



**TASMANIAN**

**CLIMATE**

**ACTION**

**COUNCIL**

**Annual Report**

**2008-09**



## TASMANIAN CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MINISTER 2008-09

#### Annual Report

Division 14 (1) of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* requires the Council, on or before the 31 October each year, to give the Minister a report of its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding June. The Act also requires the Council to report, on a two-yearly basis, on the matters set out in Division 12(1) [See Purpose below on page 3]. This report covers Council meetings and additional activities from March 2009 until 30 June 2009.

#### CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Introduction .....  | 3  |
| Establishing the Council .....  | 3  |
| Purpose .....   | 3  |
| Operations .....  | 4  |
| Meetings of the Council .....   | 4  |
| Report of Meetings .....  | 4  |
| March 27 2009 – 1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting .....                         | 4  |
| June 26 2009 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting .....                          | 5  |
| Future Meetings of the Council .....                                  | 6  |
| Community Engagement Activities .....                                 | 6  |
| Advice to the Premier .....   | 6  |
| Other Activities .....  | 7  |
| Conclusions .....   | 8  |
| Appendix A: Tasmanian Climate Action Council Members .....            | 9  |
| Appendix B: Tasmanian Climate Action Council Terms of Reference ..... | 10 |





## INTRODUCTION

### Establishing the Tasmanian Climate Action Council

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council was established on 25 March 2009 with Associate Professor Kate Crowley as the inaugural Chair. The Council consists of ten members, representing expertise across the range of disciplines essential to effective action on climate change. The current members bring to the Council experience in academia, scientific research, government, business and industry, agriculture, transport, planning, local government and behavioural change. The Council includes members from both Tasmania and interstate.

Two members were selected through an expression of interest process, conducted by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office in late 2008, to represent community views on the Council. A full list of current Tasmanian Climate Action Council members is provided at Attachment A.

In announcing the establishment of the Council, the Premier noted that he was looking for it to help generate the bold ideas that will place Tasmania in a leadership position in the emerging low-carbon economy.

## PURPOSE

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 Minister on climate change issues affecting Tasmania.

This includes the provision of advice on:

- 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 provides the administrative support for the Tasmanian Climate Action Council.**





## OPERATIONS

### Meetings of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council

Full day meetings of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council are held quarterly.

The Council has held two meetings in Hobart since its establishment in March 2009, and will hold a further two meetings in 2009, one in September in Hobart and one in December in Launceston. The Premier (Minister) ordinarily attends meetings but was unavailable in March.

Following Council meetings the Chair meets with both the Premier and the Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change to deliver Tasmanian Climate Action Council advice.

Provided below is a brief overview of the key issues discussed at each of the Council meetings held to date. Information about these meetings has been made public as communiqués published on the Tasmanian Climate Action Council website provided by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office.

## REPORT OF MEETINGS

### March 27 2009 –

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council

The first meeting of the Council was dedicated to a ‘big ideas’ session for responding to climate change in the morning, and to various briefings sessions as orientation in the afternoon.

In the big ideas session Council identified key strategic ideas, operational level ideas, and ideas about immediate steps to take in reducing emissions and responding to climate change. The Council vision is for a Tasmania that is resilient, adaptable and trusting, and operating on the principles of equity and sustainability. The Council agreed that Tasmania is uniquely placed to lead by example, potentially as a world pioneer, in terms of climate change action.

Council then 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).

The Chair also acknowledged the very many applicants for the two community representative positions on Council and discussed the value of establishing a community



coalition of interest to act as a state wide network for sharing ideas and information, and for providing Council with broad community views and specialist recommendations, on climate change.

The Council also agreed on the adoption of Terms of Reference, a Communication strategy, and a process of advising the Premier of its deliberations. It was agreed that the Tasmanian Climate Change Office would provide Council with space on its website, and that support would be provided to the communications of the two community representatives.

Council also endorsed the principles informing the *Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change* which it has advised should be adopted across all areas of state government: i.e.

**Strong leadership to drive change and to model change for others**

**Shared responsibility in terms of climate actions and solutions**

**Best practice and beyond to place Tasmania at the cutting edge**

**Accelerated outcomes to achieve sustainability results quickly**

**Creative thinking and innovation to foster collective learning**

**Openness and transparency to empower people and to build trust**

Council agreed that public communiqués about its meetings would be posted on its website. The advice from this meeting to the Premier is listed below under Advice to Premier.

## June 26 2009 –

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council

The second meeting of the Council consisted of continuing business (resolving a communications strategy and discussing the community coalition of interest), meeting the Premier and the Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change, and receiving briefings on and discussing the state planning context, infrastructure and urban transport.

Council received a briefing on community engagement activities undertaken by the Council's community representatives and the development of a climate change coalition of interest. Council agreed that government support for community action on climate change is essential and that it should consider an expansion of community engagement activities.

Council discussed issues with the Premier and Minister Assisting ranging across: the importance of priority setting backed up with full and substantial action; the critical role of planning and the built environment in reducing emissions; the need for a sustainable food bowl to be integrated with climate change efforts; and the importance of leadership action from government as an agenda setter.





Council received briefings on the new planning system (Brian Risby), the development of the infrastructure strategy (David Spence and Chris Ware) and the review of passenger transport (James Verrier and Di Gee). It also acknowledged the importance of seizing opportunities associated with renewable energy such as the Commonwealth Government's new National Energy Efficiency Initiative and the opportunities the Initiative might provide to Tasmanian cities.

The advice from this meeting to the Premier is listed below under Advice to Premier.

## Future Meetings of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council

Two further meetings of the Council will be held in 2009 in Hobart and Launceston. A public *Council Meets Community* event now precedes all meetings the evening before (see below).

## ACTIVITIES OF THE TASMANIAN CLIMATE ACTION COUNCIL

Council has endorsed its functions as defined in the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* and finalised its Terms of Reference, a copy of which is provided at Attachment B.

The primary function of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council is to provide advice, on the basis of its members' expertise, to the Premier on climate change issues facing the State.

The Council has expanded the scope of its activities to include the community engagement efforts of its community representatives, and the *Council Meets Community* quarterly events.

## Advice to the Premier

The Council has provided written advice to the Premier following each meeting held to date. This advice has been repeated to the Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change. Council advice has addressed a number of climate change issues including advice on:

- The Council's desire to provide advice on legislation, policies and programs that may impact upon climate action and its effectiveness;
- The Council's vision for Tasmania as a world leader on climate change action, pioneering a successful transition to a low-carbon economy;
- The need for infrastructure spending and planning to address sustainability standards
- The need for the principles for action outlined in the *Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change* to inform the activities, strategies and plans of government [see above];
- The value of establishing a community coalition of interest on climate change given the extent of community interest in the two Council community representative positions;
- The large number of community members involved in community based climate action, how widespread across the state this is and how well informed the community is;



- The community support for the Government's *ClimateConnect* funding program and for all successful grant recipients to be announced at once rather than successively;
- The need for a proactive planning system, underpinned by sustainability, including a climate change planning policy package and an emphasis on sustainable settlements;
- The potential value of seeking funding under the Commonwealth Government's National Energy Efficiency Initiative to develop a Tasmanian city (or the entire State) as smart-grid renewable energy showcase, and that the roll out of broadband across the State should provide future opportunities for smart-grid technologies;
- The important role that transport planning and climate ready, low emissions transport measures should play in helping Tasmania reach its 2050 emissions reduction target; and
- The need for 'transition to a low carbon economy' to be the driver for the State Infrastructure Strategy and for the strategy to be informed by sustainability principles.

In addition, the Tasmanian Climate Action Council has provided direct feedback into the policy development processes for the State Infrastructure Strategy and Passenger Transport Review.

## Community Engagement Activities

The principle role of the Council is to advise the Premier on reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. In the course of its deliberations it has also:

Agreed to release a public communiqué after each of its meetings. These briefly detail the matters considered by the Council at each meeting with a general summary of advice provided by the Council to the Premier. Council communiqués are posted on the Tasmanian Government's *Earn Your Stars* Website shortly after each meeting.

As part of its Communication Strategy, Council has introduced a series of events entitled *Council meets Community*. These free public events are held the night prior to Council meetings with a Council member presenting on a topic of their expertise. The events also provide a networking opportunity for those working on climate change.

Two *Council meets Community* events have been held to date, with over 60 attendees at each. The June *Council meets Community* event featured Adam Kirkman, who presented on the business perspective of transitioning to a lower carbon economy. The September event featured Professor Rob Adams, who presented on climate change action in cities.

The Council has also established a community coalition of interest, led by Council's two community representatives. The idea of a coalition of interest was developed as a result of the overwhelming response that the Tasmanian Climate Change Office received from Tasmanian community members who nominated to be on the Council. Council agreed that such a high level of interest and commitment within the Tasmanian community should not be wasted.



Other community engagement activities by the Council have included the establishment of a Climate Change blog, the work of Council's community representatives with organisations generating local ideas and understanding of climate change solutions, and also involvement in forums such as those associated with Transition Towns, Carbon 101 and Energy Mark.

## Conclusions – Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change

The State's 2050 target under the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* is to reduce, by 31 December 2050, greenhouse gas emissions in Tasmania to at least 60% below 1990 levels. This is an enormous challenge that is paralleled by the goals of the Tasmanian framework for action on climate change for Tasmania to become a model for the world of low-carbon living and to show leadership in terms of innovative solutions to climate change. The Tasmanian Climate Action Council is approaching its work guided by these aspirations.

The most recent data shows that in 2007, Tasmania emitted about 8.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, trending upward from 7.8 million tonnes in 2006. Most of Tasmania's emissions came from agriculture (25%), transport (21%) and energy, manufacturing and construction (21%). As Tasmania's economy and activities grow, so will its emissions unless the processes behind these industries are made more sustainable over time. More sustainable industry trajectories will contribute to reduced emissions in the state.

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council is of the view that Tasmania will not achieve its aspirational climate change goals without leadership, shared responsibility, best practice and beyond, accelerated outcomes in particular, creative thinking, innovation, openness and transparency, and that these principles, which inform the *Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change*, should be adopted at a high level by Ministers and Heads of Agencies across all areas of state government, potentially by way of agency strategic planning. Indeed coordinated planning will be required at all levels to address climate challenges.

The Council has been struck by the high level of community engagement on and concern about climate change, and by the community's willingness to change behaviours, which it has suggested must be well supported by government. The Council has gone beyond its own brief with its community engagement activities, such as its *Council Meets Community* evenings and its state wide coalition of interest on climate change, and has adopted a transparency approach to its activities, providing public communiqués after its meetings.

This report has covered the two earliest Council meetings and Council activities from March to the end of June 2009 where agenda setting activities and orientation briefings were a priority. Now that Council processes, engagement activities and avenues of advice to the Premier and the Minister Assisting the Premier on Climate Change have been established, the Council is well placed to solicit and provide advice on reducing emissions. This will now become priority business and will be covered in the report to the Minister on the matters set out in Division 12(1) due in December 2010.





In terms of reviewing its own effectiveness to the end of June 2009, the Council has been charged under the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* with providing the Premier with independent advice on climate change issues as they affect Tasmania which it is doing. It is now to move on to addressing Tasmania's emission targets, interim targets, the state's progress and anticipated progress in meeting its 60% reduction by 2050 target, the effectiveness of reduction measures, and any more efficacious alternate measures. The State Government's Wedges project will provide a basis for its analysis and advice.

The Council will next address these issues of targets, progress and measures.

**Associate Professor Kate Crowley**

**Chair, Tasmanian Climate Action Council.**



## Appendix A: Tasmanian Climate Action Council

**Associate Professor Kate Crowley** - Kate is an Associate Professor of Public and Environmental Policy at the University of Tasmania. She led the development of the Framework for Action for Reducing the Government's Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

**Dr John Church** - John is a Nobel Laureate for his work on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is a Principal Research Scientist at the CSIRO, Chair of the Joint Scientific Committee of the World Climate Research Program, and Leader of the Sea-level Rise Program at the Antarctic Climate & Ecosystem Cooperative Research Centre.

**James Walch** - James is Chair of the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) Climate Change Taskforce, a grazier from Epping Forest, a former TFGA President, and a pragmatic, solution focused farmer who has showcased sheep drought lots on his property.

**Rhys Edwards** - Rhys is Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and a Rhodes scholar with a Masters degree in Comparative Social Research from Oxford University. He is a member of various organisations including the University of Tasmania Council.

**Roger Jaensch** - Roger is Executive Chairman of the Cradle Coast Authority, a member of the Tourism Industry Council of Tasmania Board, the University of Tasmania North-West Advisory Board, and the Institute for Regional Development Advisory Board.

**Professor Rob Adams** - Rob is the Director, City Design and Urban Environment, with the Melbourne City Council, a 2008 recipient of the Prime Minister's Environmentalist of the Year Award 2008 for his work on *Managing Droughts in a City of Parks* project. He has been a visiting lecturer at RMIT and is a Professorial Fellow at Melbourne University.

**Noel Purcell** – Noel has been a group General Manager of Stakeholder Communications, for Westpac Banking Corporation, a senior executive in the Commonwealth Public Service, an Al Gore Ambassador, and a member of the Business Roundtable on Climate Change.

**Adam Kirkman** - Adam is Protiviti's Global Director, Climate Change and Sustainability, and was the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's Program Manager, Energy and Climate Change, and a member of the UNFCCC's finance and investment expert panel.

**Ben Kearney** - Ben is a Council community representative and directed the successful plastic bag-free campaign in Coles Bay. He has been both Tasmanian of the Year and Australian of the Year – Local Hero. He has held various roles in small business and tourism and is an inaugural board member of 'Do Something', a proposed nationwide charity.

**Nel Smit** – Nel is a Council community representative responsible for the award winning Woodbridge Whole School Sustainability Program and for Whole Farm Planning for School Farms. She has a United National World Environment Day Award for Education and Schools, and a Tasmanian Environment Minister's Award for Environmental Education.



## Appendix B: Tasmanian Climate Action Council

### Terms of Reference, Adopted, 26 June 2009.

#### 1. Background

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council (Council) was established under the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* to provide strategic, high level advice to the Tasmanian Government on emerging climate change issues and propose best practice solutions to the challenges of climate change. Council members are appointed by the Minister.

The Terms of Reference for the Tasmanian Climate Action Council outline the operating principles, framework and governance arrangements for the Council and its relationship with the State Government.

#### 2. Operating Principles

The work of the Council will be guided by the following principles:

- open, equitable and mutually beneficial working relationships between all parties to provide for a shared understanding of issues, opportunities, challenges and solutions;
- international best practice to always be considered and to provide benchmarks for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- best available scientific evidence used as a basis for making recommendations on emissions reductions.

#### 3. Objectives

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council will advise the government on long term climate change strategies for Tasmania that enable the state to:

- employ creative, innovative, transparent and action based approaches to climate change;
- demonstrate national and international leadership as a model for a low carbon economy that contributes to global climate change solutions; and
- ensure capture of the new social, economic and environmental opportunities presented by climate change.

#### 4. Functions

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council will provide the Minister with independent advice on climate change issues as they affect Tasmania including:

- the setting of interim targets and the setting of targets and interim targets for specific sectors of the State's economy;
- progress being made towards achieving the State's 2050 target and other targets;
- the effectiveness of the initiatives and methods being employed to achieve those targets;
- alternative or additional methods capable of being employed to achieve those targets;
- the extent to which any methods prescribed by the regulations are being achieved and should be revised;
- the progress being made towards identifying and implementing strategies for dealing with and adapting to the expected consequences of climate change; and



- other matters relating to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, the expected consequences of climate change.

The Council will be consulted on future strategies relating to climate change and will be asked to recommend strategic climate change priorities for future action. It will also be asked to provide advice on Government relevant legislation, policies and programs that are underway.

## **5. Support to the Tasmanian Climate Action Council**

Secretariat functions will be provided by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

## **6. Operation of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council**

### ***6.1 Meetings of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council***

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council shall meet three to four times per year or as necessary to allow for actions to be taken.

Members are permitted to participate in meetings by telephone, video-conference or any other means approved by Council.

Minutes shall be restricted to the usual standing and procedural items (attendance, business arising, resolutions and recommended action/s etc) unless the Chair determines it appropriate to record additional comment in specific cases.

The Council may request a forum, working group, taskforce or other mechanism to discuss or address issues of strategic importance. The Council may also establish committees of such members as it considers appropriate to assist it in the performance of its function.

### ***6.2 Role of the Chair***

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council at which he or she is present. The Deputy Chair or other member will preside at any meeting where the Chair is not present.

It is the duty of the Chair, Deputy Chair or persons acting in the position of Chair, as the case may be, to ensure the efficient and orderly conduct of meetings and of the business of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council.

### ***6.3 Tasmanian Climate Action Council Membership***

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council will comprise at least eight but not more than ten members appointed by the Minister including a Chair and a Deputy Chair.

Membership of the Council shall reflect a balance of appropriate interests, skills and expertise relevant to providing advice on climate change issues that affect Tasmania.





Members can be recommended for appointment on their demonstrated understanding of and commitment to act on climate change issues. It is expected that there will be reasonable representation from the business, government, scientific and community sectors. Members can be drawn from local, national or international sources.

The identification of potential candidates for membership will be coordinated by the Secretariat. The method of identification may include a combination of:

- expressions of interest, publicly sought;
- direct approach to ensure appropriate skills and representation;
- nominations by existing members; and
- other mechanisms as determined appropriate.

Members of the Council will be appointed by the Minister for a period not exceeding three years. Members may be re-appointed for a similar period.

Appointments to the position of Chair and Deputy Chair will be made by the Minister for a period determined by the Minister.

#### **6.4 Observers**

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council may invite observers to attend meetings of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council as deemed appropriate.

Observers will need to maintain confidentiality with respect to the deliberations of the Council. Observers may not take part in decisions made by the Council.

#### **6.5 Vacation of Office**

If a member vacates his/her office, the Minister may appoint a person to the vacant position for the remainder of the member's term of office.

#### **6.6 Resignation from the Tasmanian Climate Action Council**

A member of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council may resign by writing a letter of resignation to the Minister.

If no contact is received from a Council member for a period of more than 12 months following appropriate actions to seek such contact, such a person will be deemed to have resigned from the Council.

#### **6.7 Termination of Appointment**

The Minister may terminate the appointment of a Tasmanian Climate Action Council member if he/she:

- fails to attend three successive meetings without the permission of the Council
- becomes bankrupt or is convicted, in Tasmania or elsewhere of a crime or offence punishable for a term of 12 months or longer or a fine of 300 penalty units or more; or
- fails to disclose a pecuniary interest in any matter being considered by the Council.





### **6.8 Operational Funding and Remuneration**

Tasmanian Climate Action Council members are entitled to be paid such remuneration and allowances as the Minister determines. A member who is a State Government officer or State Service employee is not entitled to remuneration or allowances.

Council members may claim reasonable out of pocket expenses that are directly incurred in attending properly constituted meetings or participating in Council activities that have been endorsed by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office. Documented expense claims will be processed by the Tasmanian Climate Change Office. Receipts must be obtained where available and produced upon request.

### **6.9 Tasmanian Climate Action Council Code of Conduct**

A member, attendant or observer should adhere to the Tasmanian Climate Action Council Code of Conduct:

- a) Act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the Council.
- b) Respect differing points of view and encourage the stimulation of new ideas.
- c) Shall not make improper use of information acquired from deliberations of the Council.
- d) Has an obligation to be independent in judgement and actions and to take reasonable steps to be satisfied as to the soundness of the decisions made.
- e) Must declare any direct or indirect pecuniary interest or conflict of interest, and the nature of such interest, in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Council, to the Chair as soon as reasonable. Should a disclosure be noted, the person shall not, unless the Council otherwise determines:
  - Be present during any deliberation of the Council with respect to that matter; nor
  - Take part in any decision of the Council with respect to that matter.
- f) Must ensure confidential information received by a Council member in the course of their activities or deliberations is not disclosed, or allowed to be disclosed, unless authorised by the person from whom the information was provided, or is required by law.
- g) May engage with the wider community on general issues and activities being considered or undertaken by the Council except where such discussion may result in unfavourable advantage, breaches confidentiality requirements or should by any reasonable person be known to be confidential.

### **6.10 Reporting**

The Tasmanian Climate Action Council may provide a report or make recommendations to the Minister after any meeting.

The Council, on a two-yearly basis, is to submit to the Minister a report on the matters set out in section 12(1) of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*. The Council is to ensure that the first report under this section is prepared and provided to the Minister by 31 December 2010.

The Council, on or before 31 October in each year, is to give the Minister a report on its activities for the financial year ending on the preceding 30 June.

