

5 September 2025

Independent Review Team  
Ricardo and ERA Advisory  
c/o online submission

Dear Review Team,

**Re: *Climate Change (State Action) Act (Tas) 2008 Independent Review***

On behalf of the Committee for Greater Hobart, I am pleased to provide this submission to the Independent Review of the Tasmanian *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*.

Despite our enviable lifestyle and beautiful natural assets, like so many places in the world Greater Hobart is also on the frontline of climate impacts. Our city and surrounding communities face heightened exposure to bushfire, flooding, and coastal inundation, alongside increasing risks to water security, energy infrastructure, and urban liveability. These pressures directly affect household affordability and insurability, and by extension the economic and social resilience of the region. For Tasmania, climate change is not a distant challenge but a present and growing risk that demands a clear, whole-of-economy response.

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**(a) Extent to which the objects of the Act are being achieved**

Tasmania has achieved net zero largely through the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector. This milestone is commendable, but the University of Tasmania's analysis shows emissions across transport, agriculture, industry, waste, and manufacturing remain "stubbornly stable."<sup>1</sup> Reliance on LULUCF is vulnerable to fire, pests, and climate impacts, and its sequestration effectiveness will decline over time.

The Act has helped set important targets, but the objects are not being fully realised in terms of systemic emissions reduction or in ensuring that communities are resilient, affordable to insure, and equitably protected from climate risks. Further we are now being overtaken by other jurisdictions in terms of absolute emissions per capita<sup>2</sup>.

**(b) Extent to which additional legislative measures may be required**

Additional measures are essential. We recommend the review consider:

- Clear, tailored, sector-based pathways and performance standards to drive down emissions at source.
- Embedding resilience and adaptation explicitly into the Act's objectives, with recognition of insurance availability and affordability as a core equity risk. The Climate Change Authority's recent *Home Safe* report<sup>3</sup> highlights how climate risk is

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<sup>1</sup>[https://www.utas.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/1825487/GHGU04\\_EmissionsUpdate2023ReportingYear\\_V1.pdf](https://www.utas.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1825487/GHGU04_EmissionsUpdate2023ReportingYear_V1.pdf) p.9

<sup>2</sup> Ibid p.10

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2025-07/Home%20Safe%20-%20Final.pdf>

translating into insurability pressures, disproportionately affecting households on lower incomes and those in higher-risk areas.

- Ensuring resilience is embedded into land-use strategic planning and decision-making. Climate change must not be treated as an external consideration, but as a central determinant of how we plan and invest in housing, infrastructure, and community growth.
- Integration of emissions reduction and resilience measures with infrastructure planning to ensure urban regions such as Greater Hobart can adapt effectively.

### **(c) Other matters the Minister may consider relevant**

Tasmania's economic and reputational advantage – as a producer of premium clean products and as a destination for visitors and investment – depends on being seen as a leader in both emissions reduction and adaptation. With Australia pursuing the ambition to host a Pacific COP, Tasmania has an opportunity to demonstrate how small jurisdictions can lead in the transition to a low-emissions economy while developing innovative responses to climate risks and challenges.

### **Climate Innovation and Global Leadership**

Tasmania has unique assets that position it to grasp the opportunities of climate innovation. With the presence of CSIRO, the Australian Antarctic Division, the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS), and the University of Tasmania<sup>4</sup>, Hobart is home to world-leading expertise in oceans, climate science, and Antarctic systems<sup>5</sup>. Leveraging these institutions through the Act can:

- Strengthen evidence-based local decision-making and planning;
- Drive climate-smart investment, research, and technology development in Tasmania; and
- Generate globally significant innovations that enhance Tasmania's reputation and influence in international forums.

By connecting the state's legislative framework with our research strengths, Tasmania can lead not only in adaptation at home but also in shaping solutions of international relevance.

### **Governance**

We support the review of climate governance models across Australia. Independent advisory bodies in other jurisdictions provide transparency, accountability, and clear pathways. Tasmania should adopt a strong, evidence-based governance model that is apolitical, durable, and drives accountability across government portfolios, including planning and infrastructure, so that long-term resilience is fully embedded in strategic decision-making.

Crucially, such a model must be centered around the voices of young people—those who will live longest with the consequences of today's choices—and actively draw on the thousands of years of knowledge and stewardship of Tasmania's First Nations peoples, whose deep connection to Country provides invaluable guidance for sustainable climate responses.

### **Learning from Other Jurisdictions**

Recent climate legislation in Victoria, Queensland, and the ACT illustrates the benefits of

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<sup>4</sup> See for example world leading research on fire: <https://firecentre.org.au>

<sup>5</sup> See recent report for example: <https://www.antarctica.gov.au/news/2025/new-study-confirms-abrupt-changes-underway-in-antarctica/>

binding targets, robust advisory structures, and whole-of-government accountability. Tasmania should adopt features that would improve credibility, consistency, and investor and community confidence.

### **Alignment with Policy Context**

We note the review's terms of reference include international and national policy contexts, the 2020–21 review, the 2022 amendments, and the current Climate Change Office work program. In this context, Tasmania must move beyond reliance on LULUCF and ensure resilience, climate equity (including insurability), and ambitious sectoral transformation are embedded into the legislative framework to drive down absolute emissions and ensure global competitiveness.

### **Conclusion**

In summary, the Committee for Greater Hobart recommends that the Act:

- Strengthen its objectives to embed resilience, equity, and insurability as core outcomes.
- Introduce tailored, sectoral pathways and performance standards to drive absolute emissions reductions.
- Ensure long term decision making for community resilience is built into land-use and planning frameworks at every level.
- Establish robust and independent governance mechanisms.
- Align with national and international best practice to secure Tasmania's reputation as a leader in the transition to a low-emissions, climate-resilient economy.
- Position Tasmania to contribute to, and benefit from, the ambition for a Pacific COP by showcasing innovative adaptation and low-emissions leadership.
- Harness Tasmania's unique research and innovation strengths (CSIRO, AAD, IMAS, UTAS) to deliver solutions with both local and global impact.

We welcome the opportunity to contribute further as the Review progresses. While we acknowledge the value of reports, action plans, and reviews to inform community conversation, the time has come to shift our ambition to delivery. We therefore encourage the Review to focus on shaping the Act to drive tangible action and investment in resilience for our community.

Regards,



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