

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks & Environment

Level 10, 15 Murray Street, HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7739
Email: minister.duigan@dpac.tas.gov.au



9 October 2024

Ms Helen Burnet MP
Member for Clark

c/o Clerk of the Assembly: laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Burnet

Thank you for your constituent question in Parliament on 11 September 2024 regarding climate change and initiatives the government is delivering to reduce emissions and build resilience.

The Tasmanian Government is firmly committed to preserving our beautiful and pristine natural environment. We are taking real action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors including, energy, transport, agriculture, industrial processes, waste, and forestry.

Our key initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions include the development of sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans to support the transition for business, industry and the community to a low emissions economy, increase carbon storage and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

In August this year, the government released the latest Greenhouse Gas Report which showed we again achieved net negative greenhouse gas emissions. Our net greenhouse gas emissions for 2022 were minus 4.34 megatonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ e), which is a decrease of 122.2 per cent from the baseline year of 1990.

In 2014, we were the first Australian jurisdiction to achieve net zero emissions, which we have maintained for the last nine reported years. This accomplishment reflects our longstanding investment in renewable energy generation and the sequestration capacity of our forests. Our economy and population have also grown significantly since the baseline year, demonstrating a low emissions transition is achievable.

In 2022, the Tasmanian Government led the nation by passing an amendment to the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008. The amendment outlined a nation-leading framework and a target of net zero emissions, or lower, from 2030 - the most ambitious legislated emissions reduction target in the nation, and one of the most ambitious in the world. This target complements our commitment to increasing Tasmania's renewable energy output by 200 per cent by 2040, recognising that clean energy is at the core of our decarbonisation agenda.

Our Action Plan will tackle emissions and help reach our target to maintain net zero greenhouse gas emissions or lower from 2030. Our Action Plan is all about practical actions that will improve information and knowledge about climate change, reduce emissions and build resilience - and we are taking real action.

Initiatives currently underway include a large-scale trial of Asparagopsis feed supplements to help farmers reduce livestock methane emissions. This innovative, commercial-scale feed supplement for cattle takes real action to reduce our emissions in Tasmania, equivalent to taking 7000 cars off the road.

Further delivering on our Action Plan we provided funding to assist landowners to plant trees on their land through the Stems for CO2 program, in partnership with Private Forests Tasmania. The program aims to increase carbon sequestration and deliver many other co-benefits.

In the transport sector, our e-transport support package provided rebates to help fund the cost of purchasing electric vehicles, e-mobility devices and interest-free loans for charging infrastructure. We have continued to work on our comprehensive strategy to increase the uptake of electric vehicles, with a focus on charging, financial incentives and education and awareness initiatives.

Our key initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions includes the development of sector-based Emissions Reduction and Resilience Plans to support the transition to a low emissions economy, increase carbon storage and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. We have just released our Transport Plan which invests \$1.4 million to support businesses, industry and the community to transition to cleaner transport alternatives.

Tasmania is rightfully proud of our net zero emissions status and to continuing to reduce Tasmania's greenhouse gas emissions by supporting our economy to successfully transition to low emissions solutions and maintain our prized net zero status.

Tasmania's managed forest estate has a role to play in reducing Tasmania's emissions, by sequestering carbon out of the atmosphere and storing it in wood products, while also providing a renewable, low emissions alternative to emissions-intensive building materials.

Importantly, all native forest that is harvested in Tasmania due to forestry operations must be regenerated as native forest on both public and private land. This regeneration is partly responsible for the large rates of carbon sequestration.

Sustainable forest management will continue to play a key role in keeping Tasmania carbon negative. When timber is harvested from Tasmania's native forests it is done so in accordance with our world class forest practices system.

The Tasmanian Government has a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions and maintain our carbon storage and remains firmly committed to addressing the challenges and opportunities around climate change and to building the Tasmanian circular economy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duigan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and