



edotasia

using the law to protect the natural and built environment

Govt climate plan fails to deliver

Tasmania's Environmental Defenders Office has labelled the government's five-year climate plan inadequate and called on it to invest directly in renewable energy, in a submission released today.

"After the global commitments made in Paris and a summer highlighting climate risks, the business-as-usual approach adopted in the draft plan is a real disappointment," EDO Tasmania's principal lawyer, Jess Feehely, said.

"What we need to see from this plan is strong action to increase clean power, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure climate considerations are part of all decisions.

"It's not enough for the government to rely on market forces, it should be directly investing in renewable energy to get us back in front of the pack.

"We've lost our first-mover advantage. Strong government policies have helped South Australia, Victoria and the ACT to overtake us.

"We should be producing enough renewable energy by 2020 to satisfy our needs, and increasing production after that date for export.

"Reinstating a Minister for Climate Change would help to demonstrate a genuine commitment to ensuring climate considerations are part of all government policies, especially transport, population and energy.

"The climate impacts of all major decisions must be formally assessed. The Environment Protection Authority should be given the power to assess and regulate activities which will lead to significant emissions, in order to blunt the impacts of polluting projects.

"Local governments which take positive steps to deal with coastal problems hastened by climate change should be protected from future legal action, and city boundaries set to help rein in urban sprawl and improve the effectiveness of public transport.

"EDO Tasmania appreciates the opportunity to comment on such an important plan and will continue to work with the government to ensure Tasmania is a climate leader rather than a laggard.

For interview, contact Jess Feehely on 0400 803 262

The full EDO Tasmania submission can be downloaded from: www.edotas.org.au.



edotasia

using the law to protect the natural and built environment

EDO Tasmania's Climate Plan recommendations

- Tasmania should source 100% of its power from renewable sources by 2020.
- From 2020 Tasmania should be exporting renewable energy over and above its own needs.
- The Tasmanian Government should be directly investing in renewable energy projects to encourage private sector investment.
- Urban growth boundaries should be set to encourage greater housing density within cities and improve the effectiveness of public transport.
- The moratorium on fracking should be extended indefinitely and given legislative effect. Efforts should focus on renewable energy development, rather than promote shale gas as a 'transition' fuel.
- Tasmania should be aiming for zero net emissions by 2050, with clear interim targets to allow progress to be measured.
- The *Climate Change (State Actions) Act 2008* should be amended to include explicit climate principles to guide planning, policy and purchasing decisions, and to require climate impact assessments for all significant resource management and planning activities.
- The Environment Protection Authority should be assessing any project which will result in significant greenhouse gas emissions.
- A Minister for Climate Change should be appointed to facilitate whole-of-government climate responses.
- An independent, representative Climate Action Council should be re-instated.
- Local governments which implement effective measures to address coastal erosion and other climate induced hazards should be protected from future legal action.
- The Climate Plan must integrate with other key government policies, such as the energy, population, infrastructure and transport policies.
- Each government department should have a climate plan and report against their targets in annual reports.
- Tasmania should sign the Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding to reflect its commitment to significant emissions reduction efforts.

To read the full submission, go to www.edotas.org.au/resources/submissions/.