Local Government Association Tasmania

Our Ref: TB | DJL

11 August 2026

The Hon Matt Kean
Chair
Climate Change Authority

Via email: consultation@cca.gov.au

Dear Chair

Climate Change Authority – 2026 Annual Progress Advice

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Climate Change Authority's 2026 Annual Progress Advice. This submission has been prepared by the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) on behalf of Tasmanian local government in collaboration with our members; all 29 councils.

LGAT is incorporated under the *Local Government Act 1993* and serves as the representative body and advocate for local government in Tasmania. Where a council has made a direct submission to this process, any omission of specific comments made by that council in that submission should not be construed as a lack of support from LGAT for that issue.

Please contact Tim Boyle if you have any questions or would like further information at tim.boyle@lgat.tas.gov.au or 0437 136798.

Yours sincerely,

Dion Lester
Chief Executive Officer

LGAT Submission: Climate Change Authority – 2026 Annual Progress Advice

General comments

The Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Climate Change Authority's 2026 Annual Progress Advice.

Local government plays a critical role in Australia's response to climate change. Councils are responsible for infrastructure, land-use planning, waste and resource recovery, community engagement, emergency management, and a range of services that directly influence emissions reduction and community resilience.

At the same time, councils are increasingly managing the impacts of climate change, including rising infrastructure costs, disaster preparedness and recovery, coastal hazards, and community adaptation needs. The effectiveness of national climate policy therefore depends not only on policy settings but also on the capacity of local government to support implementation and help communities respond to change.

We welcome the Climate Change Authority's focus on environmental effectiveness, economic efficiency, equity and regional impacts.

LGAT and Tasmanian councils are already collaborating to develop regional climate adaptation approaches, reflecting the growing need for coordinated planning and investment to manage climate risks at the local level.

From a local government perspective, the following matters should be considered when developing the 2026 Annual Progress Advice:

1. **Local government should be recognised as a key delivery partner in Australia's climate response.** Councils play an important role in implementing climate-related initiatives through planning, infrastructure, waste management, emergency management, community engagement and adaptation activities.
2. **Climate policy should consider the practical implementation role of councils and the capacity constraints many face.** Increasing responsibilities related to climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience are placing growing demands on local government resources and workforces.
3. **Increased investment in local government climate adaptation and resilience is essential to reduce future costs and risks.** Councils are managing increasing climate-related impacts on infrastructure, assets and communities, requiring sustained support to strengthen local resilience.
4. **Effective climate action requires stronger collaboration between Federal, state and local governments.** Clear roles coordinated policy settings and long-term funding arrangements are essential to support effective implementation and avoid duplication of effort.
5. **Policy settings should recognise the particular challenges of regional and rural communities and support equitable participation in the transition.** Regional communities often face additional barriers related to workforce capacity, infrastructure availability and access to services and investment.

Specific Comments

Specific comments are provided on the consultation questions relevant to local government.

Question 2 - What signs are you seeing of emissions reductions and what barriers or delays to abatement are you observing?

Across their communities, councils are seeing growing uptake of rooftop solar, household batteries, electric vehicles and home electrification. Many councils are also taking action within their own operations, including fleet transitions, energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy projects and the integration of emissions-reduction objectives into asset management and strategic planning. However, councils continue to observe barriers that limit the pace of emissions reduction, including:

- upfront costs associated with low-emissions technologies
- uneven access to charging and energy infrastructure in regional areas
- limited local government capacity to support and facilitate community transitions
- workforce shortages and limited access to specialised skills
- challenges associated with rental housing and split incentives.

Councils also note that climate impacts are already imposing rising costs through infrastructure damage, investment in emergency management responsibilities, and building resilience. These pressures can limit councils' capacity to pursue additional emissions-reduction initiatives without adequate support and investment.

National climate policy should recognise local government's role in implementation and ensure councils have the resources required to support both emissions reduction and adaptation outcomes.

Question 3 - What do you see as the top priorities for climate policy reform and why?

From a local government perspective, the following priorities are particularly important:

Strengthening local government capacity as a climate delivery partner: Councils are on the frontline of climate adaptation, managing growing risks to infrastructure and communities while supporting local climate action. Recent flooding, coastal erosion, and intensifying extreme weather across Tasmania have highlighted the growing financial and operational burden on local government responsible for managing and maintaining critical community infrastructure. To fulfil this role effectively, councils require long-term funding, workforce and capability support, and stronger partnership arrangements with Federal and state governments.

Supporting community emissions reduction through local delivery: Councils can help facilitate household and community emissions reduction through education, engagement and place-based initiatives.

Programs that support local delivery can improve participation, increase community trust, and help ensure emissions reduction opportunities are accessible in regional and rural communities. The development of regional climate adaptation initiatives (such as LGAT's Coastal Hazards Resilience Planning Project) across Tasmania has demonstrated the value of collaborative approaches that allow councils to pool expertise and resources where individual capacity is limited.

Question 4 - What actions could help households adopt solar, batteries, electric vehicles

Residents regularly engage with councils for information on energy efficiency, electrification and low-emissions technologies. While financial incentives remain important, successful uptake also depends on trusted information, local engagement and practical support. Councils are trusted local institutions and can play an important role in connecting residents with information and support. Priority actions include:

- Expanding rebates and low-interest finance for household electrification and energy efficiency measures.
- Providing targeted support for low-income households, renters and vulnerable communities.
- Supporting local government-led education and engagement initiatives.
- Expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure in regional and rural communities.
- Supporting community energy projects and neighbourhood-scale solutions.

Greater investment in locally delivered programs would help accelerate adoption while ensuring benefits are distributed equitably across communities.

Question 5 - What are the key barriers to the growth of low-emissions industries in Australia?

From a local government perspective, proposed renewable energy and transmission projects across Tasmania illustrate both the opportunities and challenges of the low-emissions transition. While these developments can support regional economic growth, they also place demands on local infrastructure, housing and community engagement processes that councils manage, either directly or indirectly. From a local government perspective, the key barriers include:

- infrastructure constraints
- housing availability in growth regions
- workforce shortages affecting local service delivery
- community acceptance and social licence challenges
- limited local government capacity to plan for, and support growth.

Councils often play an important enabling role through strategic planning, infrastructure provision and community engagement.

However, many local governments lack the resources to manage the cumulative impacts of major industrial developments and associated population growth. In Tasmania, we have been calling on the Tasmanian Government to enable an infrastructure contributions scheme to underpin better infrastructure planning and fairer funding.

As Australia transitions to a low-emissions economy, councils should be recognised as key partners in supporting sustainable regional development and ensuring local communities share in the benefits of the transition.

Question 6 - The Safeguard Mechanism's contribution to national targets

Our primary interest in the Safeguard Mechanism concerns its impacts on regional communities and the role of local government in supporting economic transition.

When major industrial transition occurs, councils are often required to respond to increased demands for local infrastructure, housing, community services and stakeholder engagement. These impacts should be recognised when assessing future policy settings and transition pathways.

The Climate Change Authority should continue to consider regional and community impacts and recognise the role of local government in managing transition outcomes at the local level.