

What should be in the revised Climate Change Act?

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Work done by Climate Tasmania.

- Drafting instructions for a new Act
 - https://www.climatetasmania.org/wp-content/uploads/Drafting-instructions_-_Climate-Change-Bill-V1-18-Sep-19.pdf
- Presentations at public meetings in September 2019
 - <https://www.climatetasmania.org/slide-presentation/>
- Submissions and policy papers about the Act
 - <https://www.climatetasmania.org/wp-content/uploads/CT-policy-Tas-Climate-Act.pdf>
- A paper about the role of the Parliament
 - “Parliament” includes both Houses, all parties, all Members
 - <https://www.climatetasmania.org/what-do-we-want-the-tasmanian-parliament-to-do/>

What kind of Climate Change Act?

1. Should it:-

- Provide a framework and broad targets, and
- Leave the rest to the government of the day?

OR

2. Should it establish:-

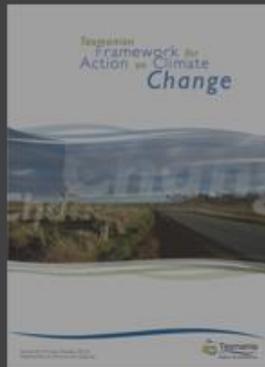
- Mechanisms to phase out coal, oil & gas
- Entities to advise, co-ordinate and enforce
- Transparency and accountability mechanisms
- The need for equity to be central to the energy transition?

History: Climate Change Strategies/Action Plans

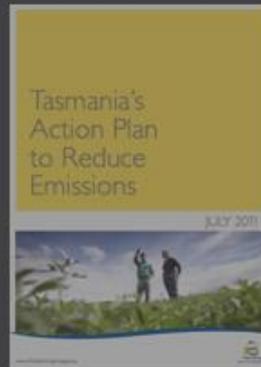
2007
Paul Lennon



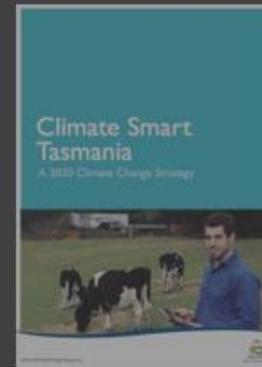
2008
David Bartlett



2011
Cassy O'Connor



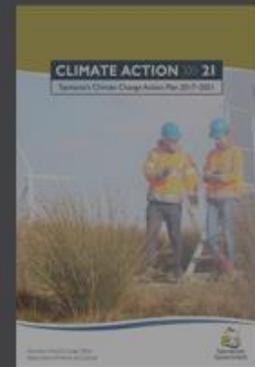
2014
Cassy O'Connor



2016
Matthew Groom



2017
Elise Archer



Little of this work has been acted upon, most plans being shelved on change of government or change of responsible minister.

How can a Climate Change Act respond to the climate problem?

Reducing emissions is urgent:

- Legislate for an emissions reduction mechanism which allows efforts to be changed if needed.

Provide clear and unequivocal communication about the need to phase out fossil fuels:

- Legislate a process to phase out fossil fuels.

How can a Climate Change Act respond to the climate problem?

Scale and scope of transformation:

- Involves adaptation to climate change as well as phasing out coal, oil, and natural gas.
- Parliament should have a major role in deciding the response to an issue of this magnitude.
- Parliament should have an on-going oversight role.

Problem is too big and too important to leave it to the government of the day.

How can a Climate Change Act respond to the climate opportunity?

The energy transition is a major investment opportunity.

- Investors look for a stable policy environment
- An ambitious, comprehensive, and detailed Act can provide policy certainty
- Proposed Energy Transition Authority can pull together the market opportunities (e.g. demand for biofuel)

How can a Climate Change Act respond to the climate problem?

Powerful incumbent industries can delay action:

- Phasing out coal, oil and gas will attract opposition
- Buy-in from all parties and all Members of Parliament will help deflect opposition

Policy must apply over a long timescale:

- At least two decades – five terms of the House
- Need to make steady progress and provide policy certainty

How can a Climate Change Act respond to the climate problem?

Social equity:

- Need to protect vulnerable Tasmanians and vulnerable communities during the transition
- Propose making equity a key consideration for the Energy Transition Authority

Compliance and enforcement:

- Covid-19 experience: some enforcement required
- Not in current draft Act because the only actions required are by the government

Summary

- Draft amendments to the Act are a significant improvement on current version
- However the scope and level of detail does not respond to the nature of the problem:
 - Urgency
 - Clear communication around coal, oil, and gas
 - Scale and scope of the transformation required
 - Stable policy environment over a long time scale
 - Protect vulnerable Tasmanians

Summary

The revised Climate Change Act should include:

- Mechanism for phasing out fossil fuels in a stable policy environment
- A new regulatory authority to administer the mechanism, consider equity, and assist with economic opportunities
- Transparency, accountability and community involvement processes
- An on-going role for the Parliament

Our Drafting Instructions do all of the above, and more.