



TCAC PUBLIC COMMUNIQUE – THIRD MEETING
3rd Meeting of the Climate Action Council
Hobart, Friday 25 September 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.

3rd Meeting Friday 25 September

On 25 September 2009 the Tasmanian Climate Action Council held its third meeting in Hobart. A key aim of the Council's third meeting was to receive and discuss a preliminary briefing on the Tasmanian Government's Wedges Report that is currently being finalised. The Wedges Report has been commissioned by the Tasmanian Government to model the State's projected emissions profile to 2050 and the opportunities to reduce emissions that exist across the economy. The final Wedges Report will be a critical piece of analysis for the Tasmanian Government and will provide data on which the Council can base future advice to government on the setting of emissions reduction targets and emissions reduction policies.

In addition to a briefing on the Wedges Report, the Council considered a number of other key issues relevant to climate change action in Tasmania at its meeting. These included planning, community action, transport and the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory as discussed below.

Planning and Climate Readiness

The Council met with the Executive Commissioner, Tasmanian Planning Commission to discuss the commission's objectives and the critical role that settlement planning must play to enable the State to meet its emission reduction goals and to enable communities to successfully transition to a lower-carbon economy. The Council expressed its support for the development of a State Climate Change Policy for the planning system and discussed ways in which such a policy might be developed to better enable climate change mitigation and adaptation outcomes to be delivered on the ground. Council also noted the important role of appropriate infrastructure and service provision to encourage good planning outcomes. The Council has offered its assistance in the development of any best-practice climate change planning principles that could be applied to Tasmania. The Council will also write to the Hobart City Council, offering its advice on the importance of city planning schemes to facilitating the State's emissions reduction efforts.

Community Climate Action

The Council's community representatives provided an update on their engagement activities, and presented five proposals for action raised during their community consultations and discussions:

- A Community Climate Clearing-house, to publish all climate change related projects occurring in the State
- A Climate Champions Community Resources Program, to encourage government employed climate champions to assist local action by community groups
- A Climate Champions Presenter Program, to train government employed climate champions to present on climate change to the broader community
- A TCCO Climate Projects Coordinator (to partly assist in establishing the Clearing-house mechanism)
- Curriculum links and a state based Climate Change working group to encourage education on climate change in schools.

The Council's priority for support was the Community Climate Clearing-house.

The Council thanked member Professor Rob Adams for his Council meets Community presentation, which was attended by 135 people. Council also noted that the next Council meets Community event, to be held on 3 December 2009 in Launceston, would feature community views on local climate change action.

The Role of Transport Systems

The Council discussed transport systems and priorities and their potential contribution to climate change solutions. Council agreed that transport priorities and transport options provided to communities are critical to effective transition to a lower-carbon economy. The Council agreed that the Government must take a bold and visionary approach to developing long-term transport strategies with climate change as a key driver.

Tasmanian Wedges Report

The Council received a briefing from the Tasmanian Climate Change Office on Tasmania's current emissions profile, including emission trends for sectors of the Tasmanian economy. The Council then received a detailed presentation from the consultants, McLennan Magasanik and Associates, engaged to undertake the Tasmanian Wedges Report for the Government. The presentation provided Council with an overview of the outcomes of the modelling undertaken for the project, including preliminary findings associated with the projected emissions profile of the State to 2050 under a business-as-usual case and potential emissions reduction opportunities from a wide range of reduction measures.

The Council will consider the final report at its next meeting.

Advice to the Premier of Tasmania

The Council has advised the Premier that:

- Government should introduce a high level State Policy on Climate Change to support climate change outcomes within the planning system, regional and local planning processes.
- Climate change principles should be overtly reflected in and thus should inform the Planning Commission's own vision, principles, programs and outputs.
- Government should, as a matter of high priority, develop a Community Climate Change Clearing-house to document current climate change projects around the State.
- Government frameworks for transport, transport infrastructure and investment should be climate ready, based on community engagement, and inclusive of a range of actions from immediate and highly visible in order to inspire changed behaviour, to intermediate and longer term.

Next Meeting – Council will next meet on 4 December in Launceston.

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