

29 April 2021

Project Manager
Review of Tasmania's Climate Change Act
Tasmanian Climate Change Office

Inquiries: Penny Wells
Phone: 6165 4070
Email: penny.wells@pft.tas.gov.au
Our Ref: D21/777
Your Ref: [\[Click to enter text\]](#)

Review of Tasmania's Climate Change Act

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the review of the Tasmanian *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008*.

Private Forests Tasmania (PFT) is an independent statutory authority established under the Tasmanian Private Forests Act 1994. We work to facilitate and expand the sustainable growth and development of the private forest resource in Tasmania. Under our [Corporate Plan 2020-23](#) one of our goals is to work with policy makers and regulators to improve regulatory efficiency and practical policy settings for private forestry.

As outlined in the Discussion Paper and the Net Zero Emissions Pathway Options for Tasmania paper, the LULUCF sector makes a key contribution to Tasmania's emissions profile and forestry is a key industry in that sector. Tasmania's forests and forest industries contribute to long term carbon emissions reductions in numerous ways, including:

- capturing and storing atmospheric carbon in growing forests, native and plantation;
- providing long-term storage of carbon in durable wood products;
- providing a renewable substitute (wood) for much more emissions-intensive building materials, such as steel, aluminium and concrete;
- replacing carbon-intensive fossil fuel sources such as coal, oil and gas with bioenergy from wood waste, forest thinnings and harvesting residues, and
- protecting forest carbon stores from damaging wildfires.

PFT responses to questions posed on page 1 of the Discussion Paper

Question 1 *To what extent should climate change considerations (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions, climate change impacts, climate resilience) influence policies and decisions by State government agencies and government business enterprises?*

Response State Government policies and decisions should give due regard to climate change implications however this should be proportional and delivered through a flexible policy framework rather than mandated through legislation. Legislative approaches that require state government agencies to consider the contents of the Act in relevant decision making will be difficult and costly to implement and can lead to unintended consequence and in some cases quite perverse outcomes.

Question 9 *What (if any) value do you think targets for specific sectors of the economy would offer, including for the sector itself? If you agree with the concept of sectoral emissions targets, which sectors should have emissions targets? Why?*

Response Whether or not the Government and ultimately the Parliament agree to set a more ambitious State wide target within the Act, targets for specific sectors would not be helpful. Emissions from specific sectors can rise or fall from year to year depending on markets and other factors out of the control of the industries and businesses operating in those sectors. Legislated sector targets would place undue pressure on certain sectors leading to an uneven playing field and likely to result in perverse outcomes.

If you have any queries or need further expansion on the points raised above, please contact myself on 6165 4070 or Murray Root on 6165 4072.

Yours sincerely,



Penny Wells
CEO Private Forests Tasmania