



TCAC PUBLIC COMMUNIQUE – INAUGURAL MEETING
1st Meeting of the Climate Action Council
Hobart, Friday 27 March 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.

1st Meeting Friday 27 March

This introductory meeting involved a facilitated 'big ideas' session for the morning, and various contextual briefings in the afternoon by way of orientation. Council received a number of briefings designed to provide members with an overview of climate change in the Tasmanian context, including presentations on the key challenges for Tasmania to reduce emissions, including information about: the Climate Futures for Tasmania Project (Nathan Bindoff), Tasmanian greenhouse gas emissions profile (Greg Johannes), and the role and activities of the Tasmanian Climate Change Office (Wendy Spencer).

Climate Vision

The Council workshopped a climate vision for Tasmania which assisted in its identification of strategy level and operational level ideas on which to build over the life of the Council as well as immediate challenges to consider. It agreed that Tasmania was uniquely placed to lead by example, and that it could aspire to be a world pioneer, a beacon and role model for the rest of the planet in terms of climate action in the transition to a low carbon economy. The Council discussed an approach whereby Tasmania would investigate and blend the very best ideas and initiatives from around the world, and then improve them where possible to develop the optimum mix for a regional economy. Ideally Tasmania would showcase great ideas in action.

Principle Based Action

The Council endorsed the principles outlined in the Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change and expressed the view that these principles should be adopted across all areas of Government to ensure the alignment of State climate change action efforts, to minimise emissions and waste, and to make the transition to more sustainable governance. The principles are, in brief, as follows:

- i. Strong leadership to drive change and to model leadership for others
- ii. Shared responsibility in terms of the climate problem and solutions
- iii. Best practice and beyond to place Tasmania at the cutting edge
- iv. Accelerating outcomes to achieve sustainability results quickly
- v. Creative thinking and innovation to foster collective learning
- vi. Openness and transparency to empower people and build trust

Tasmania's Climate Change Context

Council received various briefings on the Tasmanian climate change context.

Community Coalition of Interest

The Council endorsed the establishment of a community coalition of interest to be facilitated by community members Ben Kearney and Nel Smit. The coalition will initially be a state wide online network that shares ideas and information. It will play a role in educating the community and showcasing the positive activities that are being undertaken. It will also feed ideas direct from the community into the Council.

Advice to the Premier of Tasmania

The Council has advised the Premier that:

- Tasmania has the potential to be a world pioneer, a beacon and role model for the rest of the planet, as a global example of a post-fossil-fuel economy.
- The Council should be consulted on strategies in relation to climate change, and that recommendations should be sought from it on strategic climate change priorities for future action.
- The Council would also hope to have a role in providing advice to Government on relevant legislation and on policies and programs that are underway.
- Infrastructure spending, as part of Australian and State Government stimulus package commitments, should to be directed towards sustainable infrastructure.
- The principles of leadership, shared responsibility, best practice and beyond, accelerating outcomes, creative thinking and innovation, and openness and transparency should be adopted across government in relation to climate change.
- This adoption is critical to aligning state climate change action efforts, to minimising both emissions and waste, and to making the transition to more sustainable governance at a time when waste can no longer be afforded in the State sector.
- The Council will be establishing a state wide community coalition of interest on climate change to be facilitated by Council's community members Ben Kearney and Nel Smit. The COI will include an online network that shares ideas and information. It will play a role in educating the community and showcasing the positive activities that are being undertaken, and feed ideas directly to Council.

Next Meeting – Council will next meet on 26 June.

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