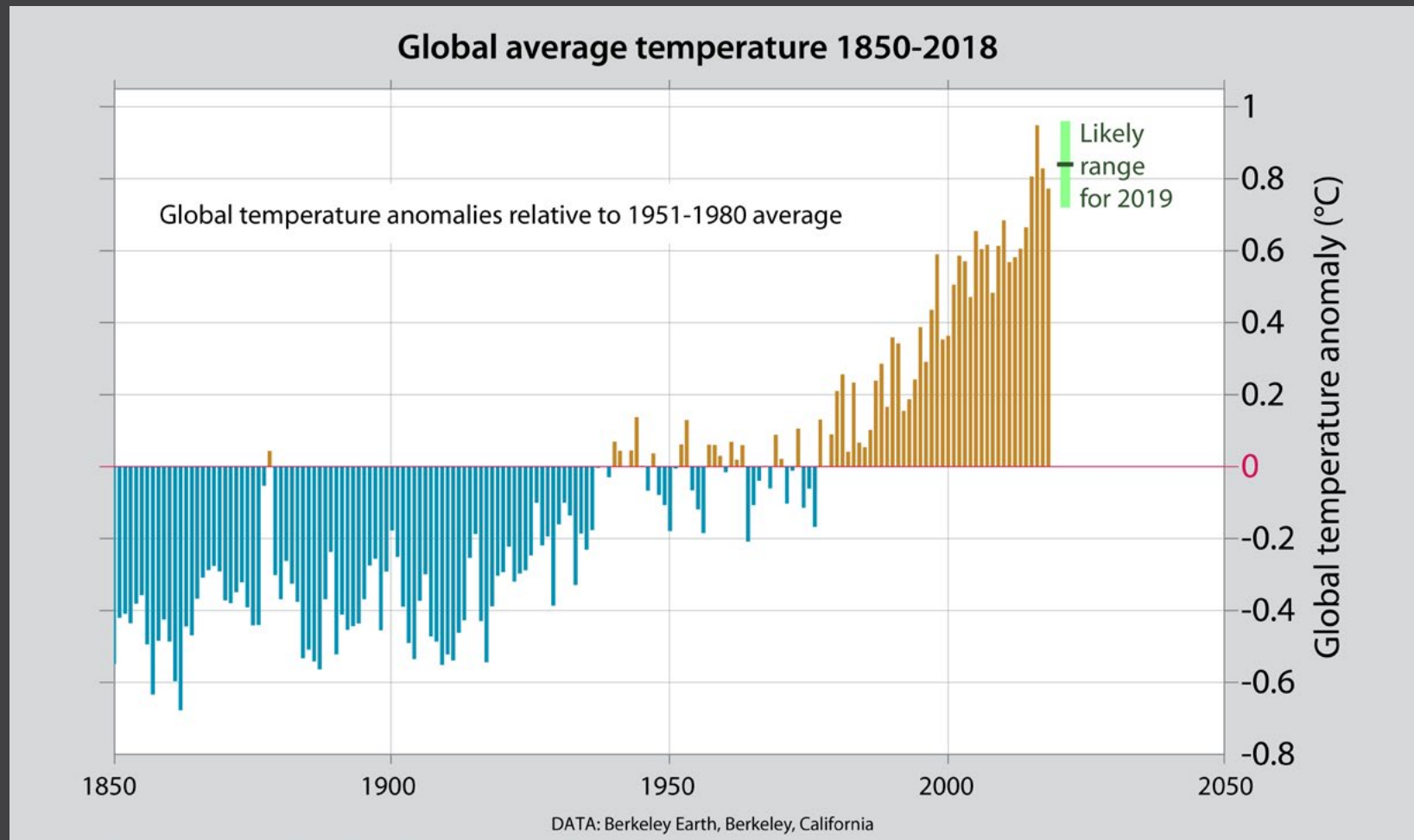
# Emissions



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.



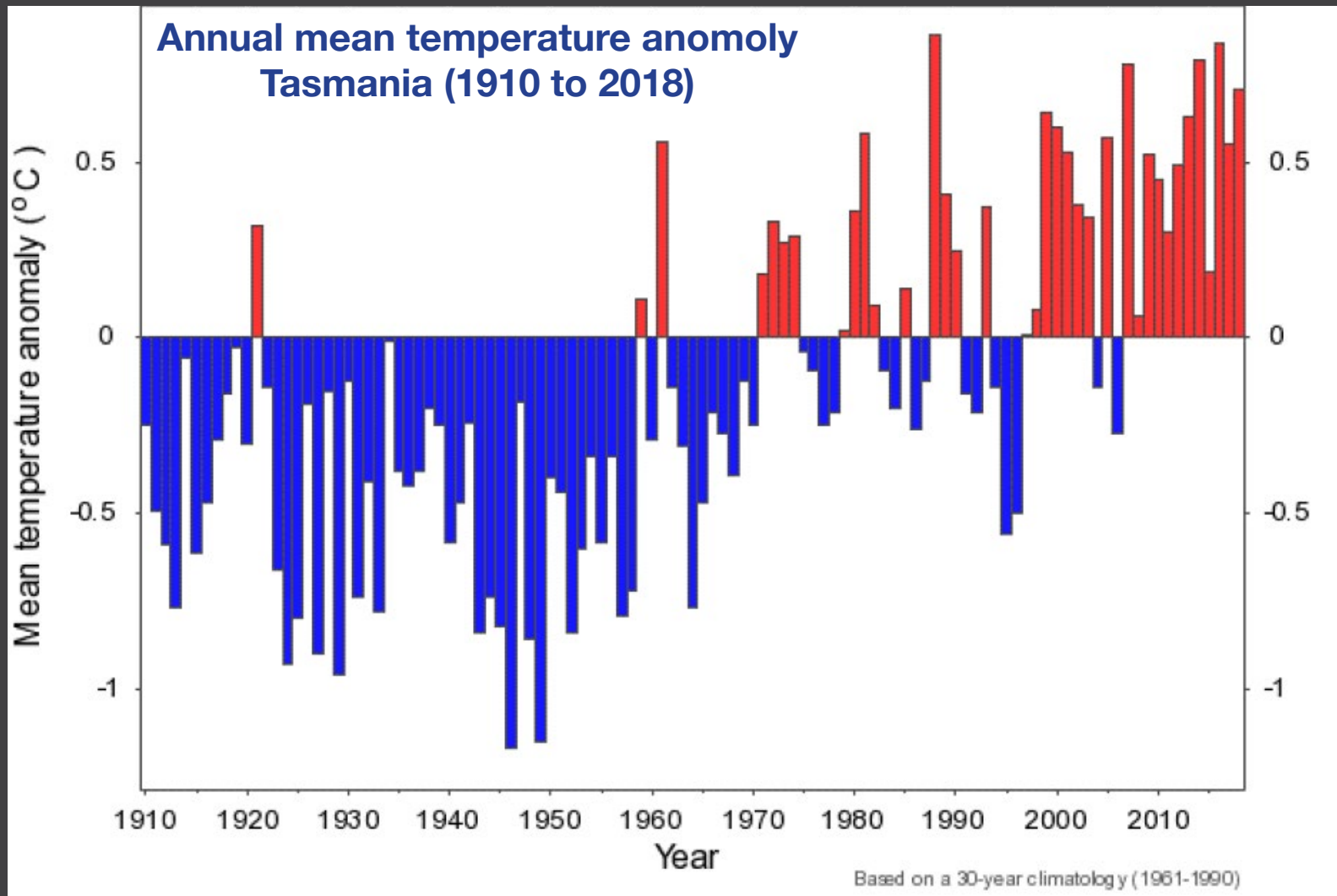
# Temperature records



**2018 was the 42nd year in a row with temperature above the 20th century global average**

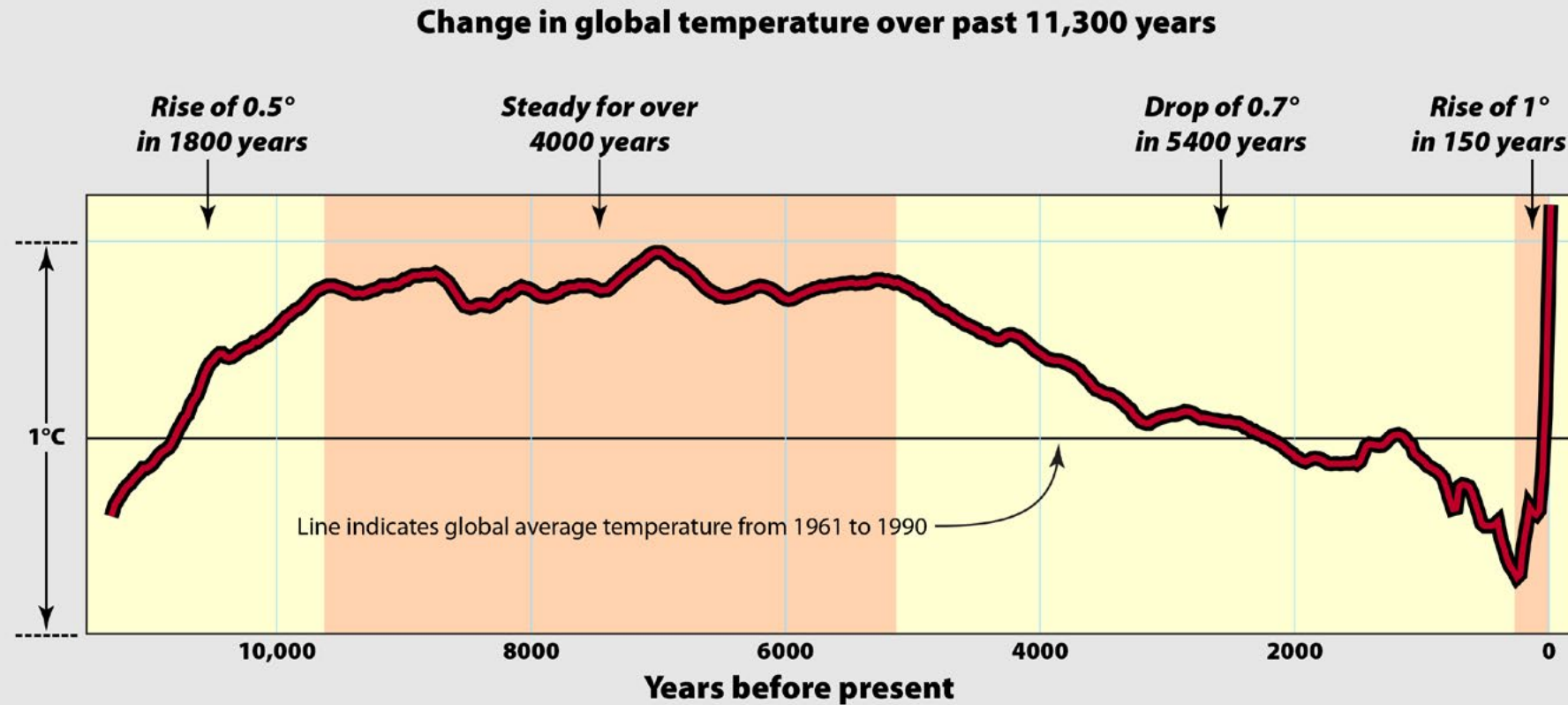
Source: NCDC

# The Tasmanian trend is the same



Australian Bureau of Meteorology

# The longer view

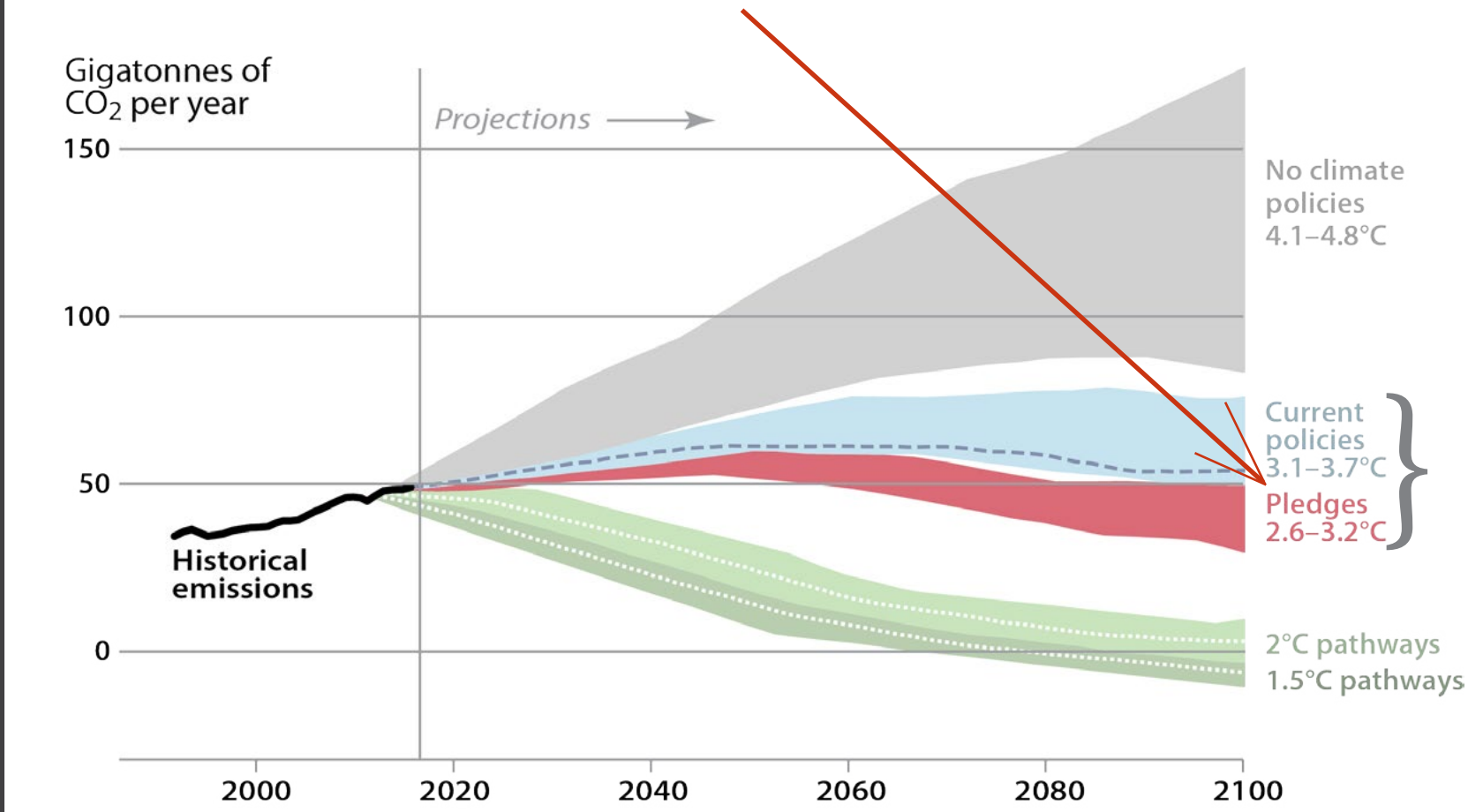


Source: Marcott S A, J D Shakun, P U Clark, A C. Mix (2013). A Reconstruction of Regional and Global Temperature for the Past 11,300 Years. Science 8 Mar 2013 (AAAS), V 339 N 6124 PP1198-1201

Human activities in the industrial age have caused exceptionally rapid warming

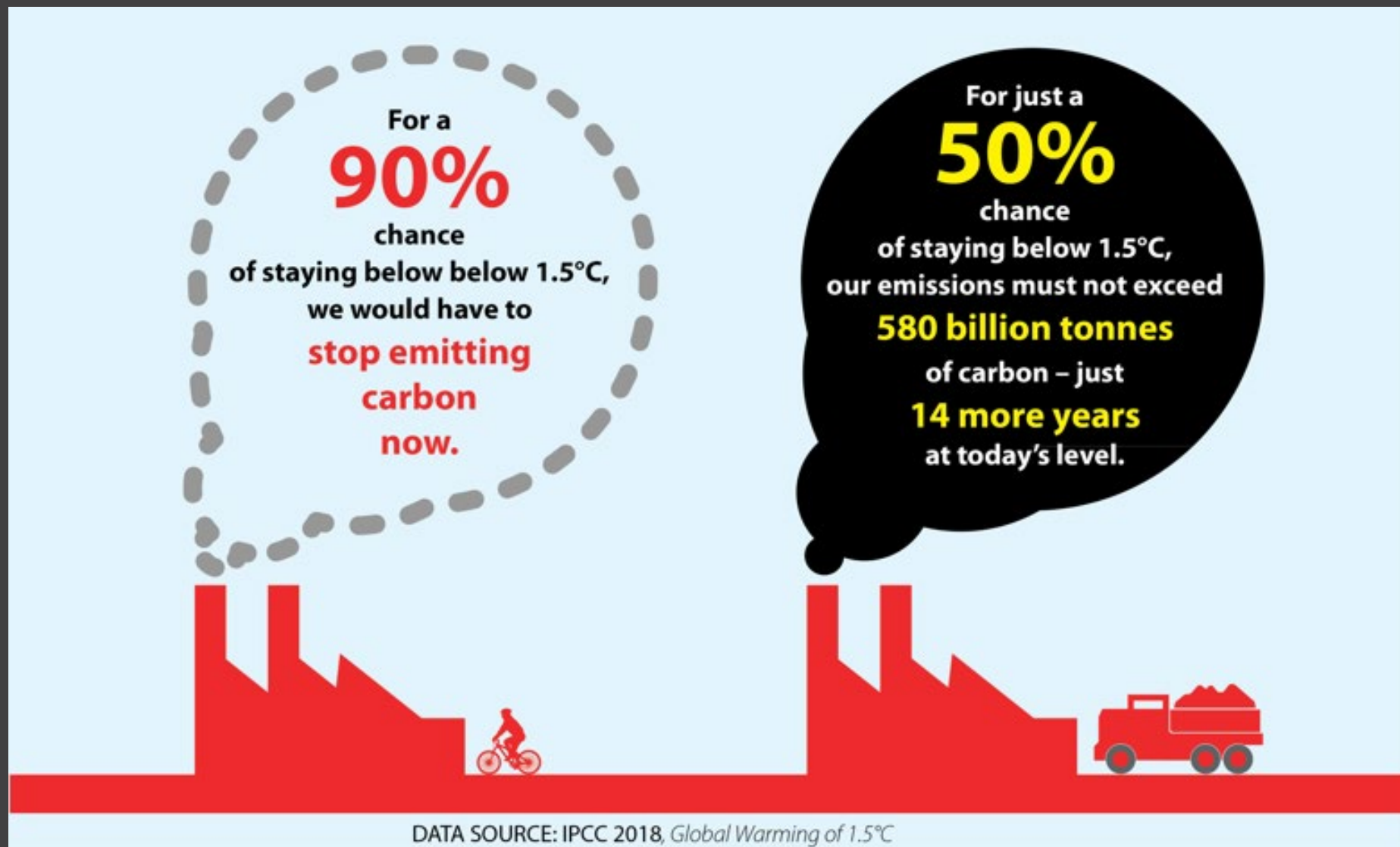
# Effect of current pledges

Likely to experience global warming of more than 3 degrees.



Source: Climate Action Tracker

# The 1.5 degree challenge



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# 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

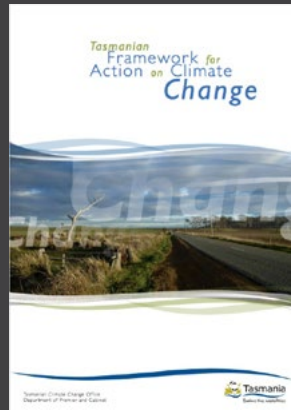
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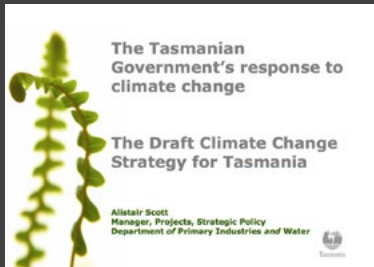




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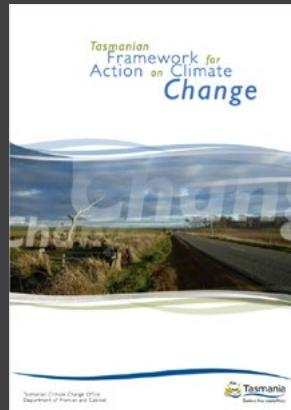
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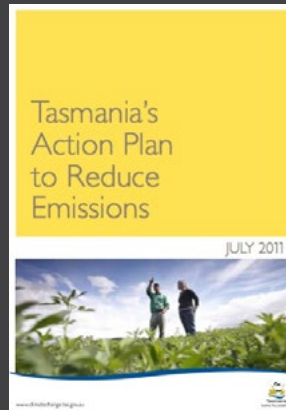
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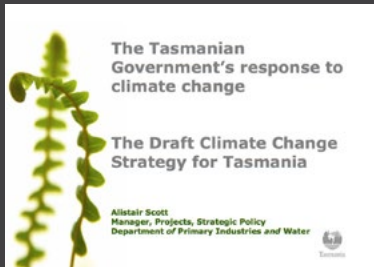
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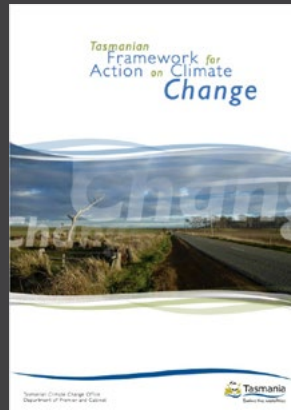
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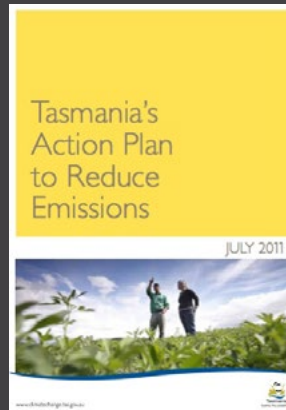
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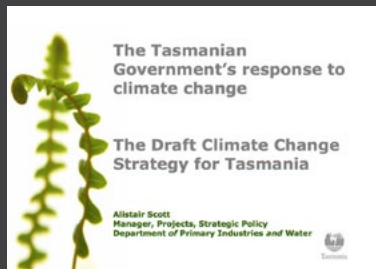
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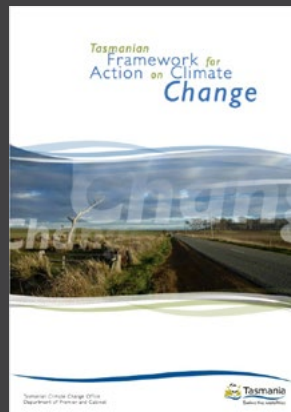
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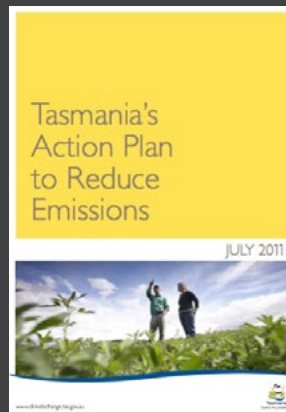
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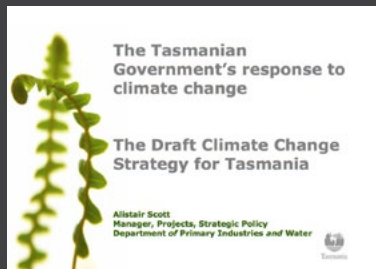
Matthew Groom



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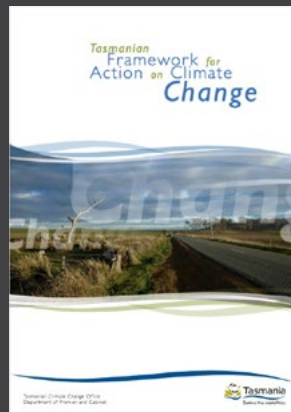
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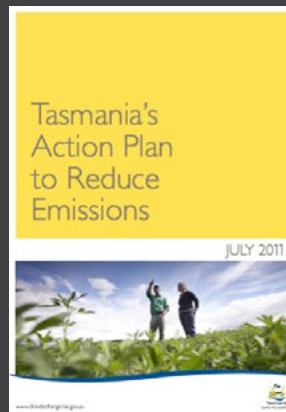
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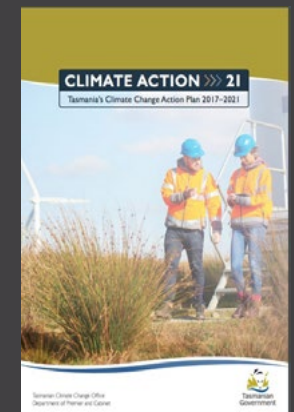
2016

Matthew Groom



2017

Elise Archer

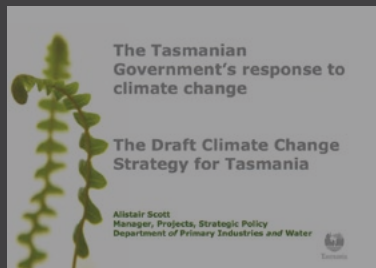


**Many parallel scoping studies and policy frameworks have also been produced during this period**

# Climate Change Strategies / Action Plans

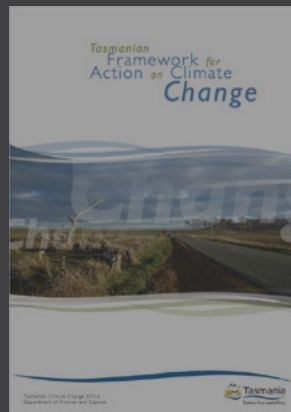
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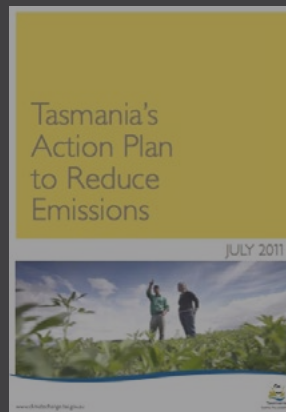
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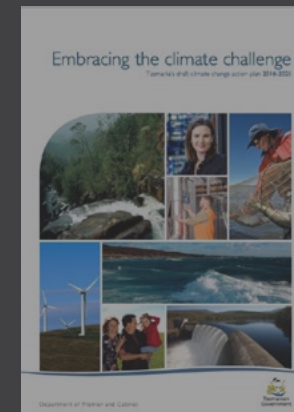
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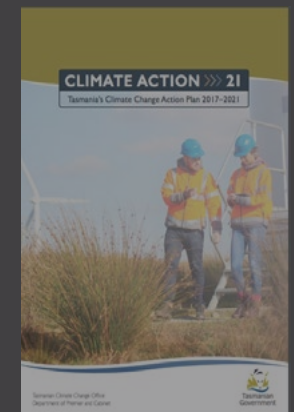
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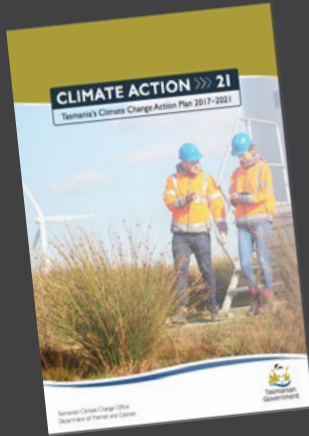


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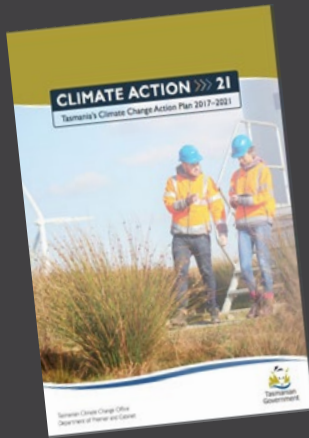


**Almost none of this work has ever been acted upon,  
each report being shelved on change of government  
or change of responsible minister**



# Climate Action 21

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

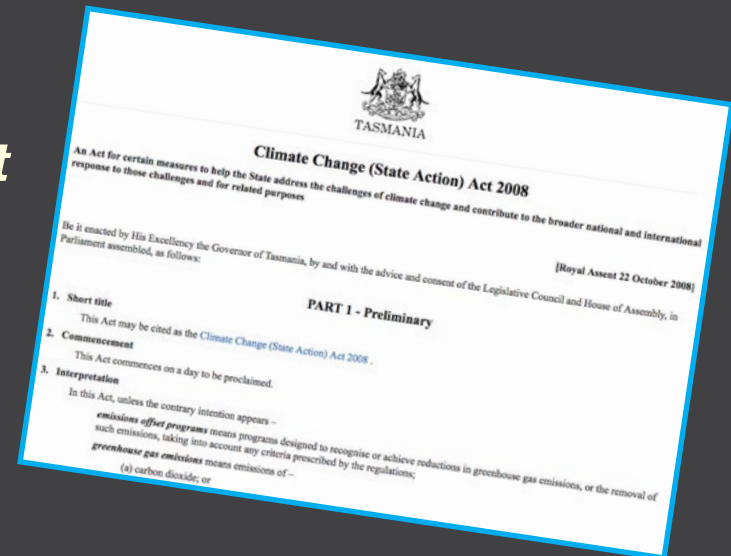


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## Meanwhile...

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**

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# 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**

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- **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**

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

# Stranded assets

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**

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Minimised while protecting  
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This is often called a “Just Transition”

# How much disruption?

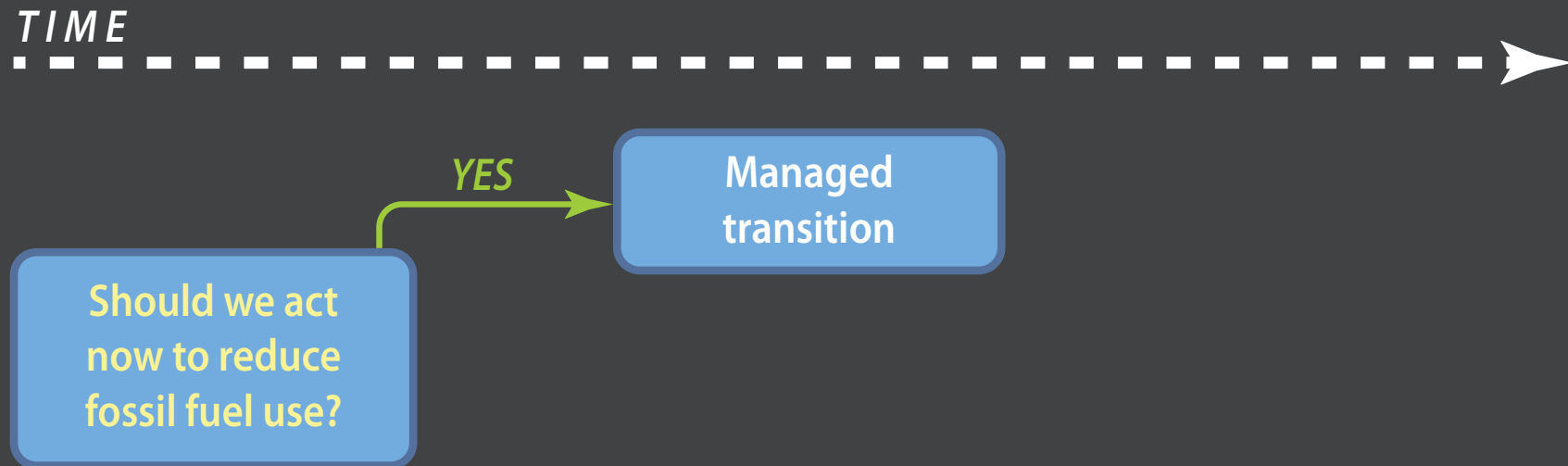
*TIME*



Should we act  
now to reduce  
fossil fuel use?

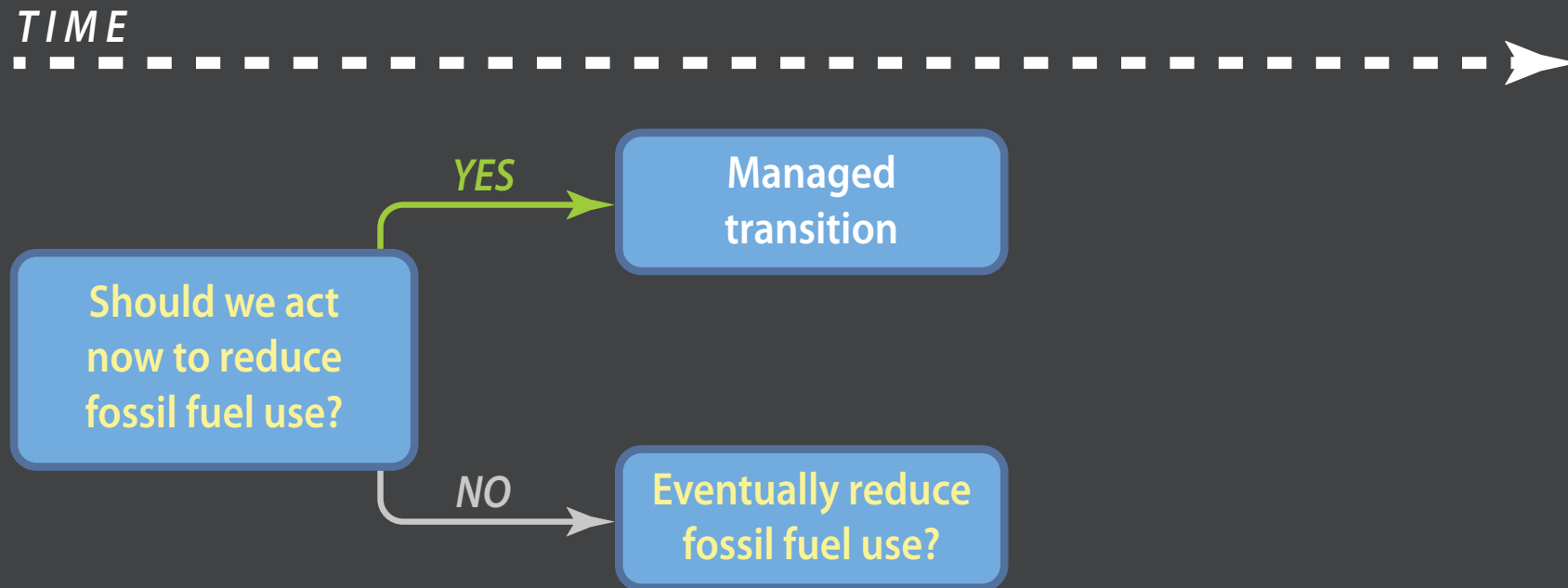
Source: Oil Change International

# How much disruption?



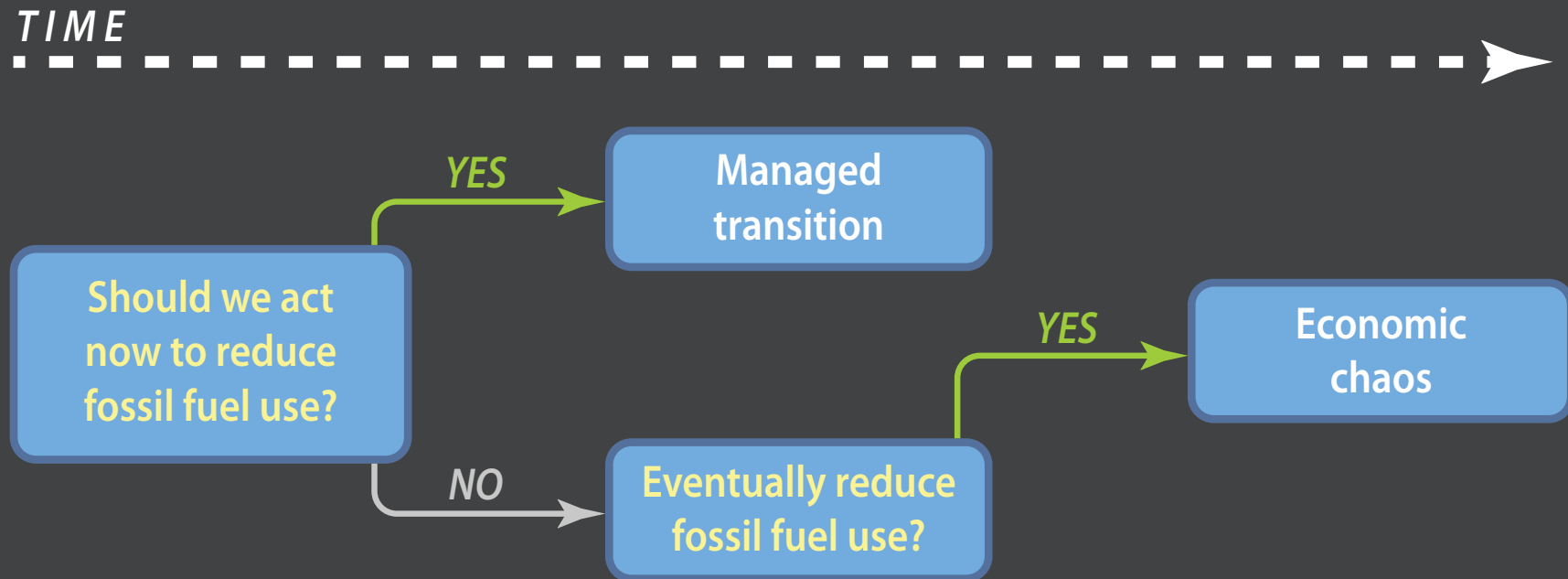
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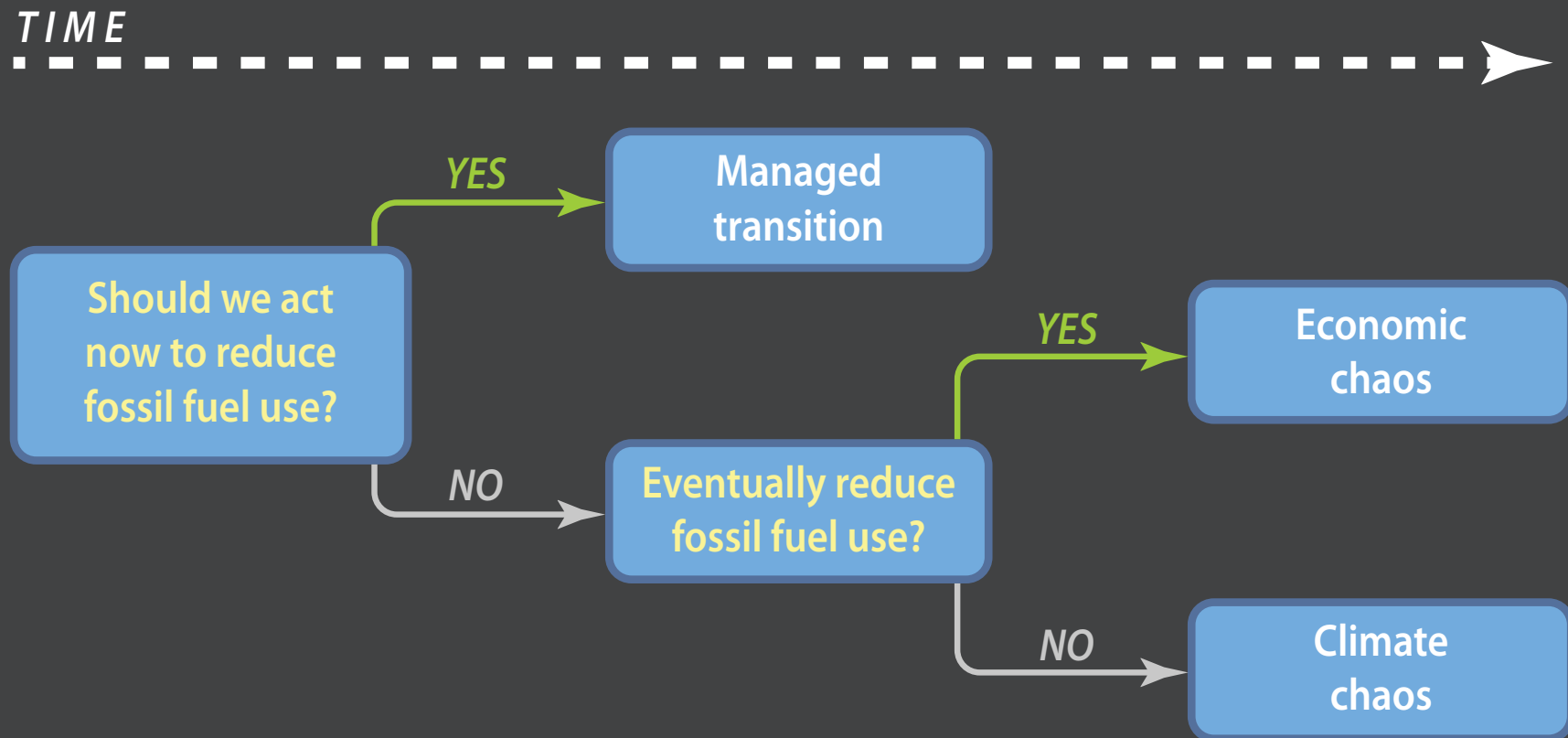
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5

# Reducing greenhouse gas emissions

# Which emissions?

- Emissions cover...
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- Reducing fossil fuel use requires a Just Transition

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- 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

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- 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**

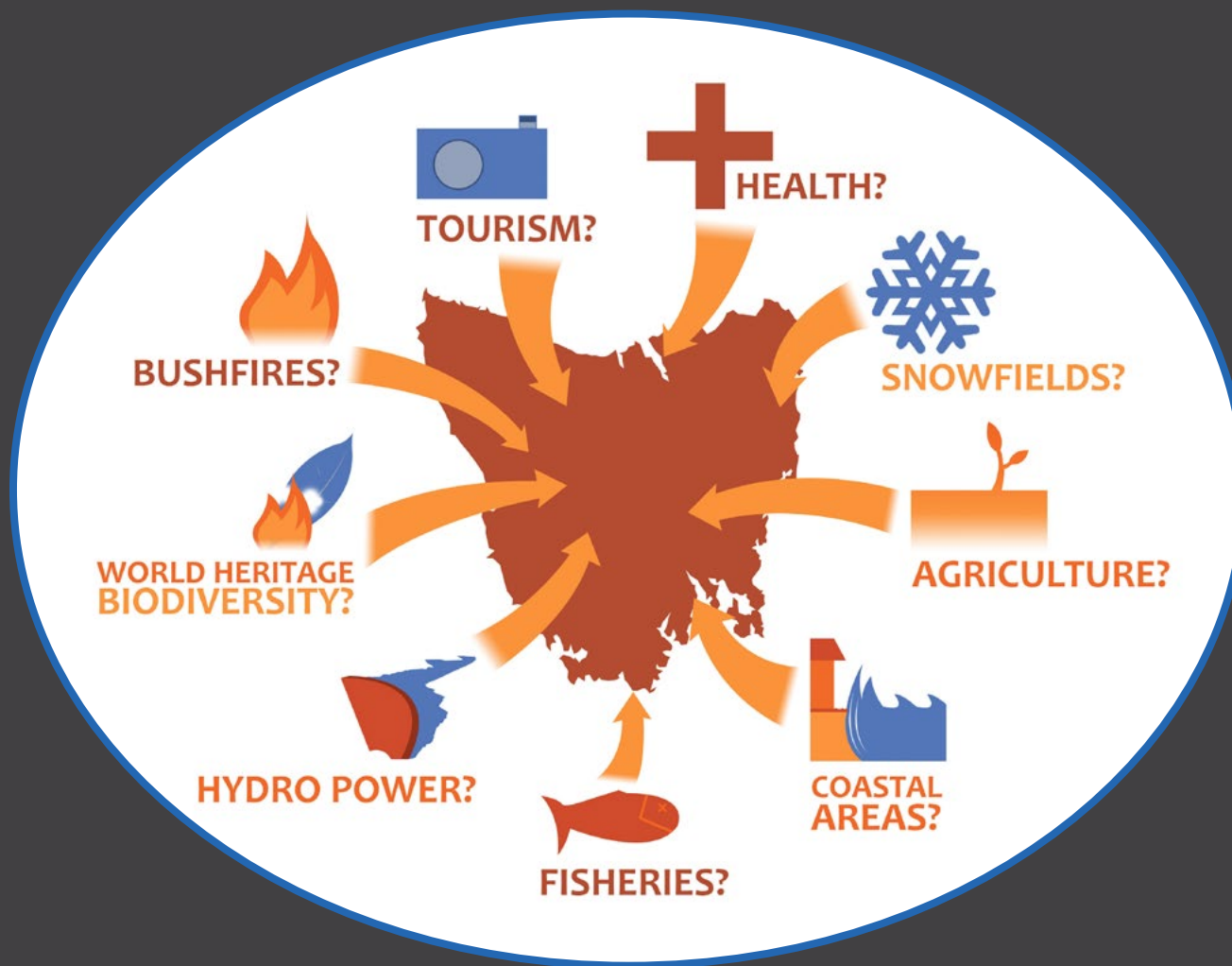
***A Just Transition* requires:**

- **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**

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# Preparing for climate disruption

# Climate Impacts



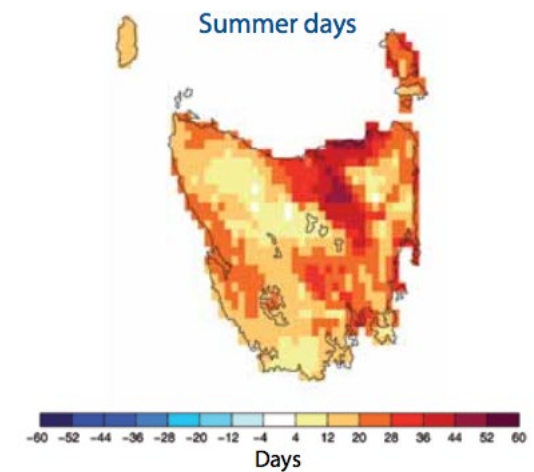
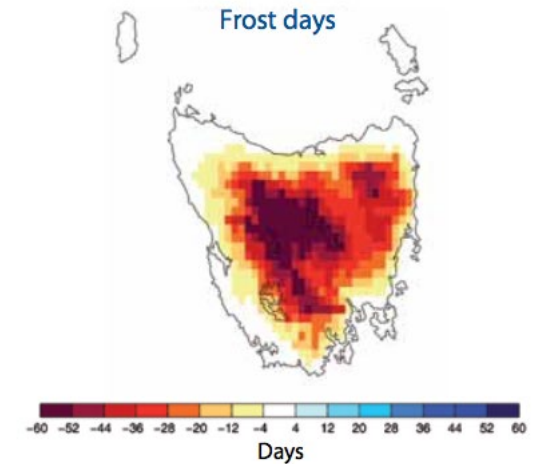
# Projections for Tasmania

- Higher temperatures

Source:  
Climate Futures for Tasmania ACE CRC

The frequency of extreme temperature days will change

Change to 2070-2099



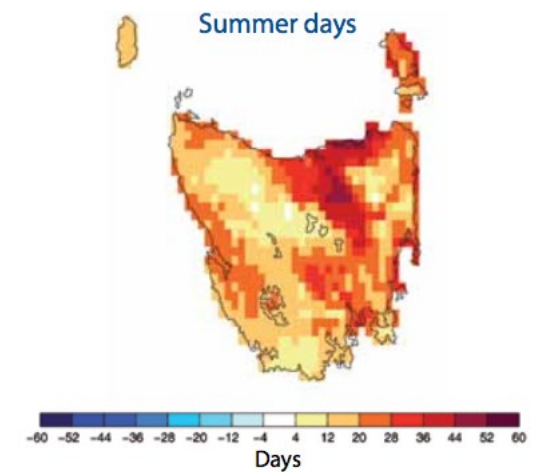
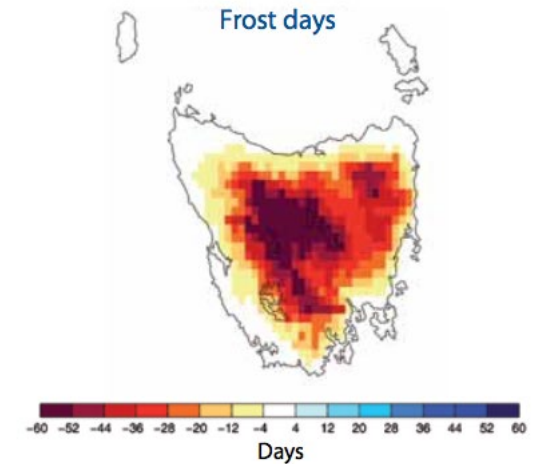
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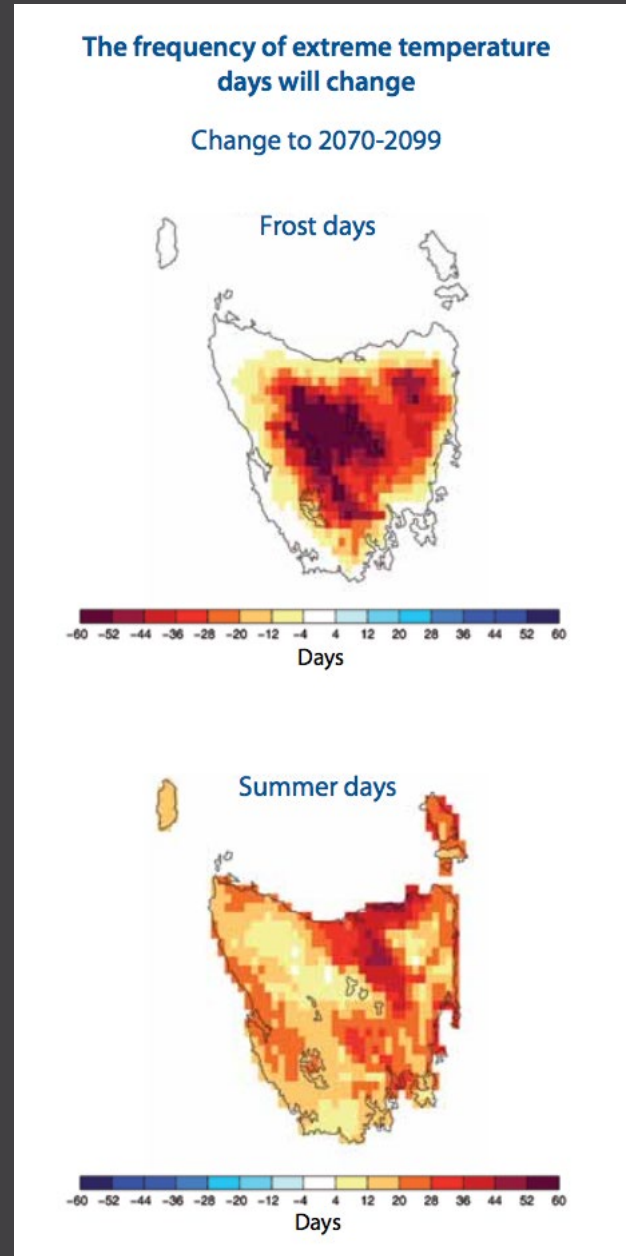




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- Higher temperatures
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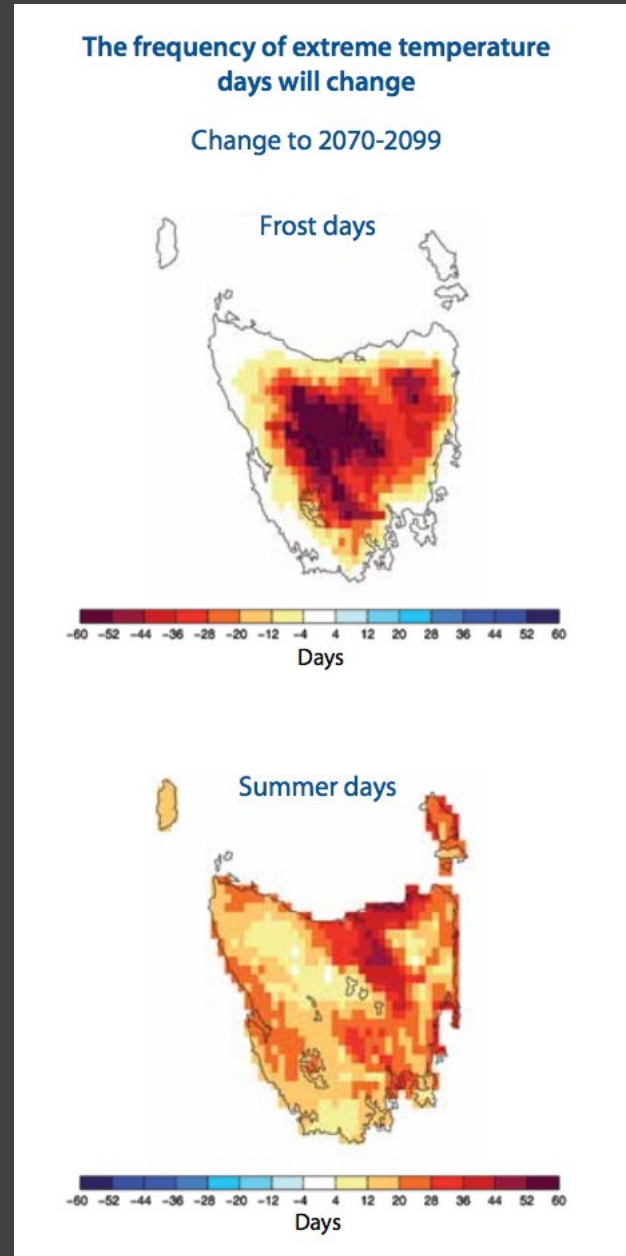
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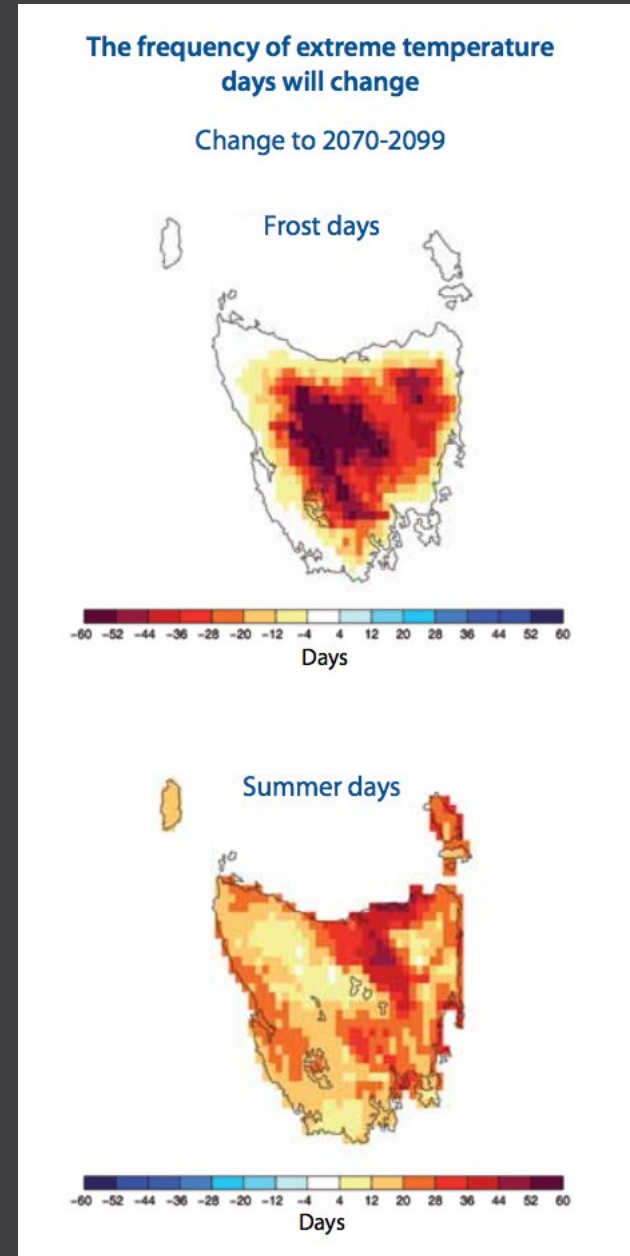
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# Climate impacts... are already happening



[www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au)

# Climate impacts... are already happening



B

Health consequences

[www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au)



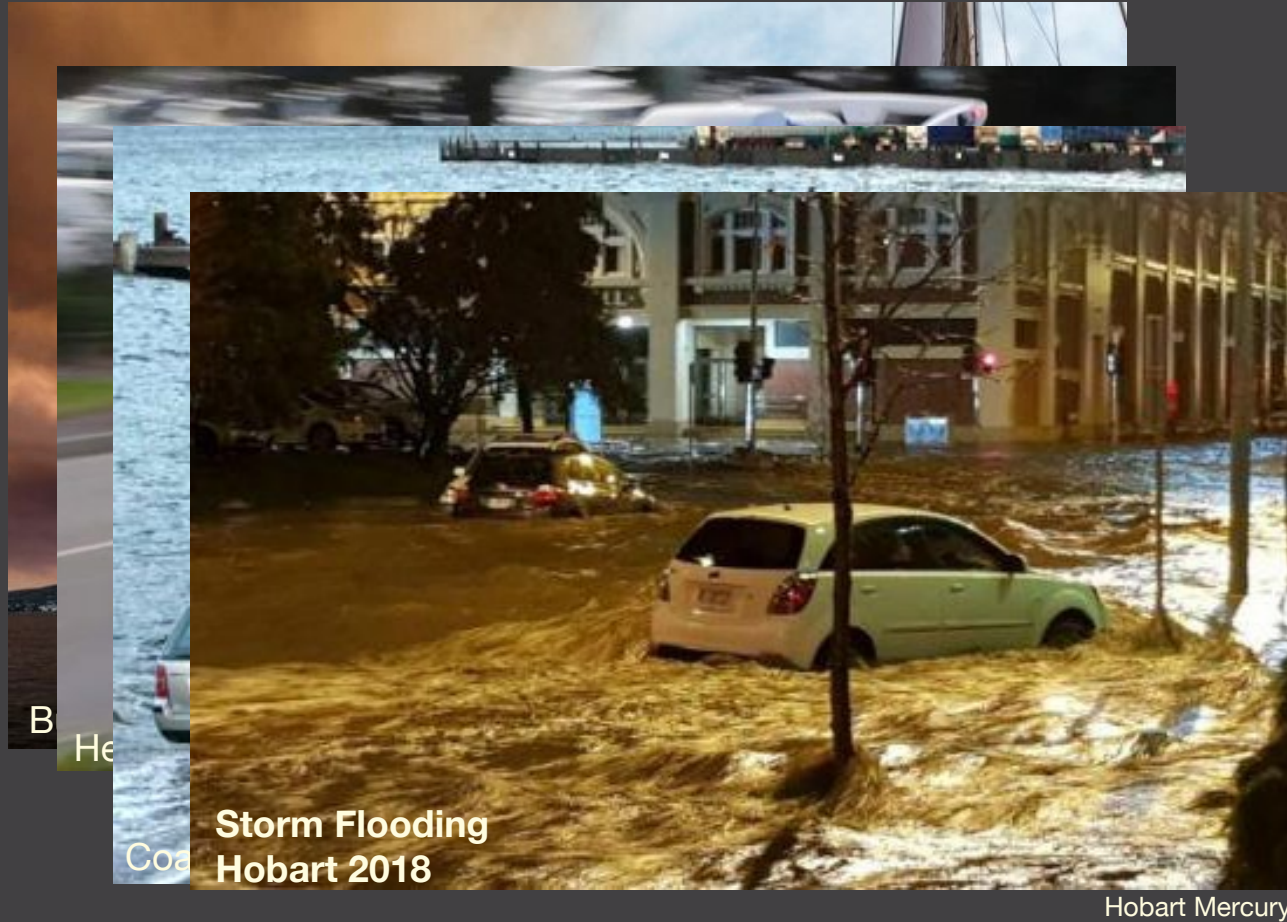
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Coastal flooding

Hobart Mercury

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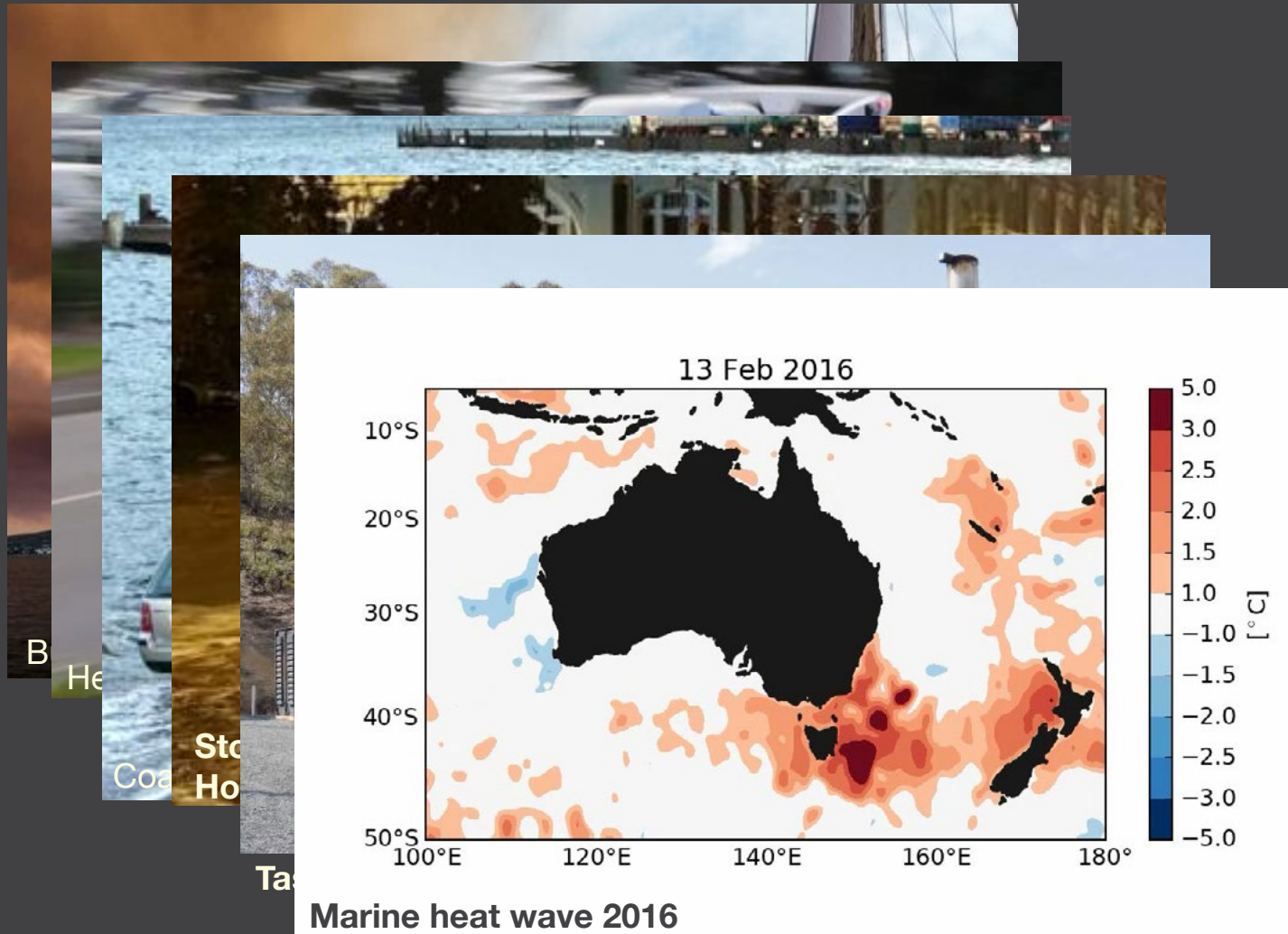


Tas Energy Crisis 2016

[www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au)



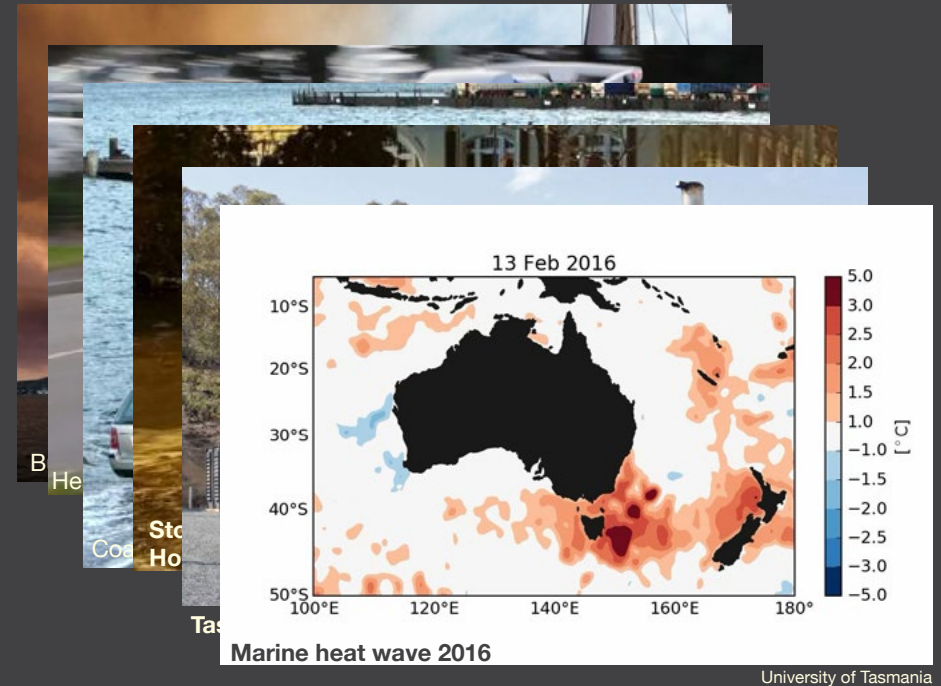
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University of Tasmania

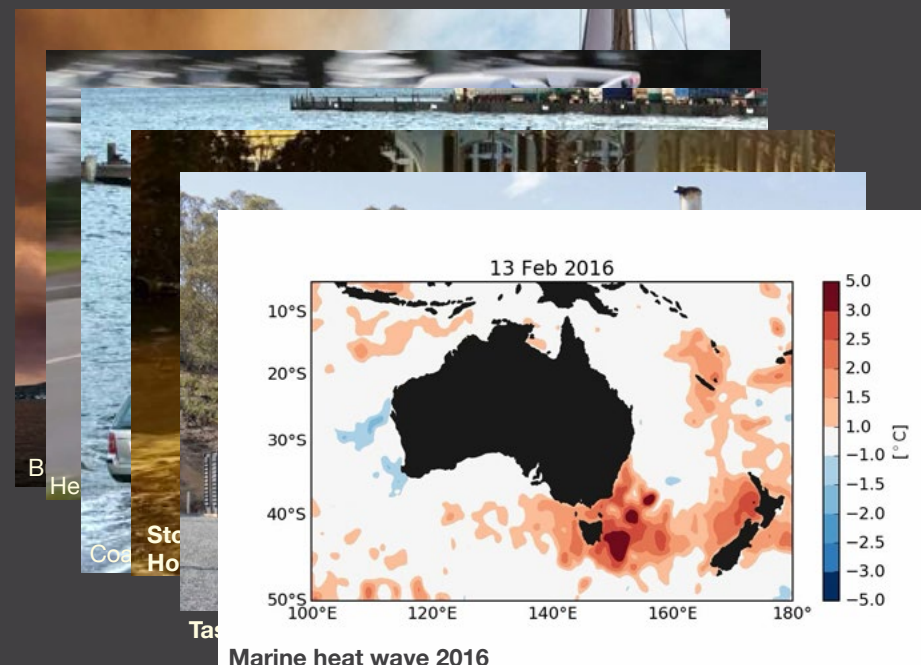
# Climate impacts... are already happening

- 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
- Forest Practices Act 1995 and  
Forestry (Rebuilding the Forest Industry) Act 2014
- Fire Services Act 1979
- Nature Conservation Act 2002 /  
National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002

# The Climate Act should...

1. Mandate the necessary level of urgency



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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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  - improve community knowledge and participation
  - increase community resilience
  - develop soils and forests to store more carbon
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  
< <https://www.aspi.org.au/report/preparing-era-disasters> >

# Thank you

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