

# SECOND READING SPEECH

## Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2014

Matthew Groom MP  
Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage

I move – That the Bill now be read for the second time.

I am pleased to bring before the House the Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Bill 2014.

The Bill delivers on the Government's commitment to disband the Tasmanian Climate Action Council.

The Bill repeals Division 3 (Tasmanian Climate Action Council) and Division 4 (Reporting).

It also repeals Schedule 1 (Membership of Council) and Schedule 2 (Meetings of Council).

The *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* provides for the establishment of an eight to ten member Tasmanian Climate Action Council.

There are currently nine Council members including a Chair and Deputy Chair.

Disbanding the Council will deliver cost savings to the Government and is part of our commitment to reduce the number of boards and committees.

The Government will retain the remainder of the Act which includes the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of at least 60 per cent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The Act sets out a number of objectives including facilitating business and community action on climate change issues; contributing to national and international solutions; and supporting measures to help Tasmania adapt to the expected consequences of climate change.

The Government will also retain the Climate Change (Greenhouse Gas Emissions) Regulations 2012.

The Regulations detail how the baseline is measured and the mechanism for calculating changes to greenhouse gas emissions. As Minister, I am required to publish data on Tasmania's emissions annually.

The functions of the Tasmanian Climate Action Council will be undertaken from within existing resources in the Tasmanian Climate Change Office.

These functions include promoting business, community and government action on climate change, advising on progress made towards achieving the State's 2050 emissions reduction target, and identifying and implementing strategies for adapting to the impacts of climate change.

Retaining these elements of the Act is consistent with the Government's priorities such as expanding renewable energy generation, promoting a more efficient public sector, reducing business and household energy costs, increasing energy productivity and growing the agricultural sector.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the current Chair Professor Lesley Hughes, and past and present Council members for their contributions over the past five years.

I commend the Bill to the House.