

# Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change

## OVERVIEW

Climate change is a threat to our way of life and our future prosperity. But we can reduce our emissions, adapt to change and contribute to global solutions by being clever and working together.

Climate change is a rapidly evolving issue that requires an urgent and flexible response. That's why the *Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change* is designed as a 'living document' that will evolve over time as new actions come online and as new developments in international science and policy emerge.

The Tasmanian Government has a goal for the State to become a model for the world of low-carbon living. Our relatively large renewable energy base puts us ahead of the rest, and with more innovative solutions we can seize the opportunities of a new carbon-constrained world.

The Tasmanian Framework identifies the significant challenges climate change poses for the State, and also sets out opportunities for Tasmania to show leadership in a low-carbon world.

It sets out **eight priority areas for action**:

1. Government leadership
2. Consolidating Tasmania's position as the renewable energy State
3. Planning for future changes
4. Protecting Tasmania's natural stores of carbon
5. Improving Tasmania's transport system
6. Innovations in agriculture
7. Becoming energy smart
8. Building resilient and adaptive communities

## IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

### ***Commissioning a major 'wedges analysis' of emission reduction opportunities across the Tasmanian economy***

The key planks for achieving a significant reduction in Tasmania's emissions are the *Climate Change (State Action) Bill 2008*, which sets a reduction target of at least 60 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050, and the Australian Government's emissions trading scheme, which will be operational by 2010.

Tasmania's reduction target is an ambitious one that requires action to be taken now and into the future. The Government will set **interim and sector-based targets** to be in place by the end of 2009.

To help set these targets, the Tasmanian Government will fund a major 'wedges' analysis of emissions reduction opportunities across the Tasmanian economy. The analysis will take into account the new emissions trading scheme and other Australian Government policies. It will involve modeling a range of possible greenhouse gas emission profiles to identify the measures that will best enable Tasmania's key sectors to achieve set targets.

The information will help industry sectors refocus their activities in order to maximise their opportunities in a carbon-constrained economy.

The 12-month project will involve comprehensive consultation with key groups and will create a benchmark for decision-making in Tasmania for the next decade.

### ***Commissioning a Public Transport Review Report and research on innovation in the agriculture sector***

A lot of Tasmania's emissions come from transport (22 per cent) and agriculture (26 per cent). A Public Transport Review will be conducted to identify options for increasing usage of public transport in Tasmania. To help prepare our agriculture sector for changes ahead, the Australian Innovation Research Centre (AIRC) will make recommendations on the best means to encourage greater innovation in Tasmania's agricultural sector in response to climate change.

### ***Extending the Climate Futures for Tasmania Project to include infrastructure***

There is major research underway that will help Tasmanians adapt to the inevitable changes brought about by climate change. The Climate Futures for Tasmania Project will produce fine-scale climate projections for Tasmania under a range of emissions scenarios. This information will help Tasmania's industry sectors and communities make decisions that take into account the likely impacts of climate change. The Climate Futures project will now be expanded to include infrastructure and enable consideration of the climate change risks associated with in planning, design and operation of significant infrastructure assets in Tasmania.

### ***Establishing a Local Government Partnership Agreement on Climate Change***

A lot of the changes will be felt at the local government level. A proposed new Partnership Agreement on Climate Change will guide collaborative action on planning, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and educating Tasmanians on climate change.

### ***Incorporating climate change considerations in Regional Planning Initiatives***

The State Government will also help plan for the future by integrating climate change considerations into the Regional Planning Initiatives proposed for the three regions of the State and the sub regional land use framework for the East Coast. The three regional planning initiatives provide direction for future land use, transport and infrastructure development, and will include consideration of climate hazards such as sea level rise, storm surge, flooding and bushfire.

### ***Funding a trial program for energy efficiency in low-income housing and feed-in tariffs for solar panels***

A new trial program will provide free energy efficiency audits and insulation upgrades for selected low-income housing in three 'test' areas across the State. The trial will be informed by a research partnership with UTAS to conduct a desktop study on the benefits of investing in energy efficiency measures in low-income housing.

The Tasmanian Government supports the Garnaut Review's proposal that at least half of the permit revenue from the emissions trading scheme be returned to the household sector, and particularly to low-income households.

The Government will also soon release a discussion paper on options for providing minimum feed-in

tariffs to support householders and small energy consumers that use solar panels and other forms of domestic renewable energy and that contribute surplus energy to the electricity grid.

### ***Introducing Climate Change Impact Statements for relevant Cabinet papers***

The Government is introducing Climate Change Impact Statements so climate change will be factored into decision-making across Government. These statements will be included in all relevant Cabinet papers, Budget Review Committee papers and Budget submissions and summarise the climate change impacts associated with the proposal or policy option.

### ***Engaging the community on climate change***

Tasmanians will be encouraged to take action to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions through a new awareness campaign, *Earn Your Stars*.

A series of video clips, which will be broadcast on Tasmanian television from 20 July 2008 have been made available via YouTube, are the first step in promoting the website and spreading the message that every member of the Tasmanian community can make a contribution to reducing the State's carbon footprint.

The clips also promote the Tasmanian Government's new interactive climate change website: [www.climatechange.tas.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.tas.gov.au) which provides tips for reducing emissions and encourages Tasmanians to contribute their ideas for tackling climate change.

### **Tasmanians will have many opportunities to participate in the climate change debate:**

- The new website site encourages Tasmanians to share their views on how the State can reduce its emissions, adapt to change, capture opportunities, and contribute to global solutions.
- Representatives of the Australian Government will visit Tasmania to consult on the design of the national emissions trading scheme. The Garnaut Review team will hold information sessions across Australia, including in Tasmania, following the release of the review's final report in late September.
- Once established, the Tasmanian Climate Action Council will hold forums to identify areas where Tasmania can lead the world with innovative solutions to climate change.
- There will also be opportunities to contribute ideas over the next 12 months through consultation as part of the 'wedges' analysis of the economy, and the setting of interim and sector-based emissions reduction targets for Tasmania.