

2 March 2022

The Hon Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of Tasmania
House of Assembly
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 700

By Email: premier@dpac.tas.gov.au

Dear Premier

Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021

Tasmanian local government recognises action is needed to address our greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change risks. However, the capacity to do so varies enormously across the state.

We were pleased that the key themes of council feedback and LGAT's submission¹ were addressed in the draft Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021. Our submission was informed by direct consultation with the 29 Tasmanian councils and the resolution at the LGAT July 2019 General Meeting² that acknowledged the urgency to address climate change, the need to work together and that our actions must be in line with global activities.

Our view is that the intent of these changes can be better articulated particularly given local government's role as a unique collaborator with the Tasmanian Government and the sector's key role in community preparedness and resilience against climate risks and impacts. In collaboration with other governments, councils can work with community to lead local action to reduce carbon emissions.

We make the following recommendations to improve the Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2021 from the local government perspective (see Attachment 1).

For further information, please contact LGAT's Policy Director, Ben Morris, on 6146 3740 or ben.morris@lgat.tas.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Dion Lester
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

¹ Available at: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0027/886221/Climate-Change-Act-and-Action-Plan-LGAT-Submission-Draft-2021.pdf

² Item 14.2, available at: https://www.lgat.tas.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/322283/Agenda-Gen-Meet-3-July-2019-2.pdf

Attachment 1

Recommendations

Section	Proposed amendment	Comment
4(b)	Add 'at a local and state level' To read "identify, promote and support measures to reduce Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions at a local and state level"	Emissions reduction needs to be tackled at all scales. Within Tasmania this is at a state and local level. This amendment helps to clarify 4(d)
4(c)	Add 'local and state level' To read "identify, promote and support measures to help Tasmania, at a local and state level, adapt to climate change and to manage the risks and opportunities of a changing climate;	Adaptation measures need to be understood and implemented at a state and local level.
4(d)	Remove 'and local government', and 'and adaptation measures' To read "facilitate Tasmania's contribution to international, national targets and objectives on emissions reduction support the transition to a low emissions future"	Current wording mixes targets with measures and actions. Local level adaptation addressed in 4(c) Local level action addressed in 4(b) amendment.
4(e)	Replace 'consultative' with 'collaborative'	A consultative partnership is one sided. A collaborative partnership brings the insights, experience and strengths of the partners together.
5C (1)	Add 'relevant', 'scientific, environmental and community bodies, local government and the Tasmanian community' To read "The Minister, in consultation with each relevant portfolio Minister, is to consult with relevant business and industry representatives, scientific, environmental and community bodies, local government and the Tasmanian community to develop a sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plan for each of the following sectors:"	This section is missing the engagement as required for the Climate Change Action Plan (5A(4(e))). The sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans will be more robust and more broadly supported with broad engagement.
5E(2(a))	Add new subsection 5E(2(b)): Progress against the targets and objectives of the Sector-based emission reduction and resilience plans.	'Measures' is ambiguous and may be read as activities that are planned, or have been undertaken. Missing is the progress and achievement. This amendment adds a link to report on progress for the sector-based plans