



**TCAC PUBLIC COMMUNIQUE – SECOND MEETING**  
**2nd Meeting of the Climate Action Council**  
**Hobart, Friday 26 June 2009.**

**TCAC Responsibilities**

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council is established under the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*. Division 3 (12) of the Act defines the Council's function, which is to provide independent advice to the Premier (Minister) on climate change issues affecting Tasmania, including:

- The setting of any interim emissions reduction targets for the State and the setting of any emissions reduction targets for specific sectors of the State economy;
- Progress being made towards achieving the State's legislated 2050 emissions reduction target and any other State emissions reduction targets;
- The effectiveness of initiatives or methods employed to achieve those emissions reduction targets;
- Any alternative or additional measures capable of being employed to achieve the emissions reduction targets;
- The extent to which any methods prescribed by the regulations are being achieved or should be revised;
- Progress being made towards identifying and implementing strategies for adapting to the expected impacts of climate change; and
- Other matters relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

The Tasmanian Climate Change Office supports the Tasmanian Climate Action Council.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Friday 26 June**

On 26 June 2009 the Tasmanian Climate Action Council held its second meeting in Hobart. A key aim of the Council's second meeting was to provide the Council with a clear understanding of the current policy context for its work, including on issues across government from transport and infrastructure to community engagement, energy and planning. A strong knowledge of the current state of play in Tasmania will be vital for the Council going into its third meeting in September when the Council will consider and provide detailed advice to Government on the findings of its Climate Change Wedges Project, which will provide an analysis of the emissions reduction opportunities that exist across the Tasmanian economy.

**Community Engagement**

Since the Council's last meeting in March, the Council's two community representatives have undertaken a significant program of community engagement to seek the broader community's view on climate change in order to better understand the nature and scope of grass-roots community action being taken in Tasmania. The Council heard a report from its community representatives which clearly demonstrated that many local communities are not only concerned about climate change but are also working together to take action to reduce their community's greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. Locally based community actions, such as "transition town" programs, community gardens and local bulk purchases of low emissions technologies such as solar panels and solar-hot water systems, are occurring across the State. The Council endorsed the Tasmanian Government's new Climate Connect program as a valuable way to support these community-based projects and agreed that the Government should give consideration to what more it can do to support and encourage these important local initiatives. The Council also noted the success of its first Council Meets Community event, the first of a series of free public lectures to be held the evening prior to each quarterly Council meeting. The Council expressed its

thanks to Minister Singh for launching the event and to Adam Kirkman for making the inaugural presentation. The Council noted that Rob Adams would present at the second Council Meets Community event, to be held on Thursday 24 September 2009 at the University of Tasmania.

### **Better Understanding the Policy Context**

The Council received briefings from Government officials on a number of key policy areas that will play a significant role in any pathway to a low-carbon economy, including: planning, infrastructure and transport. The Tasmanian Government is currently undertaking new policy or policy reviews in these important areas and the Council agreed to provide advice to the Government on significant policy developed in these areas. The Council agreed that appropriate, forward-thinking policies will be critical in the areas of transport, infrastructure and planning if the State is to successfully meet its emissions reduction targets and transition to a model low-carbon economy.

### **The Tasmanian Wedges Project**

The Council endorsed its key role in providing advice to government on the findings of the Tasmanian Wedges Project. Council agreed that consideration of the Wedges Report would be the primary focus of its next meeting in September.

### **Advice to the Premier of Tasmania**

The Premier and Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change attended the first session of the council meeting and shared with the Council their views on the importance of the tackling climate change in Tasmania and the Council's role in advising them on responses to the climate change challenge. A brief discussion followed where members highlighted a range of issues including:

- Priority setting and the extent of intervention to achieve climate change objectives;
- Making planning schemes work for a more sustainable future;
- The built environment and the importance of transforming our cities to achieve emissions reductions into the future;
- The importance of engaging business and supporting small and medium enterprises in climate change mitigation efforts;
- The development of a sustainable food bowl in Tasmania and how this goal can be integrated with the response to climate change; and
- The importance of leadership action from the Government to enable Tasmania to become an example in responses to climate change.

In addition to sharing its views with the Premier and Minister, the Council will provide the Premier with written advice relating to the issues discussed at its second meeting.

The Council provided the following advice to the Premier that:

- Government should support current community activity on climate change as a priority.
- Government should adopt proactive strategies in relation to key policy areas such as transport, infrastructure and planning and understand that the goal of a successful transition to a low-carbon economy must be a primary driver for new policy in these areas.
- Action across the whole of government should be meaningfully informed by climate change and sustainability principles as articulated in the State's Framework for Action on Climate Change.
- Renewable energy will be a critical underpinning for the State's successful transition to a low carbon economy and the Government should seize the opportunity provided by the Commonwealth's new National Energy Efficiency Initiative to develop a successful bid for a renewable energy showcase city in Tasmania.

**Next Meeting – Council will next meet on 25 September.**

**Visit the Tasmanian Climate Change Office *Earn Your Stars* website for further information.  
Or to be placed on the *Council Meets Community* mail list.**