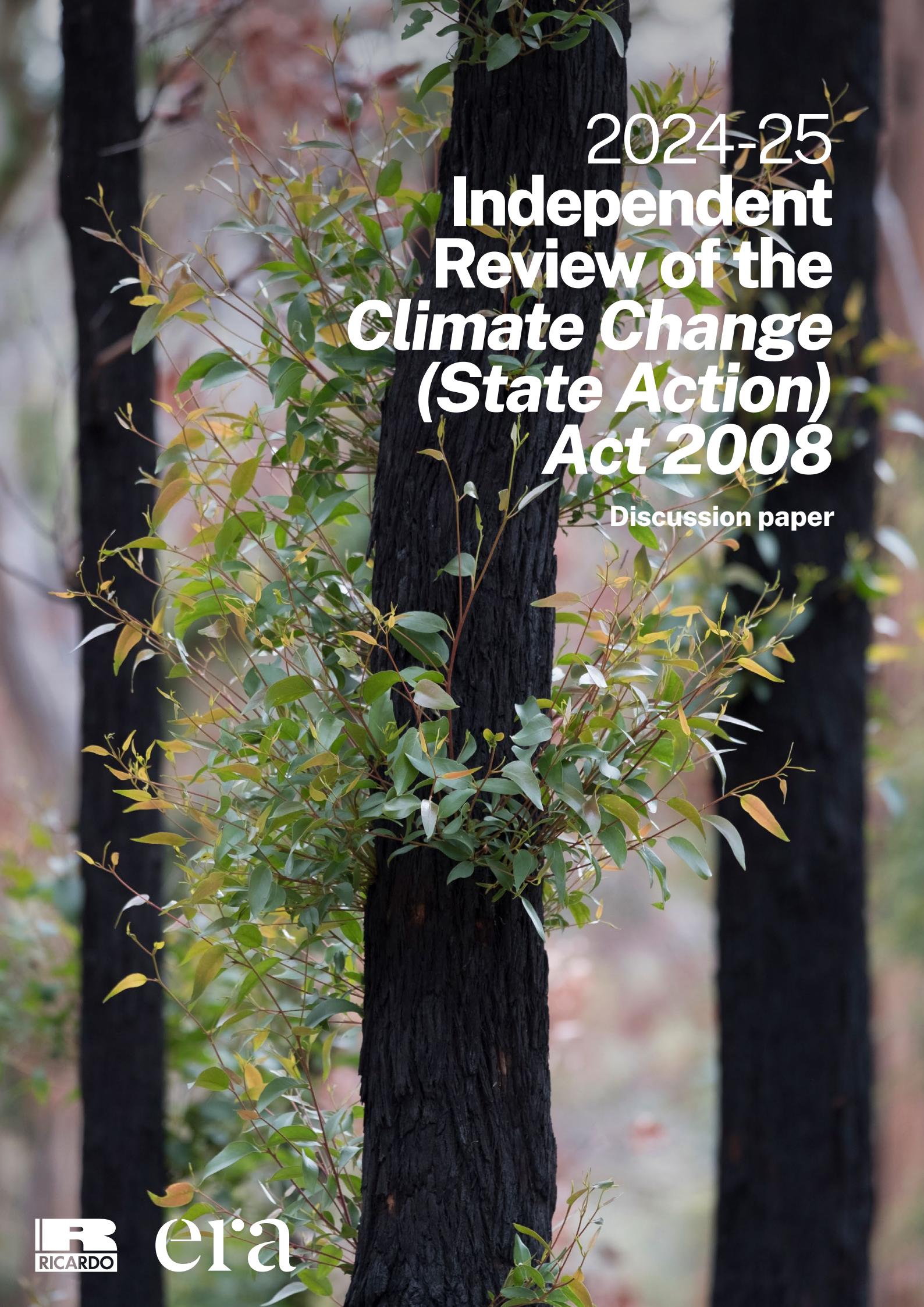


The background of the cover is a photograph of a tree trunk with green and yellowing leaves. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

2024-25 Independent Review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*

Discussion paper

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Cover photo: Chris Crerar



Acknowledgement of Country

Ricardo and Era Advisory acknowledge and respect Palawa people as the Traditional Owners of Lutruwita (Tasmania).

They are the original custodians of our land and waters.

We respect their unique ability to care for country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has and will ensure the continuation of culture and traditional practices.





Photo: Chris Crerar



Photo Chris Crerar

Have your say

An independent review of the climate change Act

The 2024-25 Independent Review of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* (the Act) has commenced. The Tasmanian Government has engaged an independent team to review how the Act is working, and how it might be improved. The review will also consider Tasmania's arrangements for climate change governance.

This discussion paper has been developed as a basis for consultation and public input to the review. The discussion paper provides a summary of the current Act, the background to the review and the progress to date. It also poses questions for you to consider when providing feedback.

Your feedback will inform the independent review of the Act. We're seeking feedback from a diverse range of people, including relevant business, industry, scientific, environmental and community bodies, children and young people, local government, relevant unions, the peak body representing trade unions and the Tasmanian community.

Questions for the review

This discussion paper provides background information and context to support you to provide input and feedback to the independent review. Feedback can include any information or response. However, answering the following questions would help to meet the scope of the review:

- 1. How does climate change affect you, your business or your community?**
- 2. What is your role in supporting action on climate change?**
- 3. What further action, if any, should be taken to reduce the impacts of climate change in Tasmania?**
- 4. Has the Tasmanian Government effectively engaged with you in relation to climate change and climate change policy?**

These questions will be included in the survey linked below, and in the submission guide. Additional questions are provided throughout this discussion paper that are more specific to the scope and requirements of the review. You do not need to answer all of these questions and you may also provide any other feedback you think is relevant.

How to provide your input

We encourage all interested individuals, communities, businesses and organisations to consider the contents of this discussion paper and share their insights. Your input will inform the findings and recommendations of the review.

You can provide feedback through the Engage with State Growth online platform at www.engage.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/climate-change-act-review-2024-25

There are various ways to get involved in the review, including a survey, posting on the ideas wall, or attending a workshop. You can also make a submission using the online form, or by providing your own written submission. Submissions will be accepted until Sunday 7 September 2025. We encourage you to have your say and contribute to the future of climate change action in Tasmania.





Photo Chris Crerar

Introduction to the review

The Act requires an independent review every four years.

This review in 2024-25 will be the fourth since the Act began and will focus on whether the Act is successfully helping Tasmania to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Report on progress against climate targets
- Adapt to the impacts of climate change
- Contribute to international, national and local climate change action and transition to a low emissions future
- Consult with stakeholders and the community.

The review will also consider whether there are additional measures that can help support the implementation and effectiveness of the Act. The review will also assess Tasmania's arrangements for climate change governance. The governance arrangements will be considered in comparison to models used in other jurisdictions and their applicability to the Tasmanian context.

Ricardo plc and local partners Era Advisory have been appointed as the independent reviewers of the Act. More information on the review and a copy of the Terms of Reference can be found under the **section on Tasmania's climate change legislation on the Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT) website.**

The previous independent review was completed in 2021. It made seven recommendations for changes to the Act, many of which have since been adopted by the Tasmanian Government. Further information on the government response to the previous review can also be found under the **section on Tasmania's climate change legislation on the ReCFIT website.**



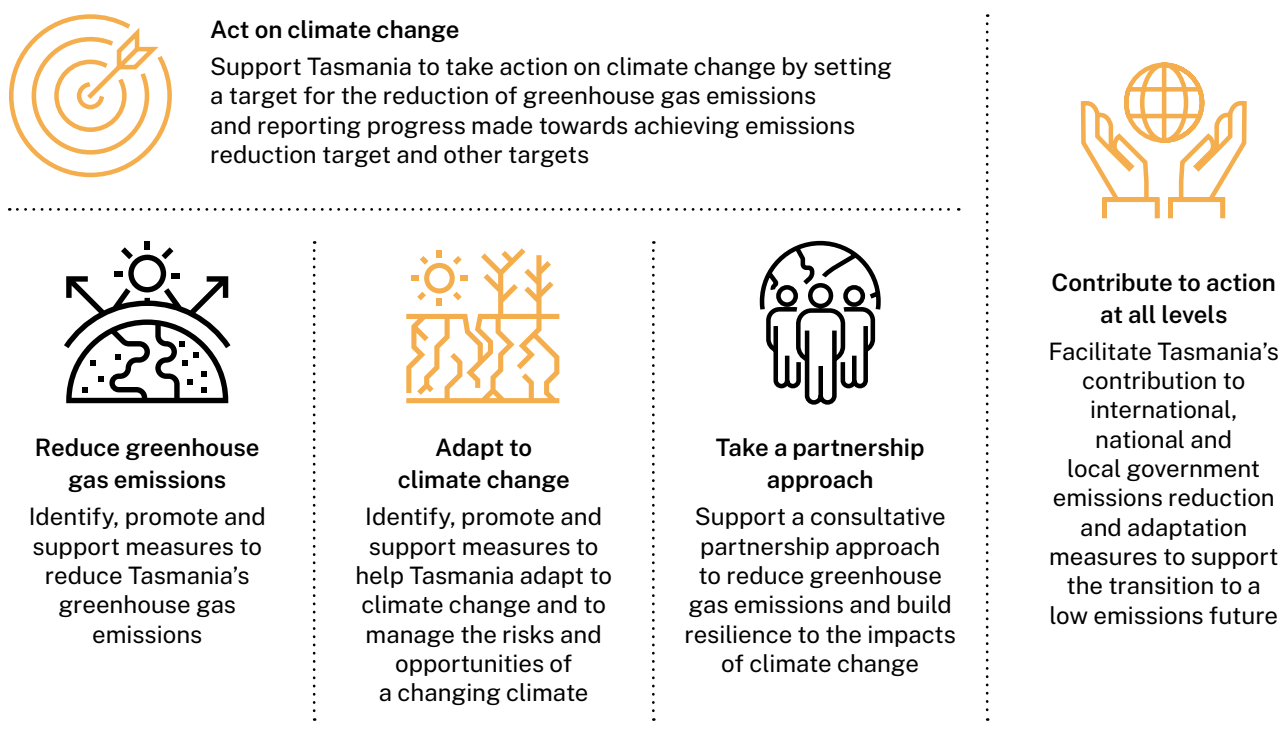
Photo Chris Crerar

About the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*

Objects and other components of the Act

The *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* is Tasmania's legislative framework for responding to climate change. A summary of the five objects of the Act is shown in Figure 1. More information on the Act can be found in Appendix 2 and on the [Tasmanian Legislation website](#).

Figure 1 The Objects of the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*



Key components of the Act include:

- A long-term emissions reduction target to achieve net zero emissions, or lower, from 30 June 2030
- A requirement for the relevant Minister to prepare a range of plans, assessments and reports (see section 4 of this discussion paper for further detail)
- A power that enables regulation to be made for the purpose of the Act
- A requirement for an independent review of the Act every four years.





Requirements of the Act

Key requirements

Some of the key requirements of the Act are summarised in Table 1. A summary of information about the most recent release of each plan and report is provided in the following sections. These action plans and reports are available on the **ReCFIT website**.

Table 1 Summary of action planning and reporting requirements under the Act

1.	Annual greenhouse gas report First legislated: 2022 Frequency: Annual Most recent release: <i>Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2025</i>
2.	Climate change action plan First legislated: 2022 Frequency: Every 5 years Most recent release: <i>Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25</i>
3.	Statewide climate change risk assessment First legislated: 2022 Frequency: Every 5 years Most recent release: <i>Tasmania's Risk Assessment for Climate Change 2024</i>
4.	Six sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans First legislated: 2022 Frequency: Every 5 years Most recent release: <i>Six emissions reduction and resilience plans 2024</i>



Photo: Chris Crerar

Tasmanian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report 2025

Tasmania has a legislated target to achieve net zero emissions, or lower, by from 2030. According to the latest published emissions data, Tasmania became the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve net zero emissions in 2014. In 2023, Tasmania's net emissions were -4.93 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($\text{Mt CO}_2\text{-e}$)¹, which is a 125.2 per cent reduction compared to 1990 levels.

This is the tenth year in a row that Tasmania's emissions were net negative – meaning that more carbon was sequestered in Tasmania than was emitted (Figure 2). More information on Tasmania's progress on emissions can be found under the **section on Tasmania's Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the ReCFIT website**.

Why are Tasmania's emissions net negative?

Tasmania's net negative status is due to the carbon absorbed by its managed forest estate and historic investment in renewable electricity generation. Through sustainable forest management and a reduction in land clearing, the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector removed over $13 \text{ Mt CO}_2\text{-e}$ from the atmosphere in 2023.

Since 2020, Tasmania has had 100 per cent renewable energy generation capacity. This means that, on average, Tasmania's electricity needs can be met by on-island renewable sources. Further information can be found in the **Energy Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan**.

1. Million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gases. Carbon dioxide equivalent is a unit of measurement used to compare the emissions of different greenhouse gases based on their global warming potential.

Progress in other sectors

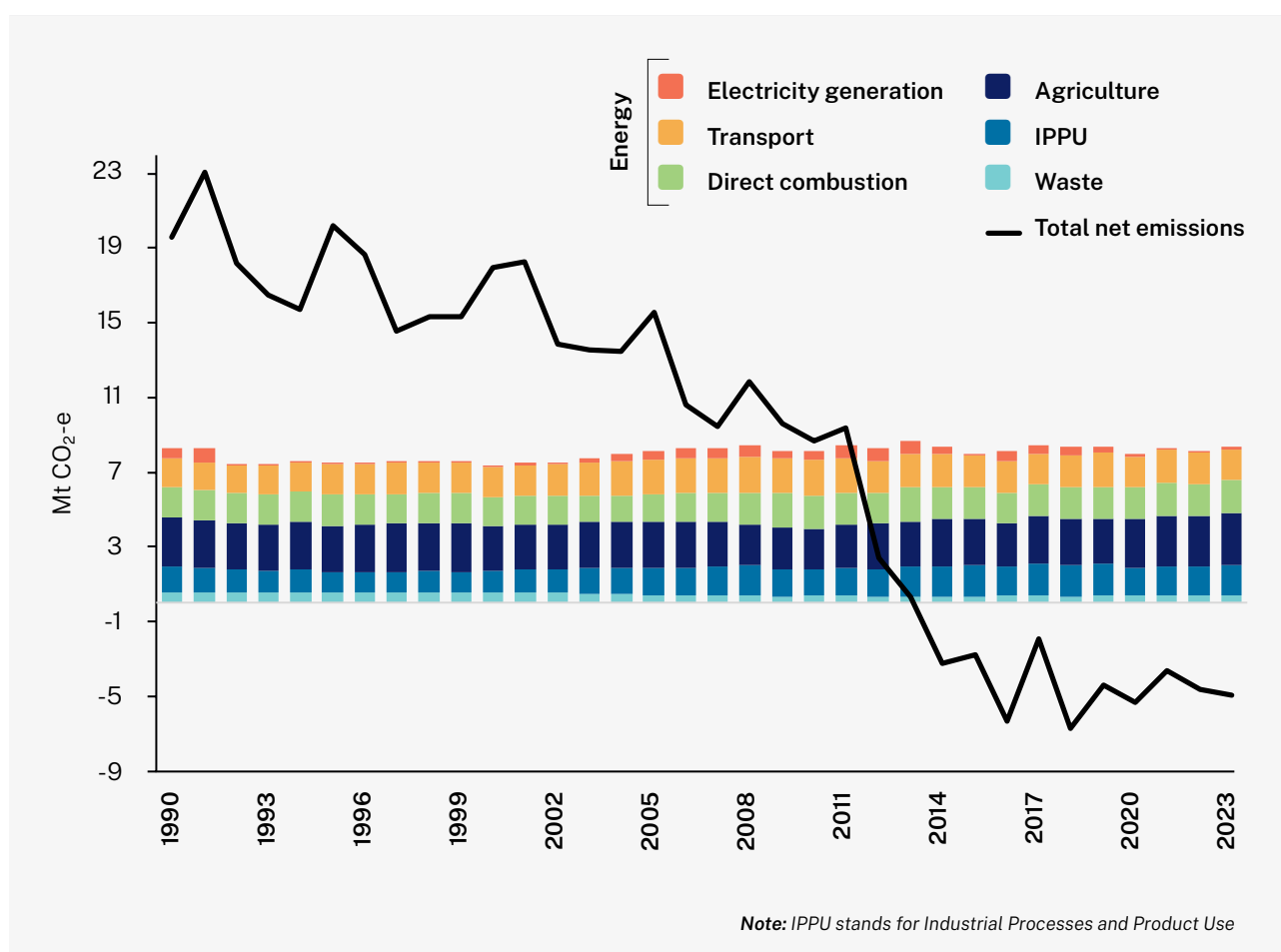
Progress reducing emissions in other sectors has been more limited. Excluding the LULUCF sector, there was a 0.06 Mt CO₂-e increase in Tasmania's emissions between 1990 and 2023.

Emissions from the waste and energy sectors, as well as the electricity generation subsector of the energy sector, have reduced since 1990. Emissions in terms of Mt CO₂-e from all other sectors and energy subsectors have increased. However, over the period from 1990 to 2023, Tasmania's population has also increased by over 23 per cent and Gross State Product has more than doubled.

Tasmania has maintained net zero emissions for the past ten reported years. However net zero status may not be maintained, particularly if there are major changes to carbon sequestration and storage in the LULUCF sector. Carbon sequestration and storage in the LULUCF sector are influenced by land management practices (such as forest and plantation harvesting), land use changes (such as clearing forested land for agriculture) and the impacts of climate change (such as increased bushfires).

Further information on how LULUCF emissions and sequestration may change can be found in the **LULUCF Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan** and the **2021 Update of Tasmania's Emissions Pathway Review** completed by Point Advisory.

Figure 2 Tasmania's emissions progress 1990-2022 (excluding LULUCF)





Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25

Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 (the action plan) outlines the government's intended action on climate change, coordinated by the Climate Change Office in ReCFIT.

It supports Tasmania's transition to a low emissions economy, in line with the target to maintain net zero greenhouse gas emissions, or lower, from 2030. An accompanying implementation plan has also been released. The *Climate Change Activity Statement 2024* shows the status of progress against the actions in the action plan for the financial year 2023-24.

The action plan includes objectives and actions across three priority areas:

1. Information and Knowledge

Ensure businesses, industries, governments and communities can make informed decisions by providing up-to-date, high quality and user-friendly information about Tasmania's emissions, future climate, and emissions reduction, sequestration and adaptation opportunities.

2. Transition and Innovation

Reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration by making the most of opportunities using existing and emerging technologies, and support business, industry and the community through the transition to a low emissions economy

3. Adaptation and Resilience

Manage the risks and take advantage of the potential opportunities from climate change, support planning and decision-making, and build the resilience of our communities, environments, industries and infrastructure.

Targets for achieving action on climate change objectives

Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25 (the action plan) can be found under the **section on Tasmania's climate change action plan on the ReCFIT website**, and the implementation plan can be found **in the same place on the ReCFIT website**.

The action plan includes targets designed to achieve the objectives of the Act, such as:



100 per cent of the government's vehicle fleet electric by 2030



Double Tasmania's renewable electricity production (from 2020 levels) by 2040, with an interim target of 150 per cent by 2030



Reduce food waste by 50 per cent by 2030 and reduce the volume of organic waste sent to landfill by 25 per cent by 2025 and 50 per cent by 2030

Tasmania's Risk Assessment for Climate Change 2024

Tasmania's Risk Assessment for Climate Change 2024 (the risk assessment) was produced by Deloitte Risk Advisory Pty Ltd in partnership with the Climate Change Office. The risk assessment identifies 40 priority climate change risks and opportunities across four value domains: natural, social, economic and built. The risk assessment includes both physical risks and opportunities, and transition risks and opportunities.

The full technical report, summary report and government response can be found under the **section on adapting to climate change on the ReCFIT website**.

Physical risks and opportunities

Physical climate-related risks and opportunities, include climate-related acute shocks, such as heatwaves, floods, bushfires, drought, coastal erosion and coastal storm surge.

Physical risks and opportunities also include longer-term climate trends, such as temperature change, sea level rise, seasonal distribution and intensity of rainfall, incidence of frost, and distribution of invasive species and diseases.

The risk assessment found that extreme weather events and long-term climate changes in Tasmania are likely to create risks and opportunities across the four value domains:

Physical risks



Natural domain

Risks to ecosystems and species across inland water, terrestrial, coastal, marine, native and alpine.



Social domain

Risks to social cohesion, community wellbeing, mental and physical health and safety, and cultural heritage including Aboriginal cultural heritage.



Economic domain

Risks to businesses and public organisations and private assets and their insurability, national and international supply/distribution networks, and the land-based primary sector and ocean-based aquaculture and fisheries.



Built domain

Risks to healthcare and emergency services, contaminated sites, and infrastructure including ports and coastal infrastructure, transportation networks and stormwater and sewerage systems.

Physical opportunities



Economic domain

Opportunities from climate change relating to the land-based primary sector and ocean-based aquaculture and fisheries, with economic benefits from climate tolerant practices or increased carbon market participation.

Transition risks and opportunities

Transition risks are the potential financial and operational risks that arise from the shift towards a low-carbon economy. These can result from policy changes, technological advancements, market shifts, or changing consumer preferences related to climate change action. The transition to address climate change will also provide opportunities for some sectors.

The risk assessment identifies the following transition risks and opportunities:

Transition risks



Natural domain

Risks due to renewable energy development and mining of critical minerals.



Social domain

Risks to social cohesion due to the inability of institutions and governance systems to effectively manage climate risks, and risks to social cohesion, health and wellbeing due to insufficient services driven by population growth from new clean industries.



Economic domain

Risks due to supply chain costs as organisations adjust to a low carbon economy, and through the implementation of new technology to reduce emissions.



Built domain

Risks to healthcare and emergency services, contaminated sites, and infrastructure including ports and coastal infrastructure, transportation networks and stormwater and sewerage systems.

Transition opportunities



Natural domain

Opportunities to improve biodiversity, inland water quality, marine ecosystems and natural heritage through renewable energy development and optimisation of waste systems.



Social domain

Opportunities to increase skills and employment through new and emerging industries, improve social cohesion through action on adaptation and resilience, and improve financial wellbeing, and health and wellbeing through improved energy efficiency in housing.



Economic domain

Opportunities to increase economic growth through renewable energy supply, and increase business revenue streams from carbon markets and implementation of new technologies.



Built domain

Opportunities to develop infrastructure to support the circular economy and reduce other emissions from transport systems due to low emissions vehicles.

Key findings and response

The risk assessment identifies four key areas that will be critical for consideration as part of any adaptation response:

1. The benefits of state-level coordination of local efforts
2. The impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians
3. Education to support climate adaptation and increased resilience for future generations
4. Development of, and investment in, additional data collection is required to better inform risk-based decision-making.

The Tasmanian Government has developed a response to the risk assessment, *Managing Tasmania's climate risks and opportunities*, which sets out a range of climate adaptation actions.

Action is focused on five areas:

1. Help Tasmanians understand the climate risks and opportunities in the risk assessment and how they might be impacted.
2. Support Tasmanians to access fit-for-purpose climate science, data and information to prepare for the changing climate.
3. Build public sector climate capability to strengthen how we adapt and make the most of opportunities.
4. Facilitate collaborative partnerships to support adaptation action.
5. Monitor and learn as we go, recognising that adaptation is an iterative process.

Further details can be found under the **section on adapting to climate change on the ReCFIT website**.

Further evidence on risks and opportunities

The Tasmanian *2024 State of the Environment Report* identified significant risks and impacts to the state from climate change. The report emphasises that Tasmania's climate risks are cumulative and compounding, which means they amplify existing environmental pressures and interact in complex ways.

More information on these risks and the supporting data can be found in the **State of the Environment Report on the Tasmanian Planning Commission website**.

In 2021, the Tasmanian Government commissioned Point Advisory to update **Tasmania's Emissions Pathway Review** and to undertake an **Economic Impact Analysis** (with Victoria University). These assessments found that a net zero target is feasible for Tasmania, and highlighted potential economic opportunities from the transition to a low emission economy.

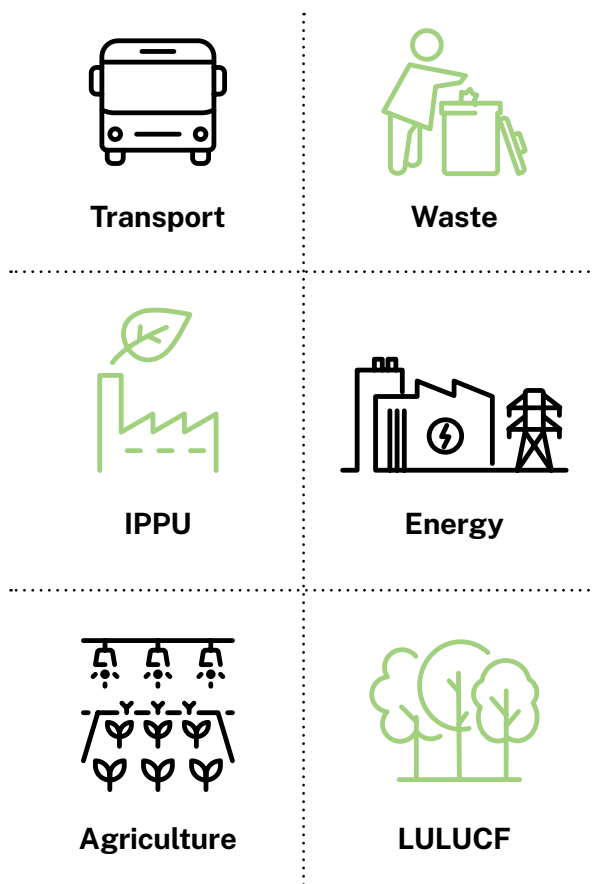


Sectoral emissions reduction and resilience plans

Tasmania's first five-year emissions reduction and resilience plans for six sectors (the sectoral plans) were published in late 2024. The Tasmanian Government has also developed Tasmania's Emissions Reduction and Resilience Roadmap 2024-29 (the roadmap) to link together the six sectoral plans and *Tasmania's Risk Assessment for Climate Change 2024*.

Each of the sectoral plans and the roadmap can be found in the **section on Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans on the ReCFIT website**. Although it's not a legislated requirement, the government has also committed to developing an additional plan for government operations.

Figure 3 Sectors with emissions reductions and resilience plans



Note: IPPU stands for Industrial Processes and Product Use; LULUCF stands for Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry



The sectoral plans outline the priority actions for the government to support each sector over the next five years to:

- ✓ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to support Tasmania achieving its target of net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030
- ✓ Transition to a low emissions economy
- ✓ Build resilience to the impacts of climate change

The actions included in the sectoral plans and the roadmap build on the existing work program in the action plan. A full summary of the Tasmanian Government's climate change action coordinated by the Climate Change Office is provided in Appendix 3.



The sectoral plans were developed in consultation with business and industry, as required under the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*. A draft of each sectoral plan was also released for a five-week public consultation period.

As part of this process, a State of Play Report was also prepared to provide a high-level summary of the climate-related issues and opportunities for each sector in Tasmania. Each sectoral plan includes a summary of the key themes from the consultations, and how it addresses these key themes.

Additional guidance questions

- 1.** To what extent have the objects of the Act been achieved?
- 2.** Has the implementation of the Act been effective in meeting the objects of the Act?
- 3.** Is the target of net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030 the most appropriate target for Tasmania?
- 4.** How should the Act support management of the physical or transition risks associated with climate change?
- 5.** Do the plans and actions required under the Act enable the achievement of the objects of the Act?
- 6.** Are additional legislative measures necessary to achieve the emissions reduction target set by the Act?
- 7.** Is the information and support you currently have access to sufficient for making appropriate decisions about climate change? If not, what more would you need?



Photo Chris Crerar

Climate change governance

Governance of the Act

The Minister responsible for climate change is responsible for delivery of the Act. The Act is administered by the Climate Change Office which sits in Renewables, Climate and Future Industries Tasmania (ReCFIT). The Climate Change Office leads implementation of the Act and coordinates Tasmanian Government climate policy and programs.

The Act includes requirements for consulting with stakeholders about climate change action, policy and decision-making. For example, development of sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans requires the Minister to consult with relevant portfolio Ministers (e.g. Minister for Energy), as well as business and industry representatives and the general public.

Climate Change Reference Group

The Climate Change Reference Group (the Reference Group) is another part of climate change governance in Tasmania. The Reference Group provides strategic advice and feedback to the Minister, and ReCFIT, to support the achievement of Tasmania's net zero emissions reduction target and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

The Reference Group has an advisory role, and is not a legislated or decision-making body. Membership of the Reference Group is at the invitation of the Minister and participation is on a voluntary basis.

Information on the role of the Reference Group, and the organisations represented, is provided right. The Reference Group is co-chaired by the Minister, together with a delegate from the Premier's Youth Advisory Council. Further information on the Reference Group is available under the **section on community consultation on the ReCFIT website**.

Role of the Reference Group and represented organisations

Role

Provide a forum for:

- Advice and feedback on key climate change strategic priorities
- Information on emerging opportunities in climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Timely communication and information sharing

Represented organisations

- Australian Medical Association
- Climate Tasmania
- Local Government Association of Tasmania
- Royal Automobile Club of Tasmania
- Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- TasFarmers
- Tasmanian Forest Products Association
- Tasmanian Minerals, Manufacturing and Energy Council
- Unions Tasmania
- University of Tasmania Tasmanian Policy Exchange

Examples of climate change governance

Climate change governance in Tasmania (as described in the previous section) is similar to governance in some other jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand. Some jurisdictions also include a statutory² independent body as part of climate change legislation, compared to Tasmania which has a non-statutory Reference Group.

Independent bodies can have a range of functions and structures. Some examples of statutory and non-statutory bodies and groups related to climate change from other jurisdictions are shown in Table 2. Further information on climate change legislation in other jurisdictions is provided in Appendix 4.

Table 2 Examples of independent bodies in climate change legislation in Australia and New Zealand

	Body or Group	Role	Advice/ information	Reporting/ accountability	Statutory authority
Australia 	Climate Change Authority	Advice related to the preparation of the annual climate change statement and on greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.	✓		✓
	First Nations Clean Energy and Climate Change Advisory Committee	Provides advice about First Nations rights and interest in the energy transition and climate change.	✓		
NSW 	Net Zero Commission	Monitor, review, report on and advise on progress towards emission targets and adaptation objectives.	✓	✓	✓
	Climate Change Advisory Groups	Inform actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for and respond effectively to climate risks.	✓		
VIC 	Agriculture and Climate Change Council	Provides independent, expert and strategic advice to the Minister for Agriculture on how the agriculture sector can prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.	✓		
SA 	Climate Change Council	Provides independent advice to the Minister about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.	✓		✓
TAS 	Climate Change Reference Group	Provides strategic advice and feedback to support the achievement of Tasmania's net zero emissions reduction target and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.	✓		
NZ 	Climate Change Commission	Climate Change Commission is legislated under the Act and required to provide expert advice and monitoring to help keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals.	✓	✓	✓

2. Established through legislation for a public purpose.



Additional guidance question

8. What is the most appropriate climate change governance model for Tasmania?



Photo: Chris Cramer

Comparison of Tasmania with other jurisdictions

Tasmania has a unique emissions profile, energy mix and range of social, economic and environmental factors that influence climate change action compared to other jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand. However, it is useful to compare Tasmania's approach to climate change action to the approaches of other jurisdictions.

Some insights from this comparison include:

- All Australian jurisdictions and New Zealand have set net zero emissions targets with varying target years and legislative backing.
- Several jurisdictions have established independent bodies to provide expert advice and monitor progress, such as the Climate Change Authority (Australia), Net Zero Commission (NSW) and Climate Change Commission (New Zealand).
- Risk assessments are conducted at both national and sub-national levels to identify and manage climate-related risks.
- Comprehensive plans outlining strategies to reduce emissions are in place or under development across most jurisdictions.
- Action plans detailing specific initiatives and policies to address climate change are implemented in various forms.
- Adaptation strategies are developed to enhance resilience against climate impacts, often integrated within broader climate policies.

A summary comparison of all jurisdictions is outlined in Appendix 4.

Additional guidance question

9. What lessons or approaches could Tasmania take from the design and delivery of climate change action in other jurisdictions?





Responding to this discussion paper

We encourage all interested individuals, communities, businesses and organisations to consider the contents of this discussion paper and share their insights. Your input will inform the findings and recommendations of the review. There are various ways to get involved in the review:

- Take the survey
- Make a submission
- Post on the ideas wall
- Attend a workshop

You can provide feedback through the Engage with State Growth online platform at www.engage.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/climate-change-act-review-2024-25

Submissions will be accepted until Sunday 7 September 2025. We encourage you to have your say and contribute to the future of climate change action in our state.

The independent review will consider all feedback provided through this public consultation process. Once all feedback has been gathered, the independent review will also consider other sources of information to assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Act.

The recommendations from the independent review will be provided to the Tasmanian Government.

Photo Chris Crerar



Photo Chris Crerar

Appendix 1

Scope of the review

This review will take into account:

- Tasmania's existing climate policy framework
- The 2020-21 independent review and 2022 amendments to the Act
- The broader international, national and state climate change policy context.

Subsection 18(3) of the Act requires broad-based consultation, specifically including business, industry, scientific, environmental and community stakeholders, children and young people, local government and unions.

In scope

The Act (subsection 18(2)) states that the review will address:

- a. the extent to which the objects of the Act are being achieved
- b. the extent to which additional legislative measures, if any, are considered necessary to achieve the targets set by the Act in the periods contemplated by the Act, including the introduction of performance standards or other mandatory requirements
- c. such other matters as the minister may consider relevant to the review of the Act.

As per the terms of reference, the 2024-25 independent review will also:

- Review and consult on climate change governance in Tasmania, specifically considering advisory-type bodies in other states and territories, and consult to determine the best model for Tasmania
- Review recent climate change legislation in other national jurisdictions and identify whether any features exist elsewhere that would improve Tasmania's Act
- Take into account:
 - the international, national and state climate change policy context
 - the 2020-21 review of the Act
 - the existing Act, as amended in 2022
 - the current Climate Change Office work program, including the statewide climate change risk assessment, the emissions reduction and resilience plans, and the climate change action plan.

Out of scope

- Development of new climate policy initiatives (this review evaluates the Act, not supporting programs and policies).
- Operational or implementation reviews of specific climate projects or plans outside of their contribution to the Act's objectives.
- Review of other legislation not directly related to the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*.
- Execution of new programs or advisory bodies (these may be recommended but not executed within the review).
- Legal interpretation of the Act (the focus is on effectiveness and improvement, not judicial review).

Appendix 2

Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008

The Act was passed in 2008, making Tasmania one of the early Australian jurisdictions to legislate a climate change response. The original emissions reduction target under the Act was to reduce Tasmania's emissions to at least 60 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050. This was updated in 2022 to set a target of net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030.

The first legislated independent review occurred in 2012 followed by subsequent independent reviews in 2016-17 and 2020-21. These reviews have highlighted the need for clearer targets, stronger governance mechanisms, and better integration of climate considerations across government policies.

While some reforms were proposed following the 2016-17 review, no legislative changes were made. The 2020-21 review recommended significant updates including adopting a 2030 net zero target and embedding principles and planning requirements into the Act.

The Minister responsible for climate change is responsible for administering the Act, commissioning reviews, setting targets and reporting to Parliament. Supporting mechanisms include:

- Annual emissions reporting, based on the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory required under the *Climate Change (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Regulations 2022*
- An annual activity statement that provides transparency on climate change actions achieved each year
- Development of climate change action plans, which guide priorities and whole-of-government coordination
- Independent reviews to assess progress and recommend reforms (which this discussion paper is part of).

The Tasmanian Government plays a central role in leading and coordinating the state's response to climate change. Through the Act, the government sets the overall direction for emissions reduction and adaptation efforts, working to align policy with national and international commitments such as the **Paris Agreement**.

The government is also responsible for setting and reviewing specific actions aimed at achieving the overall emissions reduction target established by the Act. The government works across agencies and with local government, industry and the community to promote decarbonisation and build resilience across sectors.

Appendix 3

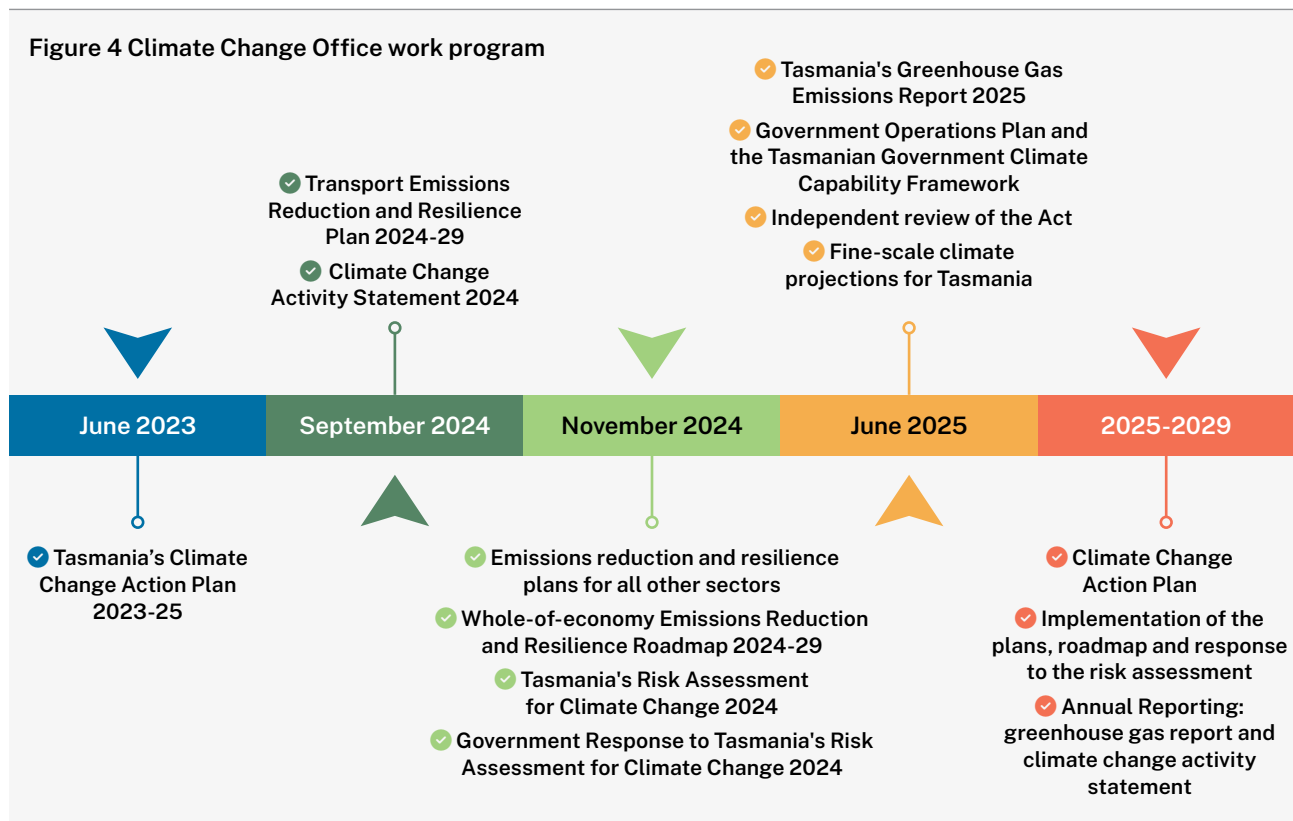
Current work program

About the Climate Change Office

The Climate Change Office is part of ReCFIT and is responsible for policy development and program delivery relating to climate change action in Tasmania. In line with the Act, the Climate Change Office coordinates the Tasmanian Government's climate change action in partnership with the community, industry and other levels of government.

Its current work program comprises oversight of more than 100 actions detailed in **Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023-25**, the **emissions reduction and resilience plans**, the **Emissions Reduction and Resilience Roadmap 2024-29**, and **Managing Tasmania's climate risks and opportunities**. It also advises the responsible minister and provides broader policy support across all government agencies.

The Climate Change Office leads implementation of a range of key actions, as well as supporting actions implemented by industry, community, government and non-government partners. The recent work program for the Climate Change Office since the Act was updated in 2022 is shown in Figure 4.



Future work of the Climate Change Office

In 2025, the Climate Change Office is committed to delivering:

- Government Operations Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plan
- Framework for embedding consideration of climate change in government decision-making (Government Climate Capability Framework)
- New fine-scale climate change projections for Tasmania.

Between 2025 and 2029, the Climate Change Office will lead the implementation of the sectoral emissions reduction and resilience plans, the roadmap and *Managing Tasmania's Climate Risks and Opportunities*.

Appendix 4

Jurisdictional review

This independent review also includes an assessment of climate change legislation across jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand as of June 2025. To align with the scope of this review, the assessment focused on the specific requirements under climate change legislation, rather than on climate policy and action as a whole.

Table 3 summarises the requirements under climate change legislation across jurisdictions, compared to the requirements of the *Tasmanian Climate Change (State Action) 2008 Act*. More detailed information on each jurisdiction, including climate-related strategies and plans developed outside of legislated requirements is provided in Table 4.



Photo Chris Crerar

Table 3 Summary of legislated requirements across jurisdictions

	Legislation	Net Zero target	Review	Independent advisory body	Climate risk assessment	Climate change action plans	Sector Plans	Adaptation strategy and/or plans
Australia 	✓	2050	10 years	✓				
NSW 	✓	2050	5 years	✓				
VIC 	✓	2045	None			✓	✓	✓
QLD 	✓	2050	None	✓			✓	
WA* 		2050	5 years			✓	✓	✓
SA 	✓	2050	4 years	✓	✓	✓	✓	
TAS 	✓	2030	4 years		✓	✓	✓	✓
ACT 	✓	2045	10 years	✓			✓	
NT 		2050**						
New Zealand 	✓	2050	None	✓		✓		✓

Note:

* WA has a Climate Change Bill 2023 which includes the provisions identified in the table, but this has not yet been passed and is not legislated.

** NT has no climate change legislation but the NT Government has set a net zero target.

Table 4 Summary of jurisdictional review

Jurisdiction	Legislation	Net Zero target	Review	Independent advisory body
Australia (Federal) 	<i>Climate Change Act 2022</i>	Net zero by 2050 legislated under the Act. Also legislates for 43% reduction (from 2005 levels) by 2030.	Independent review 5 years after commencement of the Act and every 10 years subsequently	Climate Change Authority required to provide advice related to the preparation of the annual climate change statement and to advise on greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.
New South Wales 	<i>Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023</i>	Net zero by 2050 legislated under the Act. Also legislates for 50% reduction on 2005 levels by 2030, 70% reduction on 2005 levels by 2035.	5 years from the date of assent to the Act, and every 5 years after the first review.	Net Zero Commission required to monitor, review, report on and advise on progress towards emission targets and adaptation objective.
Victoria 	<i>Climate Action Act 2017</i>	Net zero by 2045 legislated under the Act. Legislated 5-yearly reduction targets.	No legislated requirement for independent review.	No dedicated independent body but independent expert advice must be sought by the minister when setting interim targets.
Queensland 	<i>Clean Economy Jobs Act 2024</i>	Net zero by 2050 target legislated under the Act with 30% reduction by 2030, and 75% reduction by 2035 (on 2005 levels).	No legislated requirement for independent review. Minister to review 2030 emissions target by end of 2025.	Clean Economy Expert Panel required to advise on achievement of targets and provide expert advice.
Western Australia 	<i>Climate Change Bill 2023 not passed, lapsed Dec 2024</i>	Net zero by 2050 target proposed in Climate Change Bill 2023.	Proposed 5 years after the Act comes into operation and every 5 years after that.	No independent advisory body proposed under the Bill.
South Australia 	<i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007</i>	Net zero by 2050 target legislated under the Act with 60 per cent reduction by 2030 (on 2005 levels).	Review on a 4-yearly basis.	Climate Change Council legislated under the Act to provide independent advice about matters associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.

Climate risk assessment	Climate change action plans	Sector plans	Adaptation strategy and/or plans	Link
No risk assessment legislated under the Act. A national climate risk assessment is underway.	No action or emissions plans legislated under the Act. A net zero plan is currently being developed.	Sectoral emissions reductions or resilience plans not legislated under the Act. Six sectoral plans being developed to support the net zero plan.	No legislated requirement for an adaptation strategy. A National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy (2021-2025) has been developed. A national adaptation plan is currently being developed to supersede the strategy.	https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/strategies
Climate risk assessment not legislated under the Act.	Required under the Act. Most recently, Climate Change Strategy 2021.	Emissions reduction pledges prepared by ministers across a range of Victorian economic sectors. Required under the Act.	Adaptation action plans for key sectors required under the Act. Seven plans released in 2022.	https://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/nsw-plans-and-progress/government-strategies-and-frameworks/taking-action-climate-change
Climate risk assessment not legislated under the Act.	Required under the Act. Most recently A Climate Change Strategy 2021.	Emissions Reduction Pledges prepared by Ministers across a range of Victorian economic sectors. Required under the Act.	Adaptation Action Plans for key sectors required under the Act. Seven plans released in 2022.	https://www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/legislation/climate-action-act-2017
Not required under the Act. The Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017-2030 includes risk assessments.	Not required under the Act. A Climate Action Plan 2020-2030 has been developed.	Emissions reductions plans for specific sectors required to be developed under the Act.	Not required under the Act. Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy 2017-2030.	https://www.energyandclimate.qld.gov.au/climate
Not required under the proposed Act, sector risk assessments being undertaken as part of sector adaptation plans.	Requirement under the proposed Act to develop an emissions reduction strategy.	Sectoral Emissions Reduction Strategy for WA (2023) developed but not required under the proposed Act.	Requirement under the proposed Act to develop a climate adaptation strategy and sector adaptation plans.	https://www.wa.gov.au/service/environment/environment-information-services/climate-change-legislation
Statewide climate risk assessment required under the Act. Not yet completed.	A statewide emissions reduction plan is required under the Act. Not yet published but a Net Zero Emissions Strategy 2024-2030 has been developed.	The Act allows for the development of sector agreements to drive climate mitigation and adaptation across sectors. Sectors can be businesses, industries, community groups and regions.	Not legislated under the Act, but the government has developed South Australian Government Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation Actions.	https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/climate-change/government-action-on-climate-change

Jurisdiction	Legislation	Net Zero Target	Review	Independent Advisory Body
Tasmania 	<i>Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008</i>	Net zero by 2030 target legislated under the Act.	Independent review every 4 years.	No dedicated independent body legislated under the Act. Climate Change Reference Group established in 2023 to provide strategic advice and feedback.
Australian Capital Territory 	<i>Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010</i>	Net zero by 2045 legislated under the Act with 40 per cent reduction on 1990 emissions by 2020.	Review after 5 and 10 years of the Act's operation and every subsequent 10 years. An independent review of policies, programs and practices must occur at least every 5 years.	Climate Change Council is legislated under the Act and provides advice on matters relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and addressing and adapting to climate change.
Northern Territory 	<i>No legislated requirements</i>	Net zero by 2050 target set in the government's Climate Change Response: Towards 2050.	No Act.	No dedicated independent body.
New Zealand 	<i>Climate Change Response Act 2002</i>	Net zero (excluding biogenic methane) by 2050 legislated under the Act. Reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24–47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050 also legislated under the Act.	No legislated requirement for review.	Climate Change Commission is legislated under the Act and required to provide expert advice and monitoring to help keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals.

Climate Risk Assessment	Climate Change Action Plans	Sector plans	Adaptation Strategy and Plans	Link
A risk assessment is required under the Act. The Risk Assessment for Climate Change 2024 is complete.	Tasmania's Climate Change Action Plan 2023–25 developed as required under the Act.	Emissions reduction and resilience plans developed in 2024 for six sectors as required under the Act.	The climate change action plan and emissions reductions and resilience plans are required to include adaptation measures.	https://recfit.tas.gov.au/what_is_recfit/climate_change
Risk assessment not legislated under the Act. A climate change risk assessment for the ACT was completed in 2022.	No specific requirement under the Act to develop a plan or strategy. Current plans include the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019–2025.	The Act allows for the development of sector agreements to drive climate mitigation and adaptation across sectors.	No specific requirement under the Act to develop an adaptation plan or strategy. Most current is the ACT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2016.	https://www.climatechoices.act.gov.au/climate-change
No Act. No climate risk assessment available.	No Act. Government action outlined in Climate Change Response: Towards 2050. Scheduled for review in 2025.	No sector plans available.	Climate Change Response includes adaptation measures.	https://climatechange.nt.gov.au/nt-climate-change-response/northern-territory-climate-change-response-towards-2050
National Climate Change Risk Assessment required under the Act. The most recent is the National Climate Change Risk Assessment for New Zealand 2022.	An emissions reduction plan is required under the Act. Latest version is Emissions Reduction Plan 2026-2030.	The emissions reduction plan is required to include sector-specific policies under the Act.	A national adaptation plan is required under the Act. Latest version is Aotearoa New Zealand's first national adaptation plan 2022.	https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/climate-change-response-amendment-act-2019/



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