

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

REPORT OF DEBATES

Wednesday 19 October 2022

REVISED EDITION

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Wednesday 19 October 2022

The President, **Mr Farrell**, took the Chair at 11 a.m., acknowledged the Traditional People and read Prayers.

VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC AMENDMENT (DRIVER DISTRACTION AND SPEED ENFORCEMENT) BILL 2022 (No. 20)

Third Reading

[11.06 a.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - I move that the bill now be read for the third time.

Bill read the third time.

JUSTICE MISCELLANEOUS (ADVANCE CARE DIRECTIVES) BILL 2022 (No. 41)

Second Reading

[11.07 a.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I move -

That the bill be now read the second time.

This bill contains minor amendmenst that update and clarify a number of provisions in the Guardianship and Administration (Advance Care Directives) Act 2021, the Advance Care Directives Act. Advance care directives are instructions around a person's future decisions regarding health care which enables Tasmanians to put their affairs in order when they are able, typically as they age. They can be an important part of end-of-life care.

As members will recall, the Advance Care Directives Act was passed in parliament in October last year and provides greater clarity about advance care directives, including their legal status, and greater certainty about protections for health practitioners and others responsible for giving effect to them.

The Advance Care Directives Act also enables those who are providing health care to understand the values, wishes and preferences of a person at the time when they have lost the ability to make decisions and communicate those views. The Advance Care Directives Act draws on the important and extensive work delivered by the Tasmania Law Reform Institute in its review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1995, the Guardianship Act.

The minor amendments proposed in this bill are needed now to reflect the abolition of the Guardianship and Administration Board and the transfer of responsibilities for related proceedings to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal which is now TasCAT.

The need for these amendments arises because the Advance Care Directives Act and the Tasmanian Civil and Administration Tribunal Amendment Act 2021, the TasCAT Amendment Act, were considered by parliament at approximately the same time last year. Due to the similar timing, the TasCAT Amendment Act could not amend the Advance Care Directives Act at that time in respect of terminology and other matters that were intended to be transferred to TasCAT. These amendments are now required as the minister advises the commencement date for the Advance Care Directives Act will be 21 November 2022, as reflected by a suitable amendment in this bill. Many of the amendments simply substitute reference to the Board - being the Guardianship and Administration Board - in the Advance Care Directives Act with the reference "Tribunal' to reflect the commencement of TasCAT in November 2021.

The bill also updates some provisions contained in the Advance Care Directives Act to address matters that were repealed in the Guardianship Act and are now reflected in the TasCAT Amendment Act. For example, this includes giving effect to the Advance Care Directives Act's amendment to extent protections available to the former Guardianship and Administration Board to the Public Guardian. These relate to actions taken by the Public Guardian, or information provided as a consequence of the expanded responsibility of the Public Guardian in relation to advance care directives.

The bill also inserts a definition of 'Tribunal' into the Guardianship Act and a definition of 'advance care directives' into the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2020, for the purposes of clarity.

Finally, Mr President, as mentioned before, the bill provides for a commencement date for the Advance Care Directives Act, of 21 November 2022. This is required to ensure that amendments to the Guardianship Act and the TasCAT Amendment Act have commenced prior to parliament's consideration of the second tranche of reforms to the Guardianship Act in a bill which the minister intends to consult on in October.

In conclusion, the proposed amendments are administrative in nature and will enable the Advance Care Directives Act to commence.

Mr President, I commend the bill to the Council.

[11.12 a.m.]

Ms FORREST (Murchison) - Mr President, I welcome this bill and I am pleased to see a commencement date. This has been raised with me in my community about people who take prepared advance care directives seriously, as we all should, to ensure that their wishes are complied with - particularly regarding their end-of-life care.

Most of this is a tidying up act, referring to the tribunal rather than the board and noting the commencement date related to those provisions. I also note the review of the second tranche of the Guardianship Act, that will be subject to public comment now and hopefully will be tabled in parliament before the end of the year. This is an important area of ensuring people's rights are respected and their voices are heard, particularly for those who may lose their capacity to have their wishes respected. That can be in a sudden event or it can be over a period of time.

I take this opportunity to remind people, particularly those who may read this or may listen to this, of the importance of talking about death and dying. It is never an easy conversation because we have to admit our own mortality to have that conversation, which can be a bit of a challenge. However, it can make such a difference to the end-of-life care and the end-of-life experience, not just for the person who is dying but for that person's loved ones who are involved in that care and that important life event. We do not seem to have such trouble talking about birth. Birth is another life-changing event. While we do not need to talk about all the intricacies with every person about what a woman and the family want around their birth - whether it be the place of birth, the nature of the type of birth they want to experience and that sort of thing - we do talk about their birth plans. We talk about what we would like to have, who we would like to have and how we want the birth of our children managed. We are open and frank and willing to have those conversations. We need to be equally frank and open and willing to have the conversations around death and dying.

It does make a difference, as a healthcare professional, if you have some guidance on what matters to this person. Particularly, if the person comes into your care in a position where they are unconscious and cannot verbally indicate or are unable to communicate for some other reason, you are able to be informed and aware of what their wishes actually are.

The previous bill dealt with that. What I am pleased to see is the commencement date, which is not that far away toward the end of November, which is great. I hope that as a result of that, there will be some promotion from the Government to say you can now start making and registering the more formalised advance care directives. If we do not put it out in the public, we do not even stimulate that conversation. Stimulating that conversation can stimulate the conversation we all need to have around our own death and our own dying, which we will all get to.

It is a bit like when we have the annual day for DonateLife, for organ donation - that again is another trigger for people to talk about their own and loved ones' deaths. We should not make it a taboo subject, it should be one of the things you talk about around the dinner table, you talk about with your family. I admit it can be difficult, but unless we do, people will not necessarily experience the death they would like to have, or the people around them make it more traumatising than they need to as a result.

It is not always possible. We know that some people die very young, in often tragic circumstances, we talked about that yesterday. However, we do have the opportunity to make this a more normalised conversation. I hope this and the promotional work that will be done on it - I think the Leader has indicated by a nod, but I am sure she will respond to that - will actually help to trigger those conversations and make it a less taboo thing to talk about. It is going to happen to all of us, it is also going to happen to those we love.

Mrs Hiscutt - It is one thing we are certain of, is it not?

Ms FORREST - Yes, that is right. Mr President, I support the bill.

[11.17 a.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) -Mr President, on that, Palliative Care Tasmania has been given a program to educate their group on that. The Tasmania Health Service (THS) is getting a working group together to educate people, and that will probably be in the form of print media, but there is a working group organising that. Bill read the second time.

Third reading made an order of the day for tomorrow.

JUSTICE MISCELLANEOUS (ADVANCE CARE DIRECTIVES) BILL 2022 (No. 41)

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 agreed to.

Clauses 6 and 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 -

Section 15 amended (Part 5A inserted)

[11.20 a.m.]

Mr VALENTINE - To place on the record the question that I asked during briefings with regard to clause 8, Section 15 amended, subclause (a), it repeats itself, following on as to why it is stated to be inserted by that section. It sounds like it is after the event but I am assuming that this is because the bill in question does not come into play until 21 November 2022. Therefore, it is before the event, rather than after. You may wish to explain that for the record.

Mrs HISCUTT - The member for Hobart does understand it correctly. The bill amends section 15. Section 15 inserts many sections 'to be inserted' to this bill. It refers to them. Your analogy of that terminology is correct.

Clause 8 agreed to.

Clause 9 -

Section 19 substituted

Ms RATTRAY - The briefing session is always a valuable opportunity to further discuss bills before we come to the Chamber. I am interested in Section 19 substituted, Section 45 amended (a), and then (a) talks about:

(a) the wishes, directions, preferences and values of the person (including those expressed in an advance care directive) so far as they can be ascertained;

As I said, we spoke in the briefing about how a directive can be a verbal directive as long as it is witnessed by a medical professional. Is that the only verbal directive that can be classed as an actual directive? We talked also about how sometimes there is not always a lot of time to provide a written directive. It is a very good alternative to getting something in writing. I am interested in whether that is the only type of person who can witness an oral directive or verbal directive. **Mrs HISCUTT** - Members are probably aware that a normal written one can be witnessed by any two independent people. A verbal one is usually done - dare I say, under distress, would be a better term - usually in a hospital. There are usually medical practitioners there. It is people wanting to do something straightaway. It still has to be witnessed by or heard by two people, one of whom has to be a medical practitioner. The other person could be a person who is there and listens at the same time, but one of them has to be a medical practitioner.

Clause 9 agreed to.

Clauses 10 and 11 agreed to.

Clauses 12, 13, and 14 agreed to.

Clauses 15, 16 and 17 agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

CLIMATE CHANGE (STATE ACTION) AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (No. 63)

In Committee

Resumed from 18 October 2022 (page 82).

Clause 1 -

[11.28 a.m.]

Madam CHAIR - Before I call on the Leader, I will remind members how many speaks they have had on clause 1 already. I have had a speak, the member for Mersey has had two, the member for Rumney has had one, the member for Hobart has had one, and the member for Nelson has had one.

Mrs HISCUTT - Madam Chair, I take the opportunity to thank the minister who came to our briefing this morning. He did undertake to make a commitment and I have that commitment here in my hand. I will read it into *Hansard* and, quoting the minister:

As Minister for Environment and Climate Change and on behalf of the Government I am making the following commitment. Subject to the proposed amendments regarding a Joint Standing Committee on Climate Change and a Climate Change Advisory Council not becoming part of the bill, the Government will review advisory-type bodies in other states and territories and consult to determine the best model for Tasmania. The Government will bring back to parliament, within 18 months of the bill's passage, legislation to give effect to an advisory-type body on climate change related issues for Tasmania.

The minister is very determined that he will do that. He has put that in writing in the letter to the member for Murchison, who read that into *Hansard* yesterday. Now, he has made that personal commitment that the Government - it is not just the minister, there were concerns

about a change of the minister - he has made the commitment on behalf of himself and the Government. That is his commitment.

Mr GAFFNEY - Madam Chair, for the record, I appreciated the opportunity we had this morning to listen to the minister. That was really valuable. We now have a better understanding of what the Government intends to do. I can also understand Labor's support of the pathway they have taken. I believe it was reasonable. I note that the minister made it very clear that if he was not in that portfolio position this would still stand, and it was important for us to hear that.

I initially raised the possibility of why it was going to take 12 months instead of the original 18 months. Once you hear the process about what needed to be done before it came back, 18 months was the maximum time that it had to be. The Leader might like to outline the process the minister mentioned today, for the benefit of members. There was quite a lot of work, especially outlining to people about the consultation period and what they would do. It is important for people listening to understand how much has to be done in a legislative sense, for that amendment bill to come back to the parliament. That would be appreciated.

My question is, could the Leader explain to people listening the process that the minister outlined this morning? We have a record of it, but people from the outside have not.

Mrs HISCUTT - I will seek some further advice on that. Yesterday, I did mention that there are plans that are lined up for two years within the climate change amendment bill. There are plans for transport, which are hoped to be done within 12 months. There are risk assessments, which are hoped to be done within two years. There is development of the policy framework. The process is that there is a review; there is a discussion paper, which is then consulted on; then there is a draft amendment to the bill; then there is a draft bill; then there is consultation on the draft bill; and then there is the introduction of the final bill.

Now, these consultation stages do not just happen - they take a length of time. The feedback is then assessed, and there may, or may not, be changes made. It can take a length of time. The minister is prepared to follow that process, to get it right for Tasmania.

Mr Gaffney - While you are on your feet.

Mrs HISCUTT - Yes.

Mr Gaffney - It was my understanding from the minister this morning, that there would be a consultation phase of going out to research all the other states and territories, then they would come back, then they would put a draft amendment bill out to stakeholders - to the public for further discussion. I am making it very clear. You said a consultation period. A consultation period could just be between the Government. I want to make certain that it is out to the public, and that stakeholders listening will have opportunity at both of those processes.

Madam CHAIR - Order, you have made your point.

Mrs HISCUTT - I am happy to add a public consultation to every consultation that I said through that. Yes, it will be public consultation, all feedback will be addressed, or at least looked at.

Mr VALENTINE - I also thank the Leader for organising the briefing with the minister. It was very important. I take in good faith what the minister was saying to us in terms of his intentions. I hope that we can see some very good examination of what other jurisdictions are doing regarding climate councils and the like. Obviously, it is important for us when we are looking at these things, that we are getting the best advice. We have such a significant climate change science community here in this state and should be using them. I thank you for that and look forward to what comes back.

My question is to make sure that what we see is something that is very fulsome in its application. I am imagining and you may wish to confirm, we are looking at aspects associated with sectoral emissions when it comes to the work the climate council might be addressing itself to. That will be considered in the review the minister is doing. Are you able to confirm that?

Mrs HISCUTT - I can confirm that for anybody who responds to a consultation period, if that is what you are asking, all submissions will be looked at. Is that what you are asking?

Mr Valentine - It was with sectoral emissions, I wanted to make sure that will be part of the review of what the minister will be looking for.

Mrs HISCUTT - It will not particularly be part of the review, no.

Mr Valentine - I would hope, but anyway. You are giving me the answer.

Mrs HISCUTT - Anyone who wants to make comment on that during the two consultation sessions are more than welcome to.

Ms WEBB - Madam Chair, I will not reiterate the things already said by both the member for Mersey and the member for Hobart other than to say it was good to have the briefing this morning. The matter I wanted to touch on was in relation to the proposition put to us that an 18-month time frame was required rather than a more expedited one. We know across that time there will be work undertaken on a climate action plan, risk assessment plan, sectoral-based emissions reduction plans. All of which, we would have expected an expert advisory independent council to have had input into and will not. An 18-month duration until we get legislation on the council of some sort. It was put to us that part of that reason for the length of time was resourcing. I wanted it put it on the record and remind the Government that of course, resourcing is entirely a matter for the minister and the Cabinet in this area.

If there are, in fact, only 10 staff - as we have been told - doing this vast array of work, including now this investigation into options for a council, perhaps that is a relevant consideration for the upcoming state budget and even for interim boosts to funding. Perhaps - has the minister considered the need to actually look at increased funding in this area so there are adequate staff and capacity to undertake the work?

Mrs HISCUTT - I am sure the finances of this are an ongoing consideration for the minister and the Cabinet. I am sure they are thinking about it all the time, how much money it is going to cost.

Clauses 2 and 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 -Section 3 amended (Interpretation)

[11.38 a.m.]

Ms LOVELL - I move the amendment in my name, Clause 4 -

First amendment

Page 6, after paragraph (a).

Insert the following paragraph:

(ab) by inserting the following definition after the definition of *emissions offset programs:*

'fair and equitable transition 'means a transition towards a low-carbon economy that is just and fair and maximises opportunities for decent jobs, economic prosperity and social inclusion;

Madam Chair, I am moving this amendment which is inserting a definition, but I will put the argument why that definition would be required, and this is all hinging on a further amendment that would require this definition.

It is always a little clunky when we do it this way but to be clear for members, in demonstrating support or otherwise for this amendment, that will indicate support for a further amendment requiring this definition. I will put the argument for both at the same time.

One of the key objectives the Labor Party has always had when considering this bill and climate action in general is whether the action we take protects those who are most vulnerable and whether in taking appropriate action on climate change, we also ensure there are provisions for a just transition. There is no argument that the climate is already changing, or certainly not in this Chamber, and it is having a significant impact on our communities and our economy today. There are communities across Tasmania that are dealing with the consequences of that climate change today, and have been for some time.

The inclusion of a provision to define a just transition, and the further amendments that I will seek to move about how that may be reflected in the objectives of the act and how that may be considered by Government in making their decisions, are to ensure that the people who are impacted most by not only climate change, but the action we take to address climate change, are supported through that change. It is also to ensure those people are supported through the leadership of Government in a coordinated, concerted and organised way to make that transition in a manner that it fair to them and does not disproportionately burden them.

The community of Fingal and the coalmine that currently operates in Fingal is often used as an example when we talk about climate action -

Ms Rattray - Cornwall Coal.

Ms LOVELL - Cornwall Coal. Thank you, member for McIntyre. There is an operational coal mine, and it has been mining for some time in Tasmania.

It is clear that a shift away from coal is beginning and certainly coming. Customers for that product are actively looking for replacements for coal as alternative fuel sources that are better for the environment. There is no doubt there will come a time in the future when the community of Fingal will face the closure of that coalmine.

That coalmine has a significant impact on the community, and any closure or reduction in the operations of that coalmine will have a significant impact on that region. That is the reality we are facing; and that is the reality for many communities around Tasmania.

Embedding a definition of a just transition and an objective in this act, is to make sure that where those transitions are needed - and we are not arguing that they are not needed - there is action to support the communities in that transition.

It is about making sure that we have appropriate structures in place to support that transition to occur. That can happen in a responsive way, and we will likely see at some stage in the future an example with Fingal. The Government can also take a proactive approach in making the most of opportunities that arise from transitions that create employment and support those communities in a way that provides for good, secure jobs and a benefit to that community.

This is about making sure that we support communities with the changes that will be necessary as we further decarbonise our economy. We know, through consultation, that the local government sector is particularly interested in ensuring those robust frameworks are in place to support the work they need to do to help communities - whether that be through changes in industry, or because of the impact of change on our environment - and what that means for the local government sector and the provision of their services.

We also know that one of the biggest challenges that can be faced in the conversation about climate change and climate action, and particularly one of the sources of resistance to climate action, is the impact that will have on communities, on people's jobs. We have seen that in the past, with changes to industry. We do not want to repeat the mistakes that have been made in the past. We need to ensure that those communities are supported.

I urge members to support the amendment that I have read out:

'fair and equitable transition' means a transition towards a low-carbon economy that is just and fair and maximises opportunities for decent jobs, economic prosperity and social inclusion;

They are the three elements that we believe are the relevant elements that need to be considered.

I know there have been some questions about the wording, particularly in regard to jobs and how you might measure what a 'decent job' is. It is a subjective term. It is a difficult thing to measure, and it is hard to put parameters around what a decent job might look like in a way that will fit communities and fit industries across the board, because there is no one-size-fitsall solution. We have landed on that term because we believe that term captures the range of things that you would consider when looking at whether work is meaningful, whether it is secure, whether it is well paid, all of those types of things. I look forward to hearing feedback from members on the amendment but I hope to see support across the Chamber. **Ms RATTRAY** - I place my support for the member's amendment. The example that was put forward by the member for Rumney is exactly what we need to be focusing on, and not only in the mining industry but in the agriculture industry and the fishing industry, in all our industries. As has been stated, there will be some impacts and some of them will not be well received. That was my question regarding the word 'decent' so I thank you for the explanation.

I do not have an alternative word to put there but it crossed my mind how you would assess and determine what a decent job is. Just having 'job' might not necessarily be something so I do not know if any other members can come up with a better word. I am struggling with the word 'decent', but I understand it was not easy to determine what type of employment, what type of job you would put there because it is such an important aspect of what we had.

I do not have a question; rather, I am asking other members if they might suggest a better word. Perhaps the Government has a better word but if that is what we need to clearly articulate people still being meaningfully employed then I am comfortable to go with that and I support the amendment.

Mrs HISCUTT - The Government does not agree with the inclusion of the proposed amendment because we do not agree with the related and substantive amendments to add both new objects relating to a fair and equitable transition, nor the inclusion of principles to guide a fair and equitable transition. It is hard to put that into actual 'doings'. In broad terms we agree with the intent. We want Tasmanians to do well as we transition to a low emissions economy but we do not consider this should be legislated in this bill.

The purpose of the emissions reduction and resilience plans is to work with communities, industries and businesses so it already there in the bill. The bill clearly recognises that this is a transition and it has been accounted for. Clause 5C(2)(b) is for the plans. They must support the transition to a low emissions economy and if members wanted to look at that on page 14 of the bill, that is already there.

As the member had noted, some of the terms in the definition are themselves difficult to legally define and assess. Broaden the scope of the bill and incorporate aspects of industrial relations law and that is out of scope and inappropriate for this bill. It is not clear how a 'just and fair' or a 'decent job' or 'economic prosperity and social inclusion' are further defined. All worthy terms but this is law we are doing and it has to be defined.

Further defining and assessing these concepts from a legislative perspective could be difficult. How do you define a 'decent' job? Somebody might say the job they have is not decent because they do not like it. So how do you define a 'decent' job? These terms are difficult to legally define and assess, particularly considering that the transition to a low emissions economy is occurring at a global scale that will continue to be driven by international and national forces.

No supporting details or analysis has been provided as to the cost of implementing the measures, the potential implications or interactions with other state legislation or who has been consulted in the development of the proposed amendments. The focus of this bill is clearly outlined in its five objectives. They are: to provide the targets, reporting and oversight; reduce emissions; adapt and build resilience to climate change; facilitate contribution to international, national and local actions on climate change; and support a consultative partnership approach.

The fifth object clearly supports a consultative partnership approach, reflecting the aim of the bill to work with industry and the community to reduce emissions. This ensures that emissions reduction pathways identified are equitable, achievable and practicable. No industry will close as a result of this bill and the Government will not close any industry either. Instead, the Government supports a planned shift to a lower emissions economy, developed in partnership with industry and communities. Indeed, the economic analysis indicates that the changes proposed to lower emissions will generate higher economic growth and more jobs than business as usual, negating the need for the proposed protections. Where structural economic changes do occur for whatever reasons, the Government will continue to support communities, workers and industries as it has done in the past without the need for specific legislation.

In recent times, such as throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, this has taken the form of industry grants, targeted skills and training support, hardship grants and other employment supports. However, the Government does agree there needs to be a set of principles to guide decision-making in the context of climate change but these principles should not be legislated.

Accordingly, in response to the independent review last year, the Tasmanian Government committed to developing a whole-of-government policy framework, to ensure that relevant Tasmanian government plans, policies and strategies are guided by climate change considerations. The framework will consider ministerial guidelines, guidance material and decision support tools, and information on recent scientific, legal and market developments and training opportunities.

The policy framework will be co-designed with agencies to ensure it is flexible, fit for purpose, applies to relevant policies, plans and strategies and meets community expectations. The framework will also include the seven principles recommended by the independent review, developed throughout its extensive consultation, which broadly addresses some of the issues raised with this amendment. There are seven principles. I will go through them because members can see that is already taken care of in the bill that is here.

The principles are sustainable development and social equity. The description of that principle is climate action. Any government action that has a direct impact on climate change mitigation or adaptation efforts should provide benefits to both current and future generations of Tasmanians. In particular, consideration of vulnerable communities and First Nations' practices should occur. Members can see that one is already there.

Then we talk about transparency and reporting. Reporting on climate action should be timely, transparent and accurate and made available to the public. Third principle, science-based approach. Climate change action should be scientifically substantiated and align with limiting global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Then we go onto integrated decision-making. Decision-making on climate change action is integrated, addressing environment, social and economic considerations over short-, medium- and long-term time frames. Then we talk about risk management. Climate change action adequately reflects that assessed risks and risks of actions and inaction are addressed.

Then we move onto the next principle of community engagement. Proposed climate change action takes into account the views of interested and relevant members of the community through appropriate engagement.

Lastly, complementary. Climate change action should reflect an appropriate level of cohesion and relevant state, national and international climate change developments.

That is a lot to take in, members, but the basic message from that is the intent of this amendment is wonderful, but it is already there. There is no need to add anything else.

Mr VALENTINE - What this is trying to do is basically embed a socially-aware approach to the transition, by putting this definition in place, it is as simple as that. I have seen many bills come through this place where the terms that are used are not as defined as we might want them to be. Yes, I understand the point the Leader is making with respect to some of those principles being included in the act. Quite honestly, I do not think this does any harm. It provides that overarching understanding, that in going through all of this process as a government, through this legislation, we are going to be absolutely aware of those in our community who are going to be affected more than others.

Think of something like the flooding. People on the low lands are the ones who are affected. They are the ones who are going to be flooded. The people on the high lands do not just sit back and watch, they actually get down there and help them. That is an interesting concept. We are just going through floods and the like. We are going to get a briefing at lunchtime on the assistance we are providing.

To embed something like this in this bill is important. I support the amendment purely and simply because it states up-front in this definition how we want to see this progress. I do not think we would want to see our actions totally fettered and come to a standstill to the nth degree and cost us very significantly as a state. However, we do have to have these things in mind so people are not left behind. It is the whole community that matters. We are trying to put something in place that is very much collegial. As a community we are tackling this together. It is a global issue. This is an important amendment, I am going to support it.

Mrs HISCUTT - We are making legislation here. This is law, it is not just backing up, backing up, reiterating. Once it is there, it is there. I have clearly articulated where it is in other places, the intent and the principles. There is no need to duplicate it because it is already there. I urge members the intent of the clause, the amendment is good, but it is already there, so there is no need for members to be voting for this. I urge members to vote against this amendment.

Ms WEBB - A few remarks on this. In a moment, I will get to the fact that of course, it simply is not there. I will go into more detail about that in a moment. Some general comments about why I support the amendment put forward. Basically, the very straightforward and uncontroversial way to include in this legislation very clear democratic, social justice, human rights-based principles about including those who are impacted in decision-making and planning. We know inevitably that there will be people who are impacted and that we should be taking them all along with us if we want to have the best trajectory in responding to this massive challenge we have. All those impacted need to be part of integrally informing how we go forward with our transition process.

We need lived experience in that conversation. We need all voices that are impacted around an industry, region or a particular issue that comes up in the context of our transition plan to be able to help inform the best way forward. If the government of the day is genuine about bringing the whole Tasmanian community along with them on this climate change adaptation journey, then we have to have meaningful, respectful and clearly articulated within the foundational legislation, the fact that we will be doing that: we will be bringing everyone along with us.

It is also quite broadly and uncontroversially recommended on all global and even national conversations around climate change. One example of the many I could pull out, the 2017 report to the OECD stated this:

Nonetheless, the just transition will not happen by itself. It requires plans and policies. Workers and communities dependent on fossil fuels will not find alternative sources of income and revenue overnight. This is why transformation is not only about phasing out polluting sectors, it is also about new jobs, new industries, new skills, new investment and the opportunity to create a more equal and resilient economy.

It is clearly articulated in almost everything you read about transition to new economies within the climate change challenge. This is not new. It is not a radical concept. We can look to national examples and I point to Victoria. Currently, they have had a just transition body put in place in the Latrobe Valley. There is an alliance there consisting of trade unions, workers, environment groups, local council, community reps, all feeding into a Latrobe Valley Just Transition strategy. The Hunter Valley in New South Wales is another area looking at just transition. Both, of course, are coal-dependent.

We have the situation where the Leader says this is already here and the fact of the matter is it is not in the legislation. When it comes to the legislation the Leader pointed to 5(C). This is the section that deals with sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans, and she pointed to (2)(b), with (2) being 'the development of an emissions reduction and resilience plan must support', and (b) says 'the transition to a low emissions economy'. That is fine for that there but if we look at 5(C) and the development of these sector-based emission and resilience plans, who is the Government proposing to have a say in developing them? Look to subclause (1), it says 'the Minister, in consultation with each relevant portfolio Minister, is to consult with business and industry representatives'. That is all it says there.

I have amendments to broaden that out, but at the moment this legislation says, developing these plans only has to include essentially industry voices. We cannot look to 5(C), subclause (2)(b) to be some sort of equivalent to having a just transition purposeful mechanism in this legislation. It simply does not include anybody else in the community or any of those necessarily affected in a community, within the workers, or anybody. It is meaningless to point to that part of the bill and say it is somehow equivalent to ensuring a just transition.

The Leader pointed to the principles document which we have been made aware of. These are principles that sit outside the legislation. They are good principles. I agree with every one of these seven principles and we are all pleased to see them clearly articulated by the minister as underpinning the work that is being undertaken, excellent. They are not legislated and it potentially means they can be changed, adjusted, become different over time. Yes, we would all like to think they would stay there and stay robustly applied, but again, without being in legislation we cannot even hold to account how robustly they are being applied. Without in any way taking away from those seven principles - because I applaud them - it is simply not right to say this is covered by having those principles there. It is not in the legislation; therefore, it is vulnerable. I thoroughly agree with this amendment and the subsequent one alongside it. There is nothing controversial about it. It is baffling to me. I want to hear a reason why we would not do it. Why would we not do it? That would be good to hear from the Government. What does it risk? What it risks is that more parts of our community who are being affected by this get to have a say on how we move forward with it. If that is something the Government is keen to block, that is a shame. If there is another reason I want to hear it.

Mrs HISCUTT - I will draw the member's attention to page 11, paragraph (e), where it talks about 'consultation with relevant business, industry, scientific, environmental and community bodies, children and young people, local government and the Tasmania community'. That is there so there is more than just what the member for Nelson has said and then on page 14, subclause (4), it also says:

(4) Before preparing a sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plan under subsection (1) or (3), the Minister is to cause a draft sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plan to be published online and call for public comment.

So, there is plenty of room there, where it involves plenty of people across the Tasmanian community, local government and the public.

Mr VALENTINE - Madam Chair, consultation is one thing, but acting on what that consultation might find is another. Having the definition in the bill clearly provides direction to those who are considering the consultation. That is the way I see that.

[12.05 p.m.]

Ms LOVELL - Madam Chair, I will address some of the comments that have been made, bearing in mind that there may be some ongoing debate.

I thank the member for McIntyre, the member for Hobart and the member for Nelson for their comments, and I will come back to some of those comments. I agree with what has been contributed by those three members.

Turning to some of the comments made by the Leader in response to the amendment, I find myself a little confused. I find the argument a little confusing, to be honest. I am not confused. I think I see it pretty clearly. On the one hand, the Leader started by saying we do not agree with the amendment; we do not agree with the related amendments to the objects and the principles, because we agree with the intent but do not agree that it should be legislated. Then later in the same contribution, she said the intent is good but the amendment is unnecessary because it is already in the bill. Either it is already in the bill, which means it is legislated, or it is not in the bill because you do not think it should be in the bill and it should not be legislated. They are two conflicting arguments. People can draw their own conclusions from that.

The member for Nelson has pointed out that it is not in the bill, and I understand that the Leader and the Government are pointing to some parts of the bill that they believe address enough of this. I disagree, and we may need to agree to disagree with that. I guess we will figure out who agrees to agree, and who agrees to disagree, when the vote occurs. We can leave that where it is.

In relation to the Leader's comments about how you define decent jobs, I refer back to what the member for Hobart said, who summed this up well. We do not always have black and white definitions for every word or term or principle we use in legislation. Sometimes it is about an intent, and that is what this is - because sometimes things cannot be defined. The argument was put that someone might be able to say that it is not a decent job because they do not like it. That is pretty nonsensical.

I do not want to go down the track where we start to talk about chicken farms and things again, because let us be clear - we are talking about a principle here, and it is about intent. It is not something that you can define. Does that mean we should not be focusing on it in legislation and we should not explicitly have and talk about our intent as a Government, as a parliament, what we believe should be considered? I do not believe that is what it means. If that was the case, we would suddenly find ourselves very limited about what we might be able to have in legislation.

The Leader also said that no industry will close as a result of this bill. That is a big statement to make. I also argue that if no industry is going to close as a result of - maybe not this bill, but as a result of climate action - then what are we doing? There are industries that will close. We know that. There is no argument. There should be no argument with that because if we are not taking meaningful climate action, then what are we doing? The key here is not about stopping industries from closing, it is about working with those industries and the people who are employed by them and exactly transitioning them. Transitioning those industries and those communities in a way that is just and equitable, and supported and concerted. That is what this amendment is about.

Mr Gaffney - On that point, could you explain? You have lost me a little bit there -

Madam CHAIR - You have a call, yes.

Ms LOVELL - The Leader also pointed to clause 5A(6)(e) on page 11, talking about consultation. What is concerning throughout this bill is that in all the references to consultation there is no mention of workers. There is talk of business, there is talk of industry, but there is no mention of workers. Workers are the ones who are going to be most impacted by much of the climate action that we take. It will not surprise the Leader that I have an amendment to that clause. I argue that is not enough on its own.

I finish this contribution by coming back to something that the member for Nelson talked about in her second reading contribution - my paraphrasing is probably bad here. The member spoke about the impact that climate action will have on some of our most vulnerable people, and that one of the keys with successful climate action is to bring people along with you. When we are asking people to take, or even support, climate action, that action may come at the expense of their livelihood, especially now. Look around at what is happening with the cost of living and livelihoods. If we are asking people to take action at the expense of their livelihood, that is not a reasonable choice to ask people to make. If your choice is something that is going to impact on future generations or putting food on the table, what kind of a choice is that?

I believe, and I hope other members believe, that it is important that we explicitly demonstrate from the outset that we understand that, and that we will specifically be focusing on that, to help people come along on this journey. I will finish there, but I suspect there will be other contributions yet to go.

Mrs HISCUTT - I want to clarify 'close' versus 'transition', and the definition of the words. I feel as though I have been verballed here, so I need to clarify this. No business will close because of this bill. They will be helped to transition. This brings me back to cows and somebody being worried about having to reduce their herd by 30 per cent and so on. No business will close; it will transition. I want to make that clear. If this bill comes into effect tomorrow, no business will be shut; they will be helped to transition.

The objects - proposed new section 4(e) - of the bill clearly defines a consultative approach. I want to make that clear on *Hansard*, that we are not talking about 'close' as in, tomorrow it is all turned off. They will be helped to transition their businesses to a more climate-friendly way.

Ms Lovell - In a fair and equitable way.

Mrs HISCUTT - Yes, thank you.

Ms FORREST - Madam Deputy Chair, I absolutely support the overarching principle of this. We need to consider the impact on whole communities. This is a whole-of-community, it is a whole-of-world response. There will be changes - there have to be changes - otherwise we are on a self-destruction path to the end of the world as we know it. It might sound dramatic but essentially, that is what we are seeing. I have discussed this proposed amendment at length with people who are very engaged in the climate space, who have raised very genuine and legitimate concerns about it but from a slightly different perspective.

They support the need to support the vulnerable. We should. We should keep them at the forefront of our thinking. These are people who are disadvantaged, people who cannot afford to move to a better location if they live near a river. This is an argument at Lismore right now. In fact the new general manager at the Circular Head Council came directly from Lismore. When I was talking to her the other day, it is a very real and live problem about how do you move the people out of the river flood zone, because that is where a lot of the town is. We simply cannot permit people to continue to build in those places. Even if we take dramatic and drastic action, we are still going to see those floods. We are seeing them here, we are seeing them in Victoria now. Echuca is going to be hit with a double whammy with rivers coming from both directions almost. It is very real.

When I spoke about whether this was an appropriate step to take, the intent - absolutely. Apologies, Madam Deputy Chair, I am trying to get my papers in order.

Mrs Hiscutt - As we know, Hansard does not record for you.

Ms FORREST - I spoke at length to people with a great deal of knowledge in the climate policy space and the economic space. Climate economics as well as climate policy and climate action. It is a little problematic in a number of ways. What this amendment seeks to do, if you put it into the act as it is - this is not only the one that the member has just moved, it is the other parts that relate to it. We are really debating the whole picture, not only that one amendment that the member has moved. It is suggesting that the government should be required to underwrite every job, every industry and every person.

Now, we know and we have seen from the government - previous and probably current at some point - support for the forestry industry where they were required to transition away from native forest harvesting. They put in lots of support, lots of packages - whether they were all delivered appropriately and in the right spots is a separate matter but the government responded. They took action to assist those who were having to transition out of that sector or into different parts of that sector. They step in, they do that.

This is not Tasmania but in Lismore, I imagine the government there, federal and perhaps state, but certainly state and local, will need to support that community to move people out of the river zone. I am quite confident they will do it. What did we see during COVID-19? We saw enormous amounts of financial and other support provided to people in need. A lot of those were vulnerable people, elderly people, people with disabilities. We could argue that they are not caring about them so much right at the minute but that is a separate argument.

Regardless, we have seen governments step in to deal with a crisis or a transition. Once you put something like this, not just the definition, the whole amendment into the bill - if we agree to this, you are basically agreeing to that - then we are going to see that the government is going to be almost legally bound. This is the advice I have from legal people as well - legally bound to underwrite every person who may be impacted by the actions we must take. If we do not take these actions we are doomed. I want these actions taken.

I represent an area, as all of you know, that has a lot of big energy users in my electorate. They have many other pressures on them to so-called 'change their ways'. I talked about this in my contribution on the bill. Whilst it was not related directly to the bill, I think it related to the bill, despite the Leader's comments in her summing up that we did not address the bill. Smack, smack for you.

They have significant and growing ESG or environment, social and governance requirements to meet to get capital. They will not get funding - we are seeing that with the coal industry. You can see it happening around the whole country. If they are not working toward much more sustainable environmental, social and governance arrangements in their companies, their businesses, their industries, they will no longer exist. They will not be able to get the money. People will not put money into their businesses. These are publicly listed companies, some of them. They all need to raise capital from time to time.

That is why mines such as Avebury have ordered their first electric jumbo underground drill rig. That is why they are putting in electric haulage trucks; why they are looking at electric above-ground vehicles, the light vehicles that also go underground. That is why they are making decisions to move from an above-ground pit to make their mine underground. It is a much smaller carbon footprint, it has far less emissions. We still need these critical minerals out of the ground. They will not get funding if they do not comply with the expectations we have here.

They already have those pressures on them. Should we have to underwrite those as a government, if they have to go out and buy a new electric jumbo? Should we have to do that? No. I do not think we should, they should have to do that.

Ms Webb - Since you have made that statement, while you are on your feet, can you point to the part where you think it says that we as a state have to underwrite it?

Ms FORREST - This is what I am hearing from people with legal -

Ms Webb - Excellent. Can you point to the part where they have advised you it indicates that? Otherwise it is hard for us to engage.

Ms FORREST - Once it is in legislation it is a legal requirement. That is the fact.

Ms Webb - Sure, but the part of the new paragraph (ab). It is only so that we can engage with what you are saying if we are going to make the next contribution. It is difficult if you have not pointed to the part.

Ms FORREST - Once you enshrine principles or responsibilities on government in legislation, then you have the legal question, is this legally binding?

Mrs Hiscutt - Another legal argument is, is it a 'decent' job?

Ms FORREST - There are a whole range of arguments you could have about that.

Madam DEPUTY CHAIR - The member for Nelson does have two more calls.

Ms Webb - To engage with this, because there has been a claim that this says 'we will need to underwrite' which is a financial responsibility, I want to understand so I can engage with the discussion, where the legal advice the member has received, where that points to in new paragraph (ab) so that we can engage with the discussion. I only have two calls left so I want to make the most of them.

Madam DEPUTY CHAIR - The member has heard the question so I will not be taking any more from your seat, thank you.

Ms FORREST - In response to that question, once you enshrine principles about a fair and equitable transition into the legislation, as described here, for example - and I did not ask specifically for legal advice on each of the provisions. It was a broad concern about having to underwrite the impacts of all these changes. It becomes a legal question as to whether there is a legal responsibility. Let us look at 4A(1)(h) page 5 of the amendments, which we are not on yet but we are talking about as a whole. That is just the one.

(h) for a worker who is unable to pursue transition opportunities - the provision of a mechanism for compensated redundancy or voluntary redeployment of the worker to another site where the worker wishes to continue working, without undermining the incentives for transition;

That is a clear obligation to find another job for a person. I am not saying we should not try to retrain people and help them but it becomes a legal argument. There is a legal argument and legal costs associated with that for the person, as well as for the government.

(i) maximising economic co-benefits for regional development in Tasmania.

So, a regional area of Tasmania sees an opportunity for an economic development and they have applied for a grant to get it. They think they have a good case and they miss out so they are going to seek recompense because there is a legal expectation because they have focused on addressing the climate change issues we have and real problems. They are a couple of ones I can point to.

As I said at the outset, I am raising my concerns not about the intent of this, because we should absolutely and fundamentally be considering the impact on our most vulnerable members of our community. In many respects, many businesses and industries can look after themselves. The agricultural industry is a little different because it is harder to deal with the methane issue with cattle but here in Tasmania we have an amazing opportunity with sea forests growing Asparagopsis and I note and I will declare that I believe my husband bought some early investment shares in that business when it first started. I do not know if he still has them. I will ask him. He could see the potential in this and his son too. He invests in lots of things, I do not know the half of what he does. He is looking for socially responsible opportunities. I hope he does not have to sell them. I wanted to make that comment in case he still has them. He trades all the time.

Once you put in place a provision in here that requires a legal argument about whether someone lost their job in an industry that is impacted or a business that is impacted by climate change, it could be a shop assistant whose business has flooded and has to move to a new location. The new location does not suit them for whatever reason and they lose their job. There are all sorts of reasons. The Leader has made a commitment around supporting business and industry. The minister made that many times in the briefings we have had, and also in conversations I have had with him, that we want to support businesses and industries to make the transition to help workers retrain if they need to, rather than have a legal fight about what the legal and financial obligation is. That is the point I am trying to make.

I absolutely agree with these comments of the member for Rumney and others in the Chamber who have already spoken about this - the absolute imperative to ensure we hear the voices and respond to those whose voices are often harder to hear. The people who are disadvantaged - financially, socially, health-wise, whatever it is. Aboriginal people whose voices are often not heard when we are dealing with land. People who have a disability who, sadly, may find it more difficult to generally find employment.

The advice to me was, to prescribe it in this way is legally fraught and to be very cautious about proceeding down such a path. Some of the people I have spoken to on this who are involved in the climate policy area as well as the climate economic area, have somewhat shifted their position on this. Some of them were originally saying no, we do need to have this enshrined in there. However, the extent to which it is being enshrined and the obligation on the state to effectively underwrite everyone who may be affected by the transition we must make as a state, as a nation, as a world country - that we do it through other mechanisms, not through a process in the legislation that may create a whole heap of legal hurdles for not only the Government to jump through and deal with, but the people themselves.

I will listen to the rest of the debate, Madam Deputy Chair, but I wanted to put those very genuine and legimate concerns on the table.

Mrs HISCUTT - I reiterate this bill has been a year in the consultation phases and a year in getting it though. It has had two years of consultation. This concept that the member for Rumney is talking about has not been consulted on. Nobody has been consulted on it yet. I presume the Labor Party has, but it has not been consulted generally.

The concept could set a precedent on what is a just transition as mentioned by the member for Murchison. It could lead to no action being taken on the basis that it is tested in the courts, that it is unfair that it could be held up in the courts for a long time. I draw members' attention to page 5 of the member for Rumney's amendment, the definitions are to be furthered in a subsequent amendment in the guiding principles for fair and equitable transition. There is a bit more work to be done there.

As mentioned by the member for Murchison, the Tasmanian Government will not abandon their people. The Tasmanian Government has committed to supporting them, as it always has done. The Government has committed to supporting the community and the industries through a range of policies and support measures. For example, look at COVID-19, there was \$165 million in grants and assistance to more than 31 000 Tasmanians, as well as access to expert advice, a number of loan schemes, including a \$60 million business growth loan scheme and the \$50 million Tasmanian tourism development scheme that have all been made available to help the Tasmanian business sector and tourism sector adapt and grow.

Jobs Tasmania, 16 employment and participation programs have an aggregate budget of over \$20 million, in addition to the \$10.6 million committed to the expansion of the regional Jobs Hubs network.

The Government has also invested more than \$100 million annually in our training and workforce development system.

The Tasmanian Government listens to industry and works closely with our key and emerging sectors to develop sustainable plans and economic development. The Government continues to be committed to addressing climate change in ways that maximise benefits and opportunities for the economy and the community, working with Tasmanian industries to support the transition to low emissions alternatives.

The 2021 update of the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review identified 16 best-fit emission reduction opportunities across all key sectors. Economic impact analysis found that if these opportunities were implemented, Tasmania's GSP would be 0.9 per cent higher in 2050 than it would be if none were implemented. In addition, by 2050, employment could be up relative to the business as usual scenario by 0.5 per cent over 1200 people. The independent review of the act recommended that the development of emissions reduction and resilience plans as the appropriate mechanism to support Tasmanian industries to transition to low carbon economy. The Tasmanian Government is committed to working with business and industry through the development of emissions reduction and resilience plans as required under the bill, to ensure any emissions reduction pathways are identified as equitable, achievable and practical.

Additionally, the independent review of the act recommended seven climate change policy principles, which I have read out before, to set expectations to guide decision-making in an equitable, appropriate and effective manner. This includes a principle of sustainable development and social equity.

Members, the Government has thought of, contemplated and is addressing these issues. We do not need a complication in this bill, which my advisers tell me back up what the member for Murchison is saying - it is all challengeable in court. We do not need that at a time like this. I urge members not to support the amendment. **Ms WEBB** - Madam Chair, I was listening to the Leader's contribution, and most of what she has described are the excellent efforts taken by Government to assist in all kinds of situations -

Mrs Hiscutt - And will continue to do so.

Ms WEBB - Exactly. This is fairly uncontroversial because all those things line up with a fair and just transition concept. That is why this is not anything radical or alarming, it is not anything we would not expect anyway. What it does do is put it into the legislation so that there is an understood legislative requirement going forward -

Mrs Hiscutt - It makes it challengeable in court.

Ms WEBB - Yes. There is some legal scaremongering going on here on this, actually. It is an easy way to scare us here in this Chamber. None of whom, I believe, are lawyers.

Mrs Hiscutt - I do not think we could scare you.

Ms WEBB - You could give it a try but probably not. If you have legal advice, put it on the table right now. Give it to us, tell us where you have it from, tell us exactly what it relates to. What we are talking about here and in clause (a) - because that is where we going to with the amendment we are on - 4A Guiding principles, principles for fair and equitable transition.

(1) In determining whether the transition towards a low-carbon economy and a low emissions future is fair and equitable, regard must be had to the following principles:

These are things to have regard to in determining whether we are having a fair and equitable transition. Then there is a list, (a) - (i), none of which are particularly controversial. The ones that have pointed to I do not think the member for Murchison or the Leader quibbled with any - (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), for example. The ones that have mentioned are (h) and (i), so let us look at them. Remembering this is a principle to have regard to in deciding whether a fair and equitable transition is occurring and (h) relates to a worker who is unable to pursue transition opportunities. A very limited circumstance.

This is not everyone affected has to be underwritten by the government, which is the implication we have heard made here. Literally, the words were 'anyone affected might have to be underwritten by the government'. This is about a worker who is unable to pursue transition opportunities. Which, the Government is likely to offer, as the Leader has indicated, as part of normal government business. For those who are not able to do that, this suggests the principle could be the provision of a mechanism for compensated redundancy or voluntary redeployment of the worker to another site where the worker wishes to continue working without undermining incentives for transition. We are talking about a very targeted, narrow group of people who may be affected in some industries at some point. The principle we are to have in mind when we decide whether it is fair and just is that they should be supported through mechanisms for potential redundancy or redeployment. Nothing controversial about that. I suggest nothing outside of what we might expect from a reasonable government. Nothing outside of what we are probably seeing. By putting it here it makes it clear that that is what we understand as a reasonable principle when we decide if we are being fair and just in our transition.

That is (h). One way the Government and others scare us and try to say that that is legally challengeable and somehow the Government claims location is going to put at risk gazillions of dollars somehow underwriting something broadly about transition, that is not what (h) risks.

Then (i) says this, remembering this is a principle we are to regard when we are talking about whether it is a fair and equitable transition. The principle to have regard to:

(i) maximising economic co-benefits for regional development in Tasmania.

Nothing scary or controversial about that. That is business as usual. It makes it very clear. I challenge anyone to tell me how that financially binds the government in some legal way, in detail, not with assertions, not with vague comments, legally in detail. What financial risk does that principle, to have regard to, bear for us? There may well be one. I am happy to hear it, but all I have heard so far is scaremongering, vague scaremongering. That is my response to that side of it.

A couple of other points I will make while I am on my second call, on some other matters that have come up. One is about definitions, the suggestion that we have to be incredibly careful about defining everything and that some of the terms in the amendment that we are referring to at core here are not defined. Well, all the time we use plain English definitions when we are understanding terms in legislation. The Government often provides that as an answer when we ask for a definition, it is the plain English definition that is being used here.

For words like 'decent' or words like 'social inclusion', we have well understood plain English definitions of those concepts. In fact I just had a quick look. 'Decent, of an acceptable standard', a very straightforward plain English definition of an acceptable standard. That is a reasonable term to use. It does not need to be further defined beyond our plain English understanding of it. 'Social inclusion' is a very well-understood, very well-defined basic concept. There is nothing to be scared of there in those terms.

The other part I wanted to come back to pick up on is the suggestion that in the bill we are already covering these things. We simply are not. Particularly not - and remembering that this is about fair and just transition, which will be particularly relevant to sector-based emissions reduction plans, that part of the bill. That part of the bill when they are developing those sector-based emissions reduction plans, the bill as it stands only requires government to do that development of the plan in consultation with industry, not with anyone else. There is a subsequent stage of consultation once the draft plan is out there. We can all make our own assessment about the degree to which consultation at that stage tends to shape the core plan or strategy that is presented.

All of us know the reality of that. Consultation to help shape something is meaningfully done at the development stage. This bill, in terms of the sector-based emissions reduction plans, excludes everybody except business and industry at the development stage, excludes everybody. That is not covered then, matters related to this fair and equitable transition are not covered and allowed for in the bill in relation to sector-based emissions reduction and resilience plans. That is enough for my second speak. I continue to support the amendment and encourage others to see it as uncontroversial, not to be scared about apparent legal consequences without having that clarified for us and given to us in more detail.

Mrs HISCUTT - I have a few points to make here. The definition, the principles proposed here have not been consulted on and they are untested in law. We have been through that and some members have decided that it is not appropriate but I think it is most appropriate.

Then we are looking at the amendment, (g) says 'allowing reasonable time for the implementation', so what is a reasonable time? In the dictionary it says a reasonable time is whatever. Some people could say a reasonable time to do this could be two years, it could be three months, so how do you define a reasonable time in a bill such as this?

Then it goes on to say (h) 'for a worker who is unable to pursue the transition opportunities - the provision of a mechanism for compensated redundancy or voluntary redeployment of the worker'. Does that mean that the Government has to do that? When you look further down in part (2) it talks about 'the accountable authority', and it says 'the accountable authority of a Tasmanian government entity must apply fair employment transition principles'. Does this mean when making or implementing any decision, policy, program or process in response, what does that mean?

Ms Lovell - GBEs.

Mrs HISCUTT - So you are saying that the government GBEs are going to be the accountable authority to make sure that all the employed people have new jobs to go to? What does that mean?

Ms Lovell - I will respond.

Mrs HISCUTT - It is not clear. It is not clear to my advisers. It is not clear to the Government. I am sure that you have consulted far and wide. Honestly members, this is totally unclear and I urge members not to even entertain this amendment.

Mr WILLIE - I will make three short points. The first one is this is a universally accepted concept. The second one is we are talking about a definition, not a legal requirement.

Mr Duigan - Sorry, what is a universally accepted concept?

Mr WILLIE - 'Just transition' is a universally accepted concept. The member for Nelson outlined that. She provided various examples if you were listening.

Mr Duigan - I was listening.

Ms Webb - It was in my second reading as well if you want to refer to that.

Mr WILLIE - He is interjecting. You could scoff but I am responding to his interjection. I remember a time when I was a new member in this place and the same arguments were being put to me from some long-serving independent members at the time when we were debating the Education Act. When I was putting forward an amendment I was told that to put some legal principles in the bill about reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities would result in the state government being sued and it was going to be this huge cost to government because there would be all these parents suing the state government because there were reasonable adjustments now in the Education Act and the government was not adhering to it in some instances. Now that is the case. They are not adhering to that in some instances but it

does have a legal principle in that bill to reflect the government's policy intent and it is exactly the same example here.

We will have legal principles put into this bill to reflect the Government's policy intent. We have heard that clearly from the Leader. The Government does have a policy intent to help with the just transition of some industries, some businesses and some workers away from carbon-polluting activities. This is just to reflect the Government policy intent with some legal principles in the bill. The example I provided is very similar to this argument we are having today.

[12.45 p.m.]

Ms LOVELL - Madam Chair, I am mindful this is my final call but I have stood because I think the arguments have been put, I suspect members have made their decision and it is appropriate we move on, and allow people to make their decision on this amendment. I will address some of the comments that have been made. I appreciate the Leader has clarified her earlier comments about no business will close, but they will be helped to transition, and I appreciate that clarification. That is exactly what this amendment is intending to support, that transition and they actually align.

Madam Chair, you spoke about legal concerns around the government being legally bound to underwrite every industry and every job. First of all, the examples that were given about the floods and COVID-19 responses are not inaccurate examples, they are the types of things we might see as part of action taken around a just transition. I will highlight the point they are crisis responses, we are talking about crisis responses here, and it would be irresponsible to think the only way we are going to deal with any kind of climate action transition is in terms of a crisis response. Yes, there might be instances where the Government needs to implement a crisis response and we have seen that happen recently.

However, it can also be a very proactive measure and that is what this intention is, that it is proactive and these matters are being considered in the early decision-making, not as a crisis response. This amendment and the future of the further amendments are about principles, enshrining principles in decision-making. I am sure members have read these amendments, because they were circulated well ahead for a reason. I presume that means members have taken the time to consider and read through them and will come to the debate on the substantive amendments further down the track. We have had references made on page 5 of my amendments in the new clause 4A, particularly subparagraphs (h) and (i).

Some members can be reminded and I know members have read this and I suspect members have not followed down this rabbit hole. I draw members attention back to paragraph (1), new clause 4A paragraph (1). I appreciate I am jumping around a little here, but my third amendment to Clause 5, talks about where the fair and just transition comes in. This talks about ensuring that vulnerable people do not bear a disproportionate impact of emissions reduction action and that nobody is left behind, as articulated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Paragraph (g) is the more relevant then (h):

(g) to ensure workers, communities and regions are supported through a fair and equitable transition to manage the risks and grasp the opportunities in the transition to a low emissions future.

While:

(h) is to ensure a fair and equitable transition for all towards an environmentally sustainable economy is well managed and contributes to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion and to ensure that no person is left worse-off.

That is the amendment that has put a responsibility on the Government, that is saying Government's responsibility is to ensure there is a fair and equitable transition. Almost everyone who has spoken has agreed that is a worthy principle, there does not seem to be any argument there should be some level of responsibility on the Government to ensure a fair and equitable transition. Indeed, the Leader has agreed with that, and the Leader has pointed to a number of measures taken by the Government that would align with those values.

The principles, which is the new Clause A, are the guiding principles for a fair and equitable transition. This is the part where we talk about what a fair and equitable transition might look like. I draw members' attention to the fact that we are talking about guiding principles, and paragraph (1) reads quite clearly;

(1) In determining whether the transition towards a low-carbon economy and a low emissions future is fair and equitable, regard must be had to the following principles:

It does not say every single one of these principles in every single example has to be met. It does not say the Government must deliver every single one of these principles every time. It says regard must be had.

Some people would probably argue that is too weak. It should be stronger. However, what this is saying is the Government will need to demonstrate they have given regard to these principles. There might be examples where the Government can reasonably demonstrate they were not able to do that. Okay, we accept that. They can demonstrate they gave regard to it, considered it and did what they could. Fine, we accept that. Without those guiding principles, and without this amendment there is no obligation on the Government to give regard to any of those things. It is in this legislation.

While the Leader might point to a list of Government commitments and announcements that have been made, I will draw members' attention to the fact the Leader spoke about the Government's commitment to business and industry, not workers, not vulnerable communities, but business and industry. I am not saying you should not be committed to business and industry, but you are leaving out a whole chunk of people there.

I also remind members that great, the Government is doing some good things there. It might not always be the government. You might not be responsible for that in the future. It might be someone else. I like to think a future government would take those things into account, but the only way to be sure of that is to make sure those principles are enshrined in the legislation. We are not enshrining a legal obligation that is going to be tested in court in an unfair way, we are enshrining principles that must be considered and a requirement on the Government to demonstrate they have considered those principles. Not that they have delivered compensation to people who cannot transition in every example. Maybe, there will

be a time where that is appropriate. That is in there for a reason. We have put that in there because we believe that is appropriate, that it is a government responsibility.

Members might decide that is not. Fine, that is the will of the Chamber. There will be a time where we will debate that amendment and amendments can be put if members feel that that is going too far. We will come to that later.

I thank members for their contribution and appreciate the debate we have had. It is an important debate to have.

There is one more point I wanted to make and the Leader spoke about the fact this has not been consulted. This is not a new concept. This is not the first time anyone has heard of fair and equitable transition. It is not a new concept at all. This is part of the global conversation we are having around climate action. You can bet your bottom dollar if you read those submissions to this bill, I reckon you will find more than one mention of fair and equitable transition or a just transition.

I will end on the fact that with not consulted, there is a difference between something not being consulted and something being put forward in submissions and through consultation and not being listened to and not being adopted. Big difference.

It is not a new concept. It is not anything to be afraid of. We are not binding a future government to decades in court. That is not what is happening here. This is a principle and almost everyone in this Chamber has said they agree with this principle. That is all this is. It is about enshrining that, demonstrating to vulnerable communities and vulnerable workforces around the state that we have heard their concerns, we are listening to what they are saying, and we are not going to forget them as we transition.

I urge members to support the amendments.

Mrs HISCUTT - I take issue with one thing that the member has said. I have pointed out before on pages 11, and page 14 of our bill where we do consult with other people. I will not go through it again, but there is business, industry, scientific, environment, young people, et cetera.

Ms Lovell - Workers?

Mrs HISCUTT - Are workers not Tasmanian community? Are workers not part of the Tasmanian community? Members, we have a choice here. We have an unconsulted, untested amendment incorporating complex undefined terms with likely unintended consequences. Terms like including the definitions, new objects and principles. Or, here we have a planned orderly transition as supported and committed on throughout the last two years, through emissions reduction and resilience plans in a consultative approach.

You have two choices here. Members, I urge you not to go with the member for Rumney's amendment because it is untried, it is unconsulted and our bill in front of us will do very well the same thing. Thank you.

Mr VALENTINE - Madam Chair, I look at this definition, and as I said right from the outset it is a sentiment that embeds a socially aware approach to the transition. People have

talked about what does' decent' mean; we have had that definition read out by the member for Nelson, and it seemed to be quite clear to me.

Some might put 'meaningful' in there, rather than 'decent', but I believe it is as it is. The key to what is being moved here by the member for Rumney is actually in the amendments that are to follow. I will go to page 2, proposed amendment to clause 5, new paragraph (f), where it says:

... to ensure that vulnerable people do not bear a disproportionate impact of emissions reduction action ...

Now, it is 'action' that the Government is putting into place and it is 'disproportionate'. No-one is saying that people are not going to be harmed by some of the action that might be taken. A key point here is whether it is disproportionate. We are all going to be subject to change, there is no question about that, in all sorts of ways, whether it is stranded assets or all of those sorts of things, but the issue is whether it is disproportionate. We are talking about the fundamental level of workers who are working for businesses that have to make changes, going forward.

The member for Rumney's proposed amendment to Clause 5, paragraph (g) says:

...to ensure workers, communities and regions are supported through a fair and equitable transition to manage the risks...

It is not saying there will not be impacts. There will be impacts, but it is about how it is managed, and that they are not disproportionately affected. I do understand the concerns that have been expressed, especially by the member for Murchison when she rose to speak on this, but we have to be careful that what we are talking about here is the disproportionate nature of this. That is the way I see it.

I still support the amendment that is before us.

Mrs HISCUTT - Madam Chair, I am at a loss. How can you ensure that nobody is left behind? The Government will do everything it possibly can to make sure that everybody has the best opportunities available to them. This is litigation waiting to happen. 'To ensure that nobody is left behind' - how can you ensure that?

You can ensure that you can put all the propositions forward, make all the help available, but you cannot pick somebody and say why are you not taking a grant, or why are you not doing this or doing that? You have to try to make sure that nobody is left behind, but we are putting here in legislation that nobody is left behind.

That is the intent, of course; but here it is in legislation, making it legal. Seriously, members, please vote against this amendment.

Ms WEBB - Madam Chair, I have a couple of brief points about process here. The amendment we are on is the first amendment, it is from the member for Rumney, it is inserting a definition of fair and equitable transition. There is not much contention about that definition. The Government would like to make some, about what is a decent job, but I believe we have dealt with that. I reckon most reasonable people -

Mr Duigan - What is an indecent job?

Ms WEBB - Perhaps one that does not provide you with the opportunity to make a living. 'Of a reasonable standard' is our plain English definition. This definition is pretty straightforward, reasonable, and understandable. As often with legislation, we understand those terms and their plain English definitions. We can put this in here and deal with the other amendments after. There are a number of them. The ones that I have heard the most contention about are new clause 4A, and the parts in new clause 4A that I have heard anything said about are 4A(h) and 4A(i).

Sitting suspended from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

QUESTIONS

Metro Bus Services - Antisocial Behaviour and Timetabling

Mr WILLIE question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.30 p.m.]

- (1) How many complaints have been received in 2022 to date for Metro Tasmania and how does this compare to the same period last year?
- (2) Can the state Government please provide a daily breakdown for the dropped Metro trips by region for the past six months?
- (3) How many reported incidents of violence and antisocial behaviour have been recorded on Metro buses in 2022 and can the Government please provide a table, as per the one provided to me in 2021, which included the categories aggressive person, school bus misbehaviour, inappropriate behaviour, assault on passenger and assault on driver?
- (4) In which suburbs did the violence and antisocial behaviour occur and can the Government provide a table, as per the one provided to me in 2021, which included the Hobart network, Launceston network and Burnie network?
- (5) How many at-fault accidents have occurred involving Metro buses in 2022?
- (6) How many no-fault accidents have occurred involving Metro buses in 2022?

ANSWER

I thank the member for his question.

(1) There have been 803 complaints substantiated from January to October 2022. In comparison, there were 558 complaints substantiated from January to October 2021.

(2) To address the staff shortage in bus operators, Metro modified its training program and recruitment processes to enable high volume recruitments, while still meeting the required standards. Over the course of 2022, Metro has recruited 111 bus operators. The main contributor for the dropped trips in the months of April and May was a shortage of bus operators due to COVID-19-related absences, general sickness, absence and staff shortages. Recruitment and training continue to be a priority.

If the member is agreeable I have many pages here with graphs.

Mr President, I seek leave to table the answers and have them incorporated into Hansard.

Leave granted.

See Appendix 1 on page 79.

King Island - Shipping - Grassy Harbour

Ms FORREST question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.33 p.m.]

With regard to futureproofing the Grassy Harbour on King Island to ensure a reliable, sustainable and cost-effective shipping service is assured, will the Government commit to working with Group 6 Metals, who have commenced mining operations in Grassy and will have significant inert overburden available to construct a new, all-weather, safe harbour at Grassy and if not, why not?

ANSWER

I thank the member for her question.

TasPorts advises that it has indicated to Group 6 Metals that it is willing to discuss the use of the overburden material to improve the port, for example, in strengthening the existing breakwater or for land reclaim at the port.

Ms Forrest - That was not the question. I will re-put the question. The question was, will the Government commit to working with Group 6 Metals, who have commenced mining operations in Grassy, and will have significant inert overburden available.

The question is whether they can use it to construct a new, all-weather, safe harbour at Grassy? That is the question.

Mrs HISCUTT - The answer did say that they will discuss productive use of the overburden material to improve the port. Do you want more to that?

Ms Forrest - Through you, Mr President. The Leader, in her answer, suggested they would strengthen the existing breakwater. If it is limited to that, it does not fix the problem.

Mrs HISCUTT - I said that was an example.

Ms Forrest - Okay, we will take it from there.

Recruitment of Metro Drivers

Mr WILLIE question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.35 p.m.]

This was provided in the previous answer, but there is a second part to it.

- (1) How many new drivers are being recruited for Metro in 2022?
- (2) How many Metro drivers have ceased employment with Metro Tasmania in 2022?

ANSWER

Mr President, I thank the member for his question. The answers are:

- (1) A total of 111.
- (2) A total of 103.

Power Outage in Zeehan

Ms FORREST question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.36 p.m.]

In a recent extended power outage in Zeehan, reportedly due to powerlines down on the Zeehan Highway, I am informed power was restored to part of the town, including retail and business areas, many hours before being restored to residential areas in close proximity to the town centre, including Parkinson and Counsel streets. Can the Leader explain why this was the case, as many residents of Zeehan rely on power for heating, cooking and essential electrical or medical devices?

ANSWER

I thank the member for her question. Zeehan is currently fed by a single high voltage 44 kV feeder which runs from Rosebery. During October the line was impacted by high winds, causing vegetation to come into contact with the line, bringing down 14 spans of conductor.

Zeehan currently has two backup diesel generators to provide supplementary supply during such events. The generators provide enough capacity to maintain supply to half the township of Zeehan. Neither businesses nor residential homes are prioritised as part of this arrangement. Which parts of the township are being energised simply reflects the nature of the power system in the township. TasNetworks recognises the importance of reliable energy supply to customers and is currently mobilising a third generator to Zeehan, which has been removed from Bruny Island since the undersea cable was replaced last month. This generator will be installed at Zeehan within the next six months and will provide sufficient backup supply to power the entire town during any future loss of supply events.

Ms Forrest - My constituent will be pleased to hear that. My constituent lives in the wrong part of town on that occasion.

Impact of Visa Processing Delays

Ms FORREST question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.37 p.m.]

- (1) With regard to federal immigration visa processing delays in areas of workforce shortage and need, what are the current areas of workforce shortage or need?
- (2) Does the state Government sponsorship enable more timely assessment and processing? If so, how many applicants are being currently sponsored by the state and in which workforce areas?
- (3) What is the state Government doing to assist local businesses and industries in desperate need of workers ahead of the busy tourist and agricultural season to ensure workers waiting for visas are not unduly delayed?

ANSWER

I thank the member for her question.

- (1) Workforce shortages have developed in Tasmania largely because of Australian border entry restrictions, which significantly reduced temporary migration to Australia from 2020 to early 2022. Shortages exist across industries and skill levels and are not focused in any particular area. This is a similar experience to other Australian states and territories, as well as overseas.
- (2) An application nominated under the Tasmanian Skilled Migration State Nomination Program does not necessarily enable faster visa processing at the federal level. Visa processing time frames and priorities are determined by the Australian Government.
- (3) It is widely acknowledged that there is no single solution to solve this complex problem. That said, the Tasmanian Government is working with industry to develop and coordinate a range of new initiatives and projects to support workforce development. Migration is being considered as one avenue to address the skills needs.

The Tasmanian Government is working with industry to ensure that agricultural processing, packing, picking and animal management activities continue. To assist

industry to respond to impacts of COVID-19, the Tasmanian Government has supported a local agriculture jobs campaign, called Tassie Harvest Jobs - Take Your Pick, to encourage Tasmanians to consider new jobs and careers in the sector. More locals than ever have responded by taking up jobs in agriculture. A successful marketing and social media campaign continues to encourage more local residents to take up jobs in the lead-up to the 2022-23 harvest. The Tasmanian Government has also been working closely with the tourism and hospitality sector, to explore a range of initiatives to assist employers to address workforce challenges, including for the upcoming summer season.

Metro Tasmania - Contracts

Mr WILLIE question to LEADER of the GOVERNMENT in the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Mrs HISCUTT

[2.40 p.m.]

Mr President, my questions to the Leader:

- (1) Is the contract between Metro Tasmania and Bus Tech still subject to legal proceedings?
- (2) What work has been done by Metro Tasmania to procure the remaining 26 buses from another manufacturer?

Mrs HISCUTT - Mr President, I appreciate the member's interests in these buses.

Mr Willie - Getting ready for GBEs.

ANSWER

- (1) No.
- (2) Eight of the 26 buses had already been delivered by Bus Tech at the time of the contract being cancelled.

Following the cancellation of the contract Metro released a request for tender, an RFT for the supply of up to 26 buses. A new contract has been negotiated with Bus Tech for the completion and delivery of the 10 busses that were partially completed at the time of the previous contract being cancelled. The first of these 10 buses have already have received by Metro. Metro is evaluating the tenders received in response to its RFT for the procurement of further buses.

CLIMATE CHANGE (STATE ACTION) AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (No. 63)

In Committee

Resumed from page 28.

Clause 4 -

Section 3 amended (Interpretation)

[2.43 p.m.]

Ms WEBB - Madam Chair, the point I was making before the lunchbreak was a pretty straightforward one that I do not need to labour now. Most members have heard a lot about this amendment already and probably have a position on it. It was simply that by inserting this amendment, the definition then sets up for later amendments. We have the opportunity to debate those later amendments and potentially, even look to amend them if there are any particular parts of them that people find difficult. There are some parts of them we would not find difficult. The point I was making was that at this point in time, we do not need to dispense with and discard the opportunity presented by the subsequent amendments by closing the door on it.

That is the conclusion of my contribution, thank you. I remain in support of the amendment.

[2.44 p.m.]

Ms ARMITAGE - Madam Chair, I have found this extremely confusing. I have gone from supporting, to not supporting, back to supporting, back to not supporting, from when I hear different members and their arguments that all seem to make sense. I am sure we all want a socially aware approach and we must consider the impact on people. I certainly agree with that.

Statutory interpretation is perhaps the most comprehensive area of legal thought. Society changes and evolves and so too must the law change with it. However, the objective of the law is to be clear and precise, to avoid ambiguity and to construct the meaning of legislation through the exact words used surrounding sections and paragraphs, and to glean intent from its content such as common law, second reading speeches and public policy.

I have been a little concerned with the part of the amendment where it said:

'fair and equitable transition' means a transition towards a low-carbon economy that is just and fair ...

I would have been happy for it to stop there because I have concerns:

... and maximises opportunities for decent jobs ...

We have heard interpretations of what it means, but it is a little concerning - words which are too open-ended and subjective result in poor legislation because they are unable to be defined with connotative precision. Everyone agrees that climate legislation should be informed by principles like fairness, equity, prosperity, accountability and transparency.

However, this already informs how this climate legislation will be interpreted because we are talking about it right now. These are the words that go to policy, not to legislation. We must keep our language and the bills clear and precise.

I have been very confused. I was going to support, then I was not going to support. However, as far as I am concerned, we do need to be clear - we do need words that are easy to understand, particularly assisting our judiciary should things go to court - that we are not here to develop policy, we are here to amend and we are here to review legislation.

[2.49 p.m.]

MS FORREST - I am not sure if the member for Launceston has landed, but I hope I might be able to help.

The member for Rumney in charge of the amendment has already spoken three times. It would be interesting if she could say by interjection who was actually consulted in the preparation of this amendment, because when I look around the other jurisdictions there are references to fair and equitable transition. However, they are not in such a way that is being asked for in this legislation that imposes a concerning provision, a legal provision, to have the matters - I will not re-argue the case I put before, but if she could perhaps let me know and she is free to interrupt me, if that is alright with the Deputy Chair?

Madam DEPUTY CHAIR - I will allow just this once only, but it is not something we encourage in the House.

MS LOVELL - Thank you, Madam Deputy Chair. I am aware that Climate Tasmania was consulted on these and there would be various other stakeholders who were consulted as well by our relevant shadow minister, or I can get you some more information as you proceed.

Ms FORREST - There does not seem to be a lot of consistency around other jurisdictions. I will come to that in a moment. I note the member for Launceston's comments about policies, plans and things like that.

I note when the member for Nelson spoke, on her first or second call, she referenced information from the OECD that talked about plans and policies and that is what this is. It is about plans and policies. I go back to the concern about having it enshrined in legislation.

In terms of being called upon to release the legal advice I have, there is always an issue with legal privilege around these things. With all legislation that is complex that requires a legal mind to look at it, of which I am not, then I will seek that advice in a more informal process to ask what concerns would there be with this. Does it need amending? Whether it is the act itself or an amendment.

What I was referring to were the concerns that were raised with me that it could impose that legal burden and I was concerned about that. The whole principle and the policy position of a just transition is absolutely admirable and we would all expect and hope to see that. Someone argued it was not totally just about the transition from the forest sector - but there was support provided. Companies like Cornwall Coal and some others like Grange Resources for example, will have a much bigger task in decarbonising their workplace and their business industry than say, Avebury Mine, which is a new mine with a very small footprint.

This is what I understand the process is: to engage with these various industries to see how we can assist them from a policy framework and a decency approach; to ensure that we can actually not force industries or businesses out of a business, but to support them to make the changes they need and hopefully stay in business but in a much more environmentally friendly way if they are an emitter. I am talking about my fears. I am happy to talk about my fears. These are things that concern me but if this amendment is to be inserted, along with the other provisions - and I know we are only talking about a definition now but it does relate to the rest of it and the member for Rumney made it clear at the outset. We may end up limiting the actions that we can take to address the very real and significant issue that climate change is because it becomes risky costwise to the Government, and to others. There has to be a cost associated right down the line with this.

I want the Government to get on and start actively pursuing emissions reduction. We have been talking about this for long enough and it was Chris Bowen, the federal Energy minister, who said, 'We have wasted too much time already', and we have. Look at all those years lost with the last federal Liberal government. How many years have we wasted there? Far too many. Now we are reaping the benefit or the disbenefits of that.

I do not want to see a legislative provision put in the bill that might make it more difficult to take the actions we need to take. The commitment of the policy framework relating to this is to support businesses to transition; to support industry to make the changes they may need; to treat people fairly; to ensure that we can retrain and support people into other employment and to ensure that, as much as we can, we do not leave anyone behind. Those who may be left behind because of the nature of the work that they do, we must support them in other ways.

That is part of the work of the federal government as well. They are in charge of the tax and transfer system that supports people through the Centrelink benefits approach, so it is not just a state thing we need to be working on here. I also note that and I did refer to other legislation in other jurisdictions and for example, in the Australian Capital Territory it says:

The inter-generational equity principle means the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced, for the benefit of future generations.

There are others who have similar provisions in there to make a broad statement about this but do not go to the length that we are seeing here being asked to be inserted that does potentially create a legal challenge, even though the Government can say, yes, of course we are helping these people. Then you will have the threat of legal challenge to say, are you doing enough? Is this adequate? All our laws are subject to legal challenge. That is what we do. We bring in to place laws that are subject to legal challenge. Some of them get to the High Court, as we know, and they get chucked out occasionally because they were not appropriate.

Ms Lovell - While you are on your feet, I can also add to that list of consultation the CEPU, Climate Tasmania, the University of Tasmania and Unions Tasmania. The amendments were also drafted based on submissions made to the bill which also referenced this from a number of stakeholders who contributed.

Ms FORREST - I have heard from some of those stakeholders about a renewed concern about its application. I am just saying that. It is the reality. They are rethinking through and looking at it and thinking about the implications and have raised some concerns.

Ms Lovell - Would you share with us which of those stakeholders have raised concerns?

Ms FORREST - Not without their permission. I like to consult widely and listen to points of view and unless they have said I can share this with the House - all members do this. Without the permission of the people we do not wish to disclose particular conversations. I repeat that just transition as described is legally very difficult to enshrine. It is more a policy position where the policy is to support various sectors and individuals.

As I understand it, work is also being done federally on some aspects of this, especially in relation to the energy transition. If there needs to be a particular or greater focus on this, we should see what the feds are doing, rather than trying to pre-empt that and perhaps conflict with it. I continue to be concerned. I absolutely fundamentally support the principle behind it as a policy, as the member for Launceston alluded to. However, I remain concerned.

[2.56 p.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT - Talking about consultation, I have a list here of the people who we have consulted with on the draft, who made the submission on the independent review of the act and the draft bill.

Ms Lovell - It is in the public domain anyway.

Mrs HISCUTT - The member for Rumney mentioned who she had consulted with, sorry, not you personally, and I have here two pages of them. I will not read through them because it is decided that is not the way to go. However, this is just the people who were consulted with regarding the bill. There are also six that are not listed on here because they were confidential. There are two pages of consultation just on the bill. I wanted to point that out.

Ms Webb - Perhaps the Leader could point out the ones who actually called for this in their submission?

Madam CHAIR - Order.

Mr WILLIE - This is not a competition on who has consulted more, you could have the most terrible idea in the world and consult with everybody. The point here is this is not a new concept. It is universally accepted across many reputable organisations across the globe. The member for Rumney made mention that it has been mentioned in quite a number of submissions in the Government's own consultations.

I remind members that there are concerns here that you have. We are talking about the definition. We are not talking about legal requirements. When we do get to that, there is language to have regard to. We are just talking about the definition. We could pass this definition, and have substantive debates about the merits of the other amendments, which we should. If they fail we can always come back and pull this definition out and recommit the clause.

We should vote on what is before us, rather than linking all the other amendments and the merits of those. We can have substantive debates about each one. That would be proper process.

The Council divided -

AYES 6

Mr Edmunds Ms Lovell Ms Rattray Mr Valentine Ms Webb (Teller) Mr Willie

NOES 8

Ms Armitage Mr Duigan Ms Forrest Mr Gaffney Mr Harriss Mrs Hiscutt Ms Howlett (Teller) Ms Palmer

Amendment to Clause 4 negatived.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Madam CHAIR - Members, to let you know what is happening, the member for Rumney has informed me that with the second of her amendments relating to what we have previously debated just now, she is to move her first amendment, and that is the only amendment being moved to this clause.

Clause 5 -

Section 4 substituted

Ms LOVELL - Thank you, Madam Chair. Members, I move the following amendment in my name:

Clause 5 First amendment

Page 8, proposed new section 4, paragraph (e), after "government".

Insert ", relevant unions, the peak body representing trade unions".

Members, I hope this amendment will be supported by the Chamber, given we will not have opportunity now to have any guiding principles or objectives in the act that deal with a just transition, particularly for workers. I will remind members there is no mention of workers in the bill. There is plenty of mention of industry and business representatives, industry and business bodies but there is no consultation specific to workers. We have already discussed today how much of the impact of climate action will be borne by workers. Everyone has agreed we need to ensure that is not disproportionate and the interests of people who will be impacted by climate action are protected in some way.

In support of the amendment, I will also read an email that members should have received from the Secretary of Unions Tasmania, Jessica Munday, which came yesterday afternoon. Hopefully, members have had a chance to read that. I will put it on record now. The email was titled 'Climate Change Bill' and it reads as follows:

Dear Legislative Councillors,

I am writing to you regarding the Climate Change Bill that I understand you will be debating today. In particular, I wish to comment on amendments to the bill that ensure the peak body for workers, Unions Tasmania, and relevant unions are consulted when considering the impacts of climate change. Our economies and jobs are changing as a result of our climate. That is not something that will happen in the future, but is happening today.

As it stands, this is happening in a way that is not inclusive of workers, or the unions that represent them. Workers and their representatives are being left out of critical discussions on transition as industry changes. For many workers, they are fearful of what change brings because they are worried about their financial future and they know that they have not been adequately supported by governments over the last decade, at least.

Unions Tasmania was disappointed to see that unions as worker representatives were not included in the original iteration of the legislation. We were surprised next when Minister Jaensch suggested in the parliament that the Government considered references to business and industry bodies in the bill as including unions. This will be the first time in any legislation that I am aware of that unions are considered the same as business and industry bodies, because it is just not true.

We represent the voice of workers, we consult with them, understand what they need, help develop solutions, advocate for them and work in their interests. A business or industry body does not do this for workers.

It is critical the peak body for unions and relevant unions are included as parties that must be consulted under this legislation. We support the Labor Party's amendments to Clauses 5, 6 and 8 of the legislation that facilitates the inclusion of worker representatives around climate change consultation and encourage you to support the amendments.

Regards, Jessica Munday Secretary, Unions Tasmania

I want to be clear, members, I am not suggesting this by any way of a criticism of industry and business representatives. It is not their job to represent the interests of workers specifically. It is their job to represent the interests of the industry, or the business that they are representing. That is okay. That is what they are elected or appointed to do. The job of unions is to represent the workers. In light of the fact we will not have those guiding principles to support a just transition in a way that is explicit in the bill, it is even more important that we ensure workers will be represented explicitly in these consultation processes.

I am sure the Government will say there will be plenty of public consultation and that consultation will be open to the public. That is not enough for me. It is not enough for workers and it should not be enough for any one of us, because we should be ensuring we are specifically seeking out those who will be most impacted by these decisions that will be made. We will be

specifically seeking out business and industry. We should also specifically be seeking out workers and their representatives.

Another key role that unions play, not only in consultation and advocacy on behalf of their workers, but they also play an important role in education of workers. Where there are changes that might be required, we have spoken before about the importance of bringing people along with us. Unions can play a critical and valuable role in bringing their workforce along with those changes and doing that in a way where those workers feel supported, safe and they are not fearful of change.

I encourage members to support the amendment. I hope the Government will support the amendment. They have said they are willing to consult with unions and they want to consult with workers, so why not put it in the bill?

I hope that is what the Leader is about to get up and say, I suspect it is not. I encourage members to support the amendment.

Mrs HISCUTT - The Government does not support this amendment.

The Tasmanian Government consults with a broad range of stakeholders to inform the development of the climate action measures. The bill establishes a consultative or partnership approach with relevant businesses, industry, scientific, environmental and community bodies, children and young people, local government and the Tasmanian community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change. It is one of the objectives of the bill. People can find it on page 11, 5A(6)(e), if they wish to read that.

The term 'community bodies' in the objects in the bill is intended to broadly capture the range of individuals and groups that comprise the Tasmanian community and this of course includes unions. The consultation provisions of the bill are intentionally broad and designed to be inclusive. They do not preclude consultation with any group or any individuals. The bill's wording is inclusive, not exclusive. The Government is open to hearing from any Tasmanian or organisation on matters of interest to them. By naming up specific groups there is a risk that other important community groups may be missed or not defined appropriately in the longer term.

As members would note, the case of children and young people and the principle of intergenerational equity is particularly compelling. Children and young people cannot vote, nor do they have an established voice in our democratic process without the government of the day taking the decision to actively engage with them. They represent an exceptional group that necessitates specific inclusion in the act, and the Government acted to include them in the debate in the other place.

We also note with interest that no trade union provided a submission into the independent review or made a submission on the draft bill which was put out for public consultation last year. Therefore, it is not the Government's intent to specifically name up other groups.

Ms ARMITAGE - I hear what the Leader is saying and also the member for Rumney and I do not have an issue with this amendment. I understand when you say other groups are not defined and that is obvious. Mrs Hiscutt - Except children and young people.

Ms ARMITAGE - I understand that. I accept that unions do represent workers. We have industry and we have relevant business, industry, scientific, environmental, community bodies, and I know you are saying that unions are included in that, but I do not see a problem with putting this in. It does not make the bill less clear. In fact, it clarifies it a little and workers and unions specifically should be consulted and workers are people who will be affected by the bill.

I do not have a problem with this amendment and I will be supporting this amendment. I do not see it as being a problem.

Mr VALENTINE - When we look at this, it says 'relevant' business. Who is going to decide what is relevant and what is not, and choose which businesses will be consulted? You read through the list and think to yourself, workers are not specifically in there. You are not going to lump them in with 'community'. So, having the amendment in there adds a dimension, and I support it. It is important to bring the workers along with this, as much as it is to bring the community and business and industry along with it. Quite clearly, they are a specific category of people who ought to be consulted with, just the same as the business community is and industry.

I support it. It clarifies that unions representing workers are important in all this. After all, they are the ones that, at the end of the day, are probably out there doing the work to reduce emissions.

Mrs HISCUTT - I want to clarify that unions have had, and will have, every opportunity to have input into this bill at any stage they like along the consultative stage. It includes community bodies in the bill. Unions are a community body. They represent a group of people. They are already there. There is no need to be duplicating it or adding this extra confusion to the bill.

I urge members not to support this amendment.

Mr GAFFNEY - A question for the member for Rumney. What about the people or the workers that are not part of unions? I am wondering why that group has not been included in the definition. It should read: '... the relevant unions, the peak body representing trade unions, workers ... '. I am interested to know that aspect.

Ms RATTRAY - The member for Mersey almost took the words out of my mouth. I am being very controlled here. My question is very similar, about those people who do not belong to a trade union. I was interested in the peak body representing trade unions. As we know, not every worker belongs to a union. I am particularly interested in the agriculture sector, and a lot of those would not belong to unions. There may be some impact there.

There will be some other members with questions before the member has to take a second call.

Mrs HISCUTT - I will clarify my thoughts on that. I consider that the group of workers who you are referring to is included in community bodies, the same as unions would be included in that - community bodies. It is in the bill already.

[3.16 p.m.]

Ms WEBB - I support this amendment, along similar lines to the member for Launceston. I do not believe there is any confusion created by inserting this in here. It puts some positive responsibility to those groups to think, for consultation in this clause, which is about consultative partnership approaches. It is important to shine a light on a positive responsibility to consult, rather than providing a passive opportunity to consult, because groups have varied abilities to engage in consultation. There will always be some - perhaps because it is not their core business; they are already busy doing other things and may not be able to avail themselves of every opportunity when there is just a passive opportunity put out there, such as 'here is something you could send in a submission to'.

If it sends a more positive prompt to consult, there is a more active outreach to those groups. That is why it is positive here in the proposed paragraph (e), which is about a consultative partnership approach. We have specified some of those other groups - scientific, environmental and community bodies - and it is good to have those there. Including children and young people and local government makes sense, as well as prompting to say these are the ones we would reach out to positively to draw into a consultation - not just wait and see if they show up, but specifically reach out to them.

I consider there is no detriment. There is a very gentle, positive prompt that they would be groups that were reached out to. It does not exclude people who are not necessarily in unions or industries that are not unionised. I am sure the member for Rumney will have a wellarticulated response to that. To me, there is not an exclusionary aspect to including this for others. I would be happy to see it there.

I support the amendment.

[3.18 p.m.]

Ms LOVELL - Thank you, members, for your questions and contributions. I will deal first with the questions from the member for Mersey and the member for McIntyre before I move on to some of the Leader's comments.

It is a valid question - why not include workers? There are several elements to this. The first element is that whilst unions are a membership organisation, they are a representative body and they are representing the interests of their members, and by extension that flows onto all workers in those industries. As an example, when you look at unionised workforces, all workers in those workforces benefit from safer workplaces.

When you look at the public sector wage agreements that are being negotiated at the moment, those agreements apply to all public sector workers, not just union members. I believe it is no longer legal in Australia to have different sets of conditions for union members and non-union members. I could be wrong on that, but I am fairly confident that is the case.

The other element is that, in the same way, business and industry representative bodies might not cover every aspect. For example, not every hospitality business would be a member of the Hospitality Association. If you were to name up all workers, the counterargument to that would be that you would need to name up all businesses and all members of an industry, whether or not they are a member of that representative body. I consider the unions and Unions Tasmania would cover enough of a cross-section, not for a counterbalance, but an equal representation as those industry and business bodies would. I hope that answers that question.

We heard from the minister in the lower House, and Ms Munday referenced this in her email, that the minister considered unions to be a part of those industry and business groups named up in the bill. Now we are hearing from the Leader that they are a member of the community groups part of the bill. A cynical person might feel like the Government is going to any lengths they can to avoid naming up unions in the bill.

The Leader is, and the Government - because it is not just the Leader here in this place. We have heard that we do not need to talk about unions because they are part of the business and industry group. We do not need to talk about unions because they are part of the community groups. Why not name them up? What do you have against unions and workers? It is very difficult not to draw the conclusion that the Government is actively trying to avoid consulting with unions and workers. It is very difficult not to draw that conclusion based on the arguments that have been put against this amendment.

We have heard strong arguments from the Government against having provisions and principles in the bill that would support a just transition for workers. Now we are hearing arguments against even consulting with workers and their representative bodies - or naming up those bodies, not consulting with, I will walk that back because that is not what was said, but naming up and explicitly saying to workers and their representative bodies that we hear you. We want to know what you think and we want to understand your issues. We want you to be involved in this process. That is all this is doing. If you are saying that they are going to be involved in the consultation anyway, why not name them? Workers will be impacted by climate action almost probably as much as, if not more than, any other group in the community. In terms of the impact that it can have on their lives, in particular industries.

I do not understand why the Government would not be - I do not even understand why we are having this debate, why this was not included in the draft bill. If you are going to consult with the employers and the businesses, why would you not consult with the workers and their representative body? You cannot assume that every single worker is going to put in a submission because they are included as part of the community.

I ask members to support this amendment because without this amendment, there is no specific consultation with workers in the bill.

Mrs HISCUTT - I was thinking about what you were saying, about naming unions in particular. I am looking at the 34-odd people who did take the effort to put a submission in. If we were to name them, if I was to take out of here business and industry and all that stuff and add unions, do we need to name the Uniting Church? The churches? They made a submission. They may wish to make a submission again.

What about the wine industry, they will probably be there. Do we have to name every single person here? I mean there are 34 of them, these are covered off with community groups, or as you like to put it in the other place 'industry' groups, but they are there. These people, there are two pages of them, these people took the time and took the opportunity to put in a submission.

Do you need to name all these extra groups in here because you want a union addition - not you personally - because Labor wants a union addition?

Ms Lovell - Well, I do. I want it as well, so you can say me personally.

Mrs HISCUTT - I do not want to make it personal. The City of Hobart took the time to put in, do we need to name the council?

Ms Lovell - They are there, the council is the local government and is named.

Mrs HISCUTT - I beg your pardon, they are. Let us talk about churches.

Ms Lovell - They are community organisations.

Mrs HISCUTT - So are unions; they are representing a group of people in the community. Just because they happen to be workers and not church people it does not matter. They are community groups, we do not need it there. It is already there.

Ms WEBB - Let us talk about churches, shall we? Are church members, churchgoers, identified as a particularly vulnerable group in terms of our climate change transition?

Mrs Hiscutt - They have every right to do a submission.

Ms WEBB - Are they particularly centred in an industry that it going to be affected by the transition?

Madam CHAIR - Order.

Ms WEBB - Do we have to regard the Uniting Church as representative of all churchgoers? I do not think so. What a ridiculous proposition. It is very clear and it has been made numerous times, the point is that workers are absolutely front and centre. Particularly workers in affected industries, front and centre of vulnerability in this act. It is rude to suggest -

Mrs Hiscutt - Not, it is not.

Madam CHAIR - Order.

Ms WEBB - that there is an equivalence and we are going to make silly equivalences between other groups who are not well and truly as community members affected but are not front and centre as a group to the transition impact. Absolutely ridiculous. Unions clearly are representative groups of a vulnerable cohort who are front and centre.

There is no rationale that comes near it for church groups or others who will be covered by the community, you are right, because they are not front and centre of the impact. I hope we do not hear that sort of ridiculous assertion.

Mrs Hiscutt - We will agree to disagree.

Madam CHAIR - Order, I remind you of the standing order not to promote a quarrel.

 $Ms \ WEBB$ - I hope we will have some clear and rational debate on the further amendments henceforth.

The Committee divided -

AYES 9

Ms Armitage (Teller) Mr Edmunds Ms Forrest Mr Gaffney Ms Lovell Ms Rattray Mr Valentine Ms Webb Mr Willie

NOES 5

Mr Duigan Mr Harriss (Teller) Mrs Hiscutt Ms Howlett Ms Palmer

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5 -

Proposed amendment further considered

[3.30 p.m.]

Ms WEBB - Madam Chair, a question on this clause. There may be some for others too. It is following up on a comment or question from the member for Hobart when we were discussing that amendment and that is in paragraph (e), the part we were looking at just now where it does say:

... support a consultative partnership approach with relevant ...

et cetera. The word 'relevant' there is interesting to have picked out and in the course of that discussion on the amendment we did not hear an answer on that. I would now like an answer as to where it says 'relevant business industry,' et cetera. Who decides what is relevant, what is the scope of the relevance and how will we as a community, as a parliament understand what that scope is and who is part of it under each of those different groups?

Mrs HISCUTT - The term 'relevant' is consistent with the wording in the existing act. The bill sets in place a work plan in which some industries will not be relevant, for example, in the transport emissions reduction and resilience plan a relevant business is one in that sector. However, these terms are inclusive and I am not seeking to exclude any industry or business, and anybody who wishes to participate or make a submission to those plans is welcome.

[3.36 p.m.]

Ms RATTRAY - A question on consultation with relevant business, industry, scientific, environmental and community bodies, children, young people, local government. Now we have added an amendment which will talk about relevant unions and the Tasmanian community. In my question and the response from the Leader in the second reading speech, where I asked about short-term implications for sectors in the transition to a low emissions economy, particularly the agriculture sector, the information was provided that an economic impact analysis of opportunities to reduce emissions in Tasmania was undertaken by the Victoria University. It goes on to actually predict some of the outcomes and saying there will be actually a real value expansion in some of these industries from 2030 on to 2050.

That information that has already been provided and work undertaken, is that going to be all that is going to be done with those industries, particularly the agriculture sector? Is that it, or are there going to be further discussions? There could well be some in the industry who believe that Victorian University analysis might not actually deliver the benefits being proposed by this analysis. How much more work consultation will occur? I have used my agricultural sector as an example, but also the fishing and forestry industries. Will there be additional work? Or, are we are going to say, well, we have done that analysis, that has been done, you are sorted, we will get over here now and we will work on local government and young children?

Mrs HISCUTT - The Tasmanian Government will partner with business and industry to develop emissions reduction and resilience plans that set achievable and realistic pathways to a lower emissions future and identify and manage the impacts of climate change-related risks for the following sectors: energy and transport, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, land use, land use change and forestry and waste.

The bill allows the minister to prepare plans for other sectors or sub-sectors as required. It is proposed that plans will be developed in partnership between the Tasmanian government and representatives from business and industry to ensure any emissions reduction opportunities and pathways identified are equitable, realistic and practical, consistent with the opportunities and challenges climate change presents to each sector and consistent with the capacity of each sector to transition to a lower emissions future. The bill requires the Government to consult with industry as we develop this plan, so there will be consultation.

Ms RATTRAY - My next question in this clause is (7): 'The Minister is to publish the climate change action plan' - so that is the plan you have just referred to - 'in such formats as the Minister considers appropriate to ensure easy accessibility to a wide range of audiences, including - '.

Madam CHAIR - Which clause are you in, member for McIntyre?

Ms RATTRAY - I am on 5.

Mrs HISCUTT - What page are you on?

Ms RATTRAY - Page 11.

Madam CHAIR - We are in clause 5.

Ms RATTRAY - We are not at clause 5A yet?

Madam CHAIR - No, we are in clause 5.

Mrs Hiscutt - We are not at 6 yet.

Madam CHAIR - That is part of clause 6 where you are.

Ms RATTRAY - I will wait my turn.

Mr VALENTINE - I am sure I can put all sorts of targets into this but on page 8 in clause 5(a)(ii), top of page 8, it says:

reporting and Parliamentary oversight of progress made towards achieving Tasmania's emissions reduction target -

A no-brainer.

and other targets;

I am interested in what is in the Government's mind as to what those other targets might be. Some examples?

Mrs HISCUTT - The emissions reduction target is what was set and other targets could be things like the EV fleet target. It could be any targets developed as part of the emissions reduction resilience plan. It could be an adoption of any new technology or any other sort of target.

Mrs HISCUTT - Madam Chair, I wish to report progress.

Madam CHAIR - For the purposes of?

Mrs HISCUTT - For the purposes of skipping afternoon tea.

Leave granted.

Progress reported. Committee to sit again.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Extension of Sitting Times

[3.45 p.m.]

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council)(by leave) - Mr President, I move -

That so much of sessional orders relating to the 4 p.m. break be suspended to enable the Council to sit beyond 4 p.m. for today's sitting.

Motion agreed to.

CLIMATE CHANGE (STATE ACTION) AMENDMENT BILL 2021 (No. 63)

In Committee

Clause 6 -Part 2, Division 1 substituted **Madam CHAIR** - We will divide these into the sub-parts because there is a bit in each part. That gives members an opportunity to ask questions on each section.

Clause 6 -

Subclause 5

[3.47 p.m.]

Ms LOVELL - I have an amendment to this clause. I move the following amendment in my name:

First amendment

Page 9, proposed new section 5, subsection (1).

Leave out "30 June 2030".

Insert instead "31 December 2023".

Members, I know there has been some discussion about this in briefings that we have had and certainly in correspondence from the minister. I understand there is some resistance towards this from the minister. I understand the arguments behind that. The arguments that I have put to the Chamber as to why I think this amendment is important and worthwhile is that - to take it back a step - this amendment is in relation to our emissions reduction target under this act and the target that is being set.

Currently, the objective is to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions or lower in Tasmania from 30 June 2030. My amendment seeks to bring that forward to 31 December 2023.

That amendment is based on advice and recommendations that we have received through consultation that we have undertaken. I suspect the minister would have received similar submissions from groups. In particular, this amendment was based on consultation with Climate Tasmania. Also, importantly, this is based on the evidence that demonstrates through our current greenhouse gas reporting that Tasmania has achieved net zero in six of the last seven years, from 2014. The point being that we are already at net zero currently and it is not particularly ambitious to set a target for almost eight years time that achieves where we are at now.

From discussions with the minister and from the research that is available, I understand that there is a necessity for further work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to maintain that net zero status, particularly, based on modelling across the rest of the decade. However, I am not convinced that is not reason to set the target now. I know that the minister has called this a do-nothing target, he feels like this would be setting a target that does not really require any work, so there is no point in it. However, I do not accept that. We do not set a target then walk away from it, forget it once we have achieved it. We set the target, we achieve it, we have already achieved it in fact. We achieve and maintain it.

I do not buy the argument that it is a do-nothing target. It is not a set and forget. We do not set the target, achieve it, then that is it, we are never going to look at it again. We maintain it. Our net zero status is something we should be incredibly proud of. I want us to be more ambitious for Tasmania. This is important work we are doing. It is achievable, it is something we can achieve. I am interested to hear members' contributions and other thoughts. Obviously, this is something we are asking members to consider. People may have varied views on this, but I ask members to support the amendment.

Mrs HISCUTT - For clarity, it is seven years out of the last seven years, not six years out of the last seven years.

Ms Lovell - Even better then. More reason that we can -

Mrs HISCUTT - Yes, even better. I do not think so. Needless to say, the Government does not support the proposed amendment. The 2023 target has not been subject to the same degree of analysis, consultation, nor scrutiny of their impacts, as the 2030 statewide target embodied in the bill. This has been based on the independent review's recommendations, open and targeted consultation with business, industry and the community since February 2021, the outcomes of the Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review and corresponding economic analysis to determine the impact of a more ambitious emissions reduction target on jobs and growth for Tasmania, consideration of the bushfire risks to our existing emissions profile and an internationally agreed reporting framework under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

The Tasmanian Emissions Pathway Review prepared by appointed advisory, provides detailed analysis of Tasmania's future emissions. The report indicates that under a business as usual scenario, Tasmania is projected to become a net greenhouse gas emitter and loss of its net zero status in 2030 and subsequently in years when major bushfire events are modelled. The report clearly demonstrates that earlier net zero targets, such as 2023, are likely to be achieved without any action to reduce emissions at all. This is why the Tasmanian Government is committed to establishing a target of net zero emissions or lower from 2030. This target clearly seeks to avoid the scenario.

If we act now, Tasmania has an opportunity to change the trajectory of our emissions and keep our emissions below net zero. As noted by the member for Murchison in her second reading contribution, the pathway review identified 16 best emissions reduction opportunities for Tasmania. If implemented, these opportunities ensure that not only will Tasmania achieve the 2030 net zero target, but will continue to sequester more emissions over time.

The economic impact analysis by Victoria University demonstrates that adopting these emissions reduction opportunities can lead to significant economic gains for Tasmania in the form of increased productivity, more demand for Tasmanian products and higher economic and employment growth.

Many of the Government's recent climate-related investments and policies, including in the energy, transport industries, agriculture and waste sectors, have been designed to fit the course of Tasmania's emissions into the best-fit emissions reduction trajectory to achieve the 2030 target. As the member for Murchison noted, we cannot pick just one, we need to take action across all sectors of our community.

My second reading speech enlisted recent policies and investments the Government has made to reduce emissions. This list was part of the Government's recent investment of over \$300 million over the last three years on climate change action.

Members, you can see why the minister has chosen to put it in at 2030. It has certainly been reviewed and consulted upon and a decision has been made. This is the best way to go. With all the background work that has been done to come to this target we should stick to 2030 and I urge members to vote against this amendment.

Ms WEBB - This is an interesting one. The idea we have been hitting this for seven out of the last seven years - although DPAC tells us it is six. You might have to check with DPAC about your figures. We are doing this. The argument we cannot yet set this as a target for ourselves for next year because things might change and we might not hit it, therefore we will keep it as a target seven or eight years from now, seems a bit silly to me.

The reasons we might not continue our trajectory which we are on of hitting it are largely to do with things that would be beyond our control, probably about changes to the sequestration side of things, maybe a big bushfire or those sorts of events that will disrupt the calculation and might put us back.

It would be easy to explain why we had not hit the target if that was the case. You have to remember the Leader said we have not consulted on the impact of setting this target for next year, we have only consulted on it for 2030.

The reality is, the impact of a target is nothing tangible. The impact of a target is to motivate and provide an ambition and point we are aiming for. The impact of not hitting it is actually zero, except it can be useful to provide an explanation why. It can be accountability about why we have either hit that target - we may have to explain why we have exceeded it, that would be a good news story. Or we might have to explain why we failed to meet it. It is not the terrible, drastic impact of that because it is likely there will be a pretty straightforward explanation.

The interesting comment about it being a do-nothing target, there is a very easy way to counteract that.

Mrs Hiscutt -That was said in the other place.

Ms WEBB - It was raised here and I am picking up on it because it was raised in the discussion on the proposed amendment. If we set the target for 2023, the likelihood is we meet it, if we do not we probably have a good explanation why. We do not then sit on our coat tails, sit back and do nothing. We would, of course, be looking ahead then for setting targets.

The thing that would make it meaningful is to then have targets in place, and there is an upcoming amendment I am flagging that we will get to. Targets in place that relate to absolute greenhouse gas emissions reductions. The factors that might hold us back from hitting targets, the side of things which is about sequestration and not actually reducing emissions but about how we are storing emissions in our forests and whatnot is a bit out of our control.

The thing we do have in our control is the actual amount we are emitting. The potential we can have for reducing that. Absolute greenhouse gas emissions are going to relate to that. If we set targets for that, then we can hit our net target for 2023 and we can look ahead and say, how would we like to be aiming to reduce our absolute emissions target for 2030? That gives us a meaningful trajectory to plan around and to deliver an actual outcome of reduction, because we know with the calculations around net there does not necessarily have to be any reduction

in the emissions we are making for it to look pretty good. We can stay at net zero potentially without actually making any reductions to how much we are emitting, because of what is happening on the sequestration side of things.

We will get to that amendment, though I am flagging it as relevant to this. There is no danger in bringing it forward to 2023 as a target for the net emissions. It makes plenty of sense for us to look ahead and think about absolute reduction targets after that. I support the amendment.

Mrs HISCUTT - The target, we totally agree, is to motivate and provide something to aim towards. Also, Tasmania's new emissions reduction target date net zero emissions from 2030 will provide businesses and industries sufficient time to plan and make the investments into the low emissions technology required to transition to a low emissions economy and implement the collective emissions reduction action required to maintain Tasmania's net zero emissions status.

Members, I reiterate, this has been consulted on at length. I do not know how many times as Leader I get the question and finger poked at me, 'who have you consulted?' We have consulted at length with many people over two years to come to this point, and now we are trying to introduce something that has not been consulted on. Industry is not aware of it, and personally, I would have a heart attack if it was me, just 'to be sure to be sure'.

This is a target that is achievable. It is a target that gives businesses and industry the time to think about what they need to do and get it done by 2030. As I said, this has been consulted on for over two years and I cannot believe we are even contemplating adding something that has not even been consulted.

Mr VALENTINE - We rest on this mantra that we have achieved net zero emissions now, and yet we do not take into account emissions associated with harvesting our forest plantations or native forests, I believe. I stand to be corrected, but I think that is the case.

If we aim at nothing, we hit it - that is the mantra I always come out with. Sharpening the target and reducing that time frame is important. The world is not going to fall apart if we do not meet it in December 2023. I do not consider anyone is going to be overtly impacted. However, to have it in there shows our serious intent and that is the important aspect of this, and so I support it.

Mrs HISCUTT - Emissions are reported on according to internationally agreed frameworks. The emissions from harvesting are incorporated into emissions and sequestration in the land use, land use change, and forestry sector.

I urge members to give our businesses and industries time to plan and make investments into the low emissions technology that will be required to help them transition. The 2030 target is a reasonable, well-consulted target. The 2023 is like a shock. Please do not go there.

Madam CHAIR - The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The Committee divided -

AYES 6

Mr Edmunds (Teller) Mr Gaffney Ms Lovell Mr Valentine Ms Webb Mr Willie

NOES 8

Ms Armitage Mr Duigan Ms Forrest Mr Harriss Mrs Hiscutt Ms Howlett (Teller) Ms Palmer Ms Rattray

Amendment negatived.

[4.07 p.m.]

Madam CHAIR - The question is that clause 6, subclause 5, stand part of the bill. Member for Nelson, do you have a question on this?

Ms WEBB - This is an amendment?

Madam CHAIR - No, we are not onto you, you are in 5(a) are you not?

Ms WEBB - No, I am 5 for this one. My first amendment.

Madam CHAIR - Oh, sorry, yes. My apologies.

Clause 6 -

Further amendment proposed

Ms WEBB - Thank you. This is clause 6, I move a further amendment -

Page 9, proposed new section 5, after subsection (2):

Insert the following subsections:

- (3) Within 12 months after the day on which the *Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Act 2022* takes effect, the Minister is to set an absolute greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for Tasmania to achieve by no later than 31 December 2030.
- (3) The Minister is to review and reset the absolute greenhouse gas emissions target whenever a climate change action plan is prepared.
- (5) In this section -

"absolute greenhouse gas emissions" means measured or estimated greenhouse gas emissions which do not include any account of carbon sequestration through natural or artificial processes.

Mrs HISCUTT - Excuse me, Madam Chair, while the member is on her feet, were the numbers (3), (4) and (5) because I heard you say something different?

Ms WEBB - Sorry, I meant to say (3), (4) and (5); did I misspeak? My apologies, did I misspeak on (4)? Do I have to read it again?

Madam CHAIR - No, we are clarifying it was correct.

Ms WEBB - Excellent. I just read out subclauses (3), (4) and (5) that are part of my amendment, my apologies. They come after what is already there in proposed new section 5, subclauses (1) and (2).

This amendment is not unrelated to the previous amendment; although, it is not connected to it either. We can contemplate it separately, the other amendment not having passed. This amendment seeks to require that the state set an absolute emissions reduction to be achieved by the end of 2030.

The target would then be reviewed and reset whenever a climate change action plan is prepared. Under this legislation, there is a process described for that. 'Review and reset' could also mean 'stay the same', but it is a process for review and then stating again. That would mean that we would have an absolute emissions reduction target in place for our state, on an ongoing basis.

The amendment provides a definition of what 'absolute greenhouse gas emissions' means in relation to this target.

I will speak to that definition to make sure that we are clear on it, and talk about why it is important to have an absolute emissions target when we already have a net emissions target. The way the accounting is done, emissions are given a positive number when they are released into the atmosphere, and a negative number when greenhouse gasses are drawn out of the atmosphere and sequestered into plants and soils and geological strata, that kind of thing. It is a little counterintuitive in a way, because the positive value and the negative value are a little bit opposite to what their actual effect is.

Net emissions are calculated when you have the values of the sequestration subtracted from the values of what is being emitted, and you come up with a net figure. That is where our net zero comes into when we make that calculation of what is being emitted, what is being drawn down. Absolute emissions are simply the value of what is being emitted, added together. So, no sequestration is taken into account.

The primary reason for recommending that we should have that absolute emissions reduction target is so that it becomes visible and discussed - transparent and accountable, in that sense. Currently, it is not because we are only talking about net emissions reduction targets. We are fortunate to be able to talk about our net zero. We get to that by having renewable energy generation in this state, through our Hydro, and because of our forests and the sequestration that happens there. It is fine to talk about net and have targets for that. By

doing that, we hide the absolute emissions figures and we fail to set a target. If we fail to set a target for that, it remains hidden. That is about what we are emitting.

There are some disadvantages to keeping that hidden. It means that if we have changes or no changes in what we are emitting, and we are not setting a target and articulating that and tracking towards it, then we can be a little complacent about it. We can rest on our laurels and be thankful for the ways we have benefitted through our energy generation in this state and through our forests, when that is a little vulnerable. We know the Government has talked about that. We are at risk of having net go above zero because there is some uncertainty about the sequestration side of things, it goes up and down. Unexpected events can affect it - such as bushfires.

Ms Rattray - Like a fire.

Ms WEBB - Sure. We can control and plan for, and make transparent and visible, our plan about reducing emissions.

It also gives us something to tie our other planning processes into. The climate action plans, the sector-based plans, and even the risk assessments - we can tie them into a visible articulation of what target we are aiming for with absolute emissions reductions.

Setting a target is not a big, scary thing, because we have already been figuring out the numbers when we are doing those other plans. When we are working closely in partnership with industry and business in their sectors, they will already be crunching numbers to figure out what our current situation is, what improvements we want to make and then how we might go about making them together. We are making a plan.

Setting a target to go with those plans and as part of the ambition of those plans is not about setting a punitive target, or setting an unrealistic target, or setting some form of aspirational, non-evidence-based target. It is about being clear and open about the number crunching we are already doing as we plan. It is about putting that into the public domain. Then, when we go through our consultative processes in the planning spaces, we can have honest and open discussions about how we are doing, and what we need to do more of, or do differently, or perhaps differently innovate.

There is no tangible, horrific, scary impact on anyone if we fail to meet a target. It is a shame, we will probably have to explain why we did not meet the target. There is probably going to be a series of reasons. If we did fail to meet the target we would probably have some clear reasons we can point to for why we did not.

The other thing this amendment does, it provides for the reviewing and resetting. We have these regular moments where you make climate action plans and sector-based plans. That is our opportunity to feed into discussion about reviewing and resetting targets. It might even be relevant at certain times to reduce targets we have put in place for example, because of what we have come to understand about our trajectory or the way things are shifting and changing within our industries.

This is a real accountability measure. When I say it, I do not mean it to be some scary thing for the government of the day, whoever it is, to feel worried about the accountability of setting this target. It is actually for our community a shared accountability. It is an accountability, yes, for government, for industry broadly statewide, for our community broadly, something that we can all buy into, and becomes part of our shared ambition for progress here. We know we want tangible progress. We know we absolutely need to make urgent and tangible progress. This is just putting the numbers on the table.

The other thing about a target, it might actually also be not necessarily a fixed number. It could potentially be a range, it is a discussion to have. What I am not doing with this amendment, you will note I am not saying what the target should be. I am not saying how ambitious it needs to be. All those things become part of discussions in the setting of it. The amendment just lays out that the minister is to set the target. It does not even tell the minister how he or she has to go about it. It is just a target that needs to be set. That is probably enough at the outset, but I am happy to engage more if members have thoughts or questions on the amendment. I hope we get support for it.

Mrs HISCUTT - The Government does not support this amendment. The Government does not agree with the proposed amendment for an absolute emissions reduction target. Of course we do not support the approach. The requirement for an absolute emissions target has not been subject to the same degree of analysis, consultation nor scrutiny of their impacts as the 2030 statewide target embodied in the bill. An economy-wide net zero emissions target means that greenhouse gas emissions and removals across the economy balance to an overall result of zero. This means emissions gains in some sectors can be balanced by emissions reductions in other sectors.

An economy-wide target recognises not all sectors are at the same rate of transition and some require more time. That is commercialisation of feed supplements for livestock - I will not go into my favourite subject about the seaweed - also support and new technologies, for example, low emissions cement and carbon free aluminium. An economy-wide target provides a balanced flexible approach to achieving emissions reductions across the economy. A net zero target ensures consistency with an internationally agreed emissions reporting framework under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, in which countries are required to report on net emissions.

The Government's position is to adopt an economy-wide target, not sector-based targets. The seeking of an absolute emissions reduction is contrary to this commitment, as it focuses on emitting sectors and not those such as forestry, where sequestration can play a significant and important role in action on climate change. In this way an absolute emissions target could skew action and investment prioritisation away from readily available and effective sequestration efforts, with its attendant biodiversity co-benefits and potentially, towards emissions reductions technology that are not as well developed or ready to be rolled out at scale. This is why the member talked about the need for it to be transparent. The Government has committed to detail annual reporting of emissions at the sector and the sub-sector level, including both emissions reduction and sequestration.

Transparent reporting of this information enables interested parties to derive Tasmanian absolute emissions in a clear and transparent way, using whatever methodology they choose to use and will be available in the greenhouse gas emissions report which will be tabled annually.

Members, there are some fairly good reasons to not support this amendment and I certainly hope you do not.

Ms RATTRAY - A question to the member. We have talked a lot over many years about the value of having our forests in this state and there has been somewhat of an expectation from some people and communities on the big island that we are doing our bit for the country by having more forest locked up. I am not particularly keen on that word, but that is pretty much what it was so I am interested why you would not include that. I understand the threat of fire and that is a significant issue, but as a Tasmanian community we have managed to put a lot of effort, pain and suffering into building and expanding our forests, particularly the ones that cannot and will never be harvested. As well, a focus on planting more forest. Why you would not include them in any account if you are looking to have this absolute greenhouse gas emissions? A bit more information if I might, thank you.

Mr VALENTINE - I support this. It is a bit like budgeting. It is hard to do that effectively if you do not know the potential drawdowns from your account that can impact on you meeting your financial commitments. If you have an absolute target and you are taking into account exactly what we emit as opposed to what some of those other natural aspects are in terms of emissions, it helps us to know what our activity is actually doing and how it is contributing. We do need this absolute target. It provides you with a metric to help you measure how you are going in terms of your everyday activity and in this case on this island.

Mrs HISCUTT - The Tasmanian Government's target is based on: recommendations from the independent review of the act; consultation with business, industry and the community since February 2021; the detailed analysis of Tasmania's emissions pathway out to 2050 and corresponding economic analysis to determine the impact of a more ambitious emissions reduction target on employment and economic growth for Tasmania; the consideration of the bushfire risk to our existing and future emissions profile; and our internationally agreed reporting framework, as I have mentioned before, to do with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, countries must report net emissions from the following sectors: energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, land use change and forestry and waste. Our focus is on emissions reduction and is embodied in the emissions reduction plan.

As you can see members, the Government has done a lot of consultation. These amendments we see here before us to date have not been consulted on. This is the best way forward and we do not want to leave any industry behind or make an industry very hard to compete in what they are doing.

I urge members to please not look at this amendment, to vote no against this amendment and stick to what is in the bill. It has been consulted and everybody is happy with it.

Ms LOVELL - I support the amendment. I understand what the Leader is saying about consultation and work that needs to be done to work with people who might be affected by this. All the amendment is doing is requiring a target to be set in the future. It is giving you 12 months to do that work. It is not saying, we are going to set a target now and that is going to be the target and everyone has to stick to it and you have to achieve it or else. It is not even saying what the target should be. It is saying, take 12 months, do that work, do the consultation, do the research, do what needs to be done and figure out what your target is going to be that is reasonable, that people can be comfortable with and feel is achievable. Set the target.

Then, as the member for Nelson has said, if we do not reach the target - of course, we should be aiming to reach the target, but it is not something that people need to be fearful of. It does not mean we are going to come along and shut you down or take you to court and that is the end of everything for you if you do not achieve that target. It is not something that businesses need to be jumping up and down and feeling fearful of. It is an ambition. It is a target to aim towards.

The key for me with this particularly is that it is not setting a target now and it is not even saying what the target should be. It is just saying: this parliament is suggesting or is asking the Government to go away and do the work to set the target to be achieved in 2030. It is not an unreasonable time frame. We are not suggesting what the target should be. We are just asking the Government to go away and do that work because this is an important aspect of climate action that needs to be considered.

I support the amendment.

Mrs HISCUTT - Finally, this is angst that these sectors do not require. They have been consulted on and they know what is happening. This is going to be a red flag to them, and whether or not it is a real flag, I know sectors out there are already concerned about this and are thinking about it and worrying about it. This is more angst that they do not need. They have been consulted on the bill as it is and most people, I should imagine, know that they have to change. This is a climate change bill and they are prepared for what is in this bill.

I urge you not to vote for this amendment because it is going to provide another layer of angst that all these sectors do not need.

[4.28 p.m.]

Ms WEBB - Thank you to members for their contributions. I will try to address a few of those matters that have come up. First of all, I will go to the member for McIntyre's question about why would you not include forests. Setting an absolute emissions reduction target happens alongside the net reductions target. They do not compete with each other or one does not cancel out the other. The absolute emissions reduction pulls some information out of the way we calculated the net ones and makes it visible separately. When we calculate the net target, we take into account what we emit and we take into account what our forests draw down and we come to that figure, which, happily, at the moment is zero.

This takes the figure out from that calculation, what we emitted and says, we are going to set a target about how much we are going to reduce that. It relates to that. I am not sure if that makes sense, I can try again if that does not make sense -

Ms Rattray - Try again.

Ms WEBB - Let us keep it simple. Already in the bill - and we did not amend it - we already have a requirement that we have a target of net zero emissions by 2030. That stays there, that target sits, nothing is touched in that target by this amendment. Alongside that, separate to it but alongside, it says, let us set a target for our absolute emissions reduction for 2030. That target is just going to relate to how much we reduce our actual emissions by, without taking into account sequestration. The two numbers are sitting beside each other, they do not cancel each other out, they do not jeopardise each other, they are making visible part of the way we calculate net, in a sense, and setting how we plan to reduce that by as a target.

I hope that makes sense but I can always come back on my third call if you want to put more to me about it.

On to some of the other matters. To make the claim that it has not been consulted on is unfortunate because the Government would well know, and the Leader would well know as she has already mentioned this, but there was a lot of consultation on the review of the act and then on the draft bill. Many of those who made submissions in both those processes talked about the importance of absolute emissions reduction targets. This was put forward as a concept by many people entering into that process. The Government's own consultation processes, which I congratulate them on, and it is made clear here, have successfully consulted for us on this. Many people who are expert put forward this as something that was important as a visible and transparent accountable part of our planning to set a target.

It is interesting that the Government talks about individual businesses and the impact on them. This does not have an impact on individual businesses. This is an economy-wide target, a statewide target. It is not a target that is imposed individually on sectors or businesses. It is our statement about our economy-wide, statewide target for reducing our absolute emissions. It does not have a punitive impact on businesses.

As the member for Rumney said, it is not prescribing what the target should be. It is not prescribing even how it should be set. It would naturally, you would think, be set over the next 12 months while the Government is working with industry, businesses, the community and others on the final action plan it is progressing, on sectoral-based emissions standards it is progressing.

While all this is happening, we will be collecting information that would feed into this target. The numbers are already being crunched. We have already been having the planning, consultation and discussions about how much we might be able to reduce our absolute emissions. We will have those numbers. We will have those calculations. This says let us put them out there visibly in the public domain as the target for 2030. There is nothing scary about that because it is information that will already be part of our normal discussions. The Government has said it will be reporting on this in a sector-by-sector way in emissions and making those things visible through reporting.

This is suggesting lifting that up to an economy-wide, statewide target to set for a future date which we can review and reset at regular intervals. There is nothing scary about this. It is not punitive. It is based on work that will already be undertaken as we do the other plans and whatnot.

It is not something that individual businesses or sectors will feel the effect of beyond what they are already going to be discussing and planning for with the Government for their sector-based emissions plans and for our broader climate action plan. It does not stop benefits from sequestration. It does not translate across and have any direct impact into what is happening in that space or what investigations are occurring. This is not a target that has been composed by some external god-like entity as a punitive measure. This is a target we are setting for ourselves. So, if we set it in such a way that it is somehow negatively impacting investment in another part of this space, in the sequestration space, that would be a foolish target for us to set. Surely the Government would not do that? We would do it in such a way that it works within the comprehensive approach that is being taken forward. This still allows for balance. It still allows for sectors to move at different rates. It does not say all sectors have to reduce at the same rate or at the same time because it is economy-wide. It is statewide as a target.

Madam CHAIR - You are getting a bit repetitive now.

Ms WEBB - Thank you. I am picking up on the wording that was used from the Leader but it does not have those direct impacts in that way.

I will sit and if there is more clarification I can rise for my third call.

Mrs HISCUTT - The 2030 target is already a nation-leading target. It is one of the most ambitious in the world. It will guide the Government's actions into the future. It has been recommended by the independent review and is supported by the emissions pathway review and the economic analysis. We have dragged out the consultation on the draft bill. There were three out of 25 submissions that suggested that we can come up with it here and now. That was all we could circle. Sorry, that was just the absolute emissions reduction target, three out of 25 mentioned that. We are not proposing sectoral targets.

A recurring theme from industry consultation held to date is that a whole-of-economy target is preferred to setting sectoral emissions reduction targets.

Ms Webb - It is not sectoral emissions reduction targets.

Mrs HISCUTT - This is what it will be. Some will have to sacrifice for others.

Ms Webb - The amendment is not about sectoral emissions reduction targets.

Madam CHAIR - Order.

Mrs HISCUTT - Some sectors, such as transport, are well positioned to transition to a lower emissions future, while other sectors, such as agriculture and industrial processes, will require research, investment and time to develop and implement at scale the necessary technologies and scales. All I can do is go back to say that an economy-wide net zero emissions target allows greenhouse gas emissions in some sectors of the economy to be offset by greenhouse gas removals in other sectors of the economy. As I have said, my advisers have been through their consultation papers here, and only three out of 25 have suggested the absolute emissions targets.

Ms RATTRAY - Thank you, Madam Chair. I thank the member who has proposed the amendment, for her clarification. I am going to be the devil's advocate here. I am interested in why you chose 12 months, and particularly within 12 months. Some might say that it is quite an ambitious target and please, if I am wrong, let me know. However, what if the Government decides that it is too difficult to meet that? This is after the day on which the Climate Change (State Action) Amendment Act 2022 takes effect. The Government is in charge of when it proclaims the bill.

The Government could easily say it is too hard, we will not proclaim it; and then other actions are not acted upon. I am interested in your thoughts about that. I am not saying that

the Government is not committed to this bill. However, have you considered whether the Government can meet those obligations in the time frame, if it was supported?

Madam CHAIR - If you want to sit down, member for McIntyre, the member for Nelson only has one more speak. If you have any other questions relating to the amendment, I urge you to put them now so she has a chance to respond, and before she responds, any other person who has questions, also put them.

Ms RATTRAY - Thank you very much for that wise counsel, Madam Chair. Yes, I was aware of that. I do not have any more questions once that one is answered.

Mr GAFFNEY - I will ask this for clarity. In the Leader's response she talked about sectoral targets. This amendment, as rightly stated, is about absolute greenhouse emissions. I wonder if the member for Nelson could again focus on what this amendment is about. The other one, the sectoral one, comes up later.

[4.39 p.m.]

Ms FORREST - Madam Deputy Chair, I will make a few points on this and ask the member for Nelson to address her mind to them. The Leader may wish to make comment as well. I understand the intent of this. It is to set a target for absolute emissions - the emissions that are occurring regardless of what the sequestration benefits are in the state. To make a difference into the future, which is what we should be focusing on here, it is about reducing our absolute emissions - like making sure that our business, industries, transport sector, we who drive our diesel or fuel cars at the moment, are all contributing to that. It is important. We all have an obligation here. The measurement of that level of emission will be recorded as part of assessing net zero. So, we will know what it is because it has to be counted and assessed to be able to actually say what your net zero is. I do not think I am off the track, yet.

The member for McIntyre referenced the impact of wildfires, and I will too. We have, sadly, limited capacity to control the starting of wildfires. We can put in good mechanisms to try to fight them, but we know that the risk of climate change - and if we take too long over this, rather than getting on with the action, the risk gets worse every day - that can significantly impact the emission profile of the state because that will be counted as an emission, even though none of the sectors such as agriculture, industry, or transport, have contributed to it. I am interested in the member for Nelson's comments about that, when the Government, if this is successful, is working to set an absolute emissions target.

I note that the bill commences on royal assent. As soon as it gets royal assent, it is then in place. So, in 12 months time - and maybe this work has been done - we need to factor in the likely impact of the likely number of wildfires we are to see. It is a bit hard to assess that in some respects, because it depends on the climate a bit. The TWWHA is dry at the moment, but the north-west is not, and other parts. Deloraine is not dry at the moment either, for example.

I understand that there is no penalty for this. If it is put in place it is basically just 'please explain'. It should be seen as an aspirational target as well. It should not be something that we can easily achieve. One of my concerns here is that this will be used to target some of the industry sectors that have very limited capacity to take action now. I am seeking a commitment from the member for Nelson and others who support this, including myself if I support this, that we do not use this as a weapon to say, look at that dirty mining industry, look at those

terrible farmers who are not doing their bit. The mining industry is actually doing quite a bit to reduce their emissions, and companies like Grange have already committed to a net zero emission by 2030. It does not mean they will not have emissions, because they will. They are focusing on net zero, and that is admirable because they are certainly not net zero emitters at the moment.

The farmers, particularly dairy and beef farming, will need to wait at least for Asparagopsis to be commercialised and to be an option for that sector. We have ten years to do that, when we see the target. I accept that, the member for Nelson's comments and the amendment as it is drafted. We do not really know when that will be fully commercialised. It will be easier to feed to dairy cattle. It will be more difficult to feed to beef cattle. King Island, my community over there, has mostly beef cattle these days. There are not many dairy cattle -

Ms Rattray - So does Flinders Island, now.

Ms FORREST - Yes, they are mostly beef. However, King Island has at least 20 per cent of the beef herd of Tasmania, or a little bit over.

I need some sort of assurance that if this is to be supported, we do not see this used as a weapon to smack industries that will be genuinely trying to reduce their emissions because it is in everyone's interest that we do. It is in the farmers' interest that we do - the beef and dairy farmers. It is in the mining sector's interest that we do. I need some assurance about how this might be used.

I also did note the Leader's comment from her first response that it could have a perverse effect of forcing action to more challenging areas; so, we focus entirely on addressing the flatulence of our dairy and beef herd, knowing that is a big issue, rather than focusing on some of the areas where we can get quick fixes in. Because overall, as the minister said in the briefing, the environment does not care where the emission reduction occurs, we need to get the emissions down. If we do not, the difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees is catastrophic. That is what we need to keep focusing on here. That difference is catastrophic. We want action in the sectors. Transport we can work on more quickly, we know we can, we have seen the technology there. The agriculture sector is more challenging to do it in a timely manner.

I would be happier about expecting a requirement for reporting this, rather than necessarily setting a target. Even though there is no penalty for doing, it is potentially going to be used as a weapon. That is my concern for the member for Nelson to address her mind to, along with the other matters that have been raised. I can see the benefit of this, but I also see how it could be used to victimise certain sectors of our economy we rely on who will do what they can but they need more time. They are the comments I have.

Madam DEPUTY CHAIR - Before the Leader commences, I remind members the member for Nelson does only have one more call. If anyone has any questions I suggest you take your turn after the Leader.

Mrs HISCUTT - I hear the member for Murchison asking for the member for Nelson to make a commitment and whether or not a commitment is made we have to look at the legislation that is here before us. That is what will be there. The Government has committed to detailed annual reporting and this is set out on page 15, 5D Greenhouse gas report, so that is there. It is a commitment that is in legislation. The biggest fear I have is if there is an absolute

target, very well articulated by the member for Murchison, if we do not reach that target, and I can hear the member for Nelson saying now 'but it is only a projected aspirational target'. There will be fingers being pointed at different sectors and you will have places like the mining industry, for example, or agriculture now who are desperately waiting on the technology to bring them forward to help them do this.

It is not going to happen tomorrow. It takes time and I urge members not to vote for this clause because it will put so much pressure on those sectors. The member for McIntyre has already had some people talking to her about their herds and the fears they already have. Putting this amendment in there will only increase that fear and there is no need because the bill as it is has been consulted on widely and that is about all I can say. Adding this in will be scary stuff for these sectors when there is no need for that to happen. Members, I urge you not to vote for this clause.

Mr GAFFNEY - I raised this in one of the briefings we had. Every time Government ministers speak about how well we are doing, they always go back to we had net zero greenhouse gas emissions, is that not wonderful. We are doing a good job blah, blah, blah. Which is fine. I understand and then they say wood is good, but we will move on from that.

The Government undervalues the maturity of the Tasmanian population in the industries and the sectors in this, acknowledging we understand that some sectors are going to have much lower emissions numbers than others. Some of it will be easy to quantify, some will not. By doing this and having it front and centre then people can see those and have an absolute target with this amendment. It is a good idea. It could be a positive in the fact we are pulling apart the areas in our state that need improving as an informative way of doing that, not as a punitive measure, saying they are not doing enough. It helps the government and helps industry instead of identifying industry X has taken it from this level down to here. Industry Y has gone this far. Is that not great? That does not mean it is doing poorly. It means they had more challenging circumstances to measure that.

Whilst I understand the Government's position to keep it the way it is, so that it looks good, if we are going to make some real changes and dramatically reduce some of this, the people of Tasmania deserve the right to have it front and centre within the sectors and get rid of the sting a little and tell it how it is. That would be quite refreshing for the public, to be told exactly what is happening instead of motherhood statements that we sometimes give. This target still gives until 2030. It still allows some differences with the targets for each of the industries. It still allows that, but it sets more of a realistic crisis we are actually in, in a climate change challenge crisis period, not to try to smooth it over, which is probably what we have been doing for the last few years.

This is an opportunity for us to change that. We do not get that opportunity very often. We should grasp it and take on board some of the amendments suggested. I think it is a good one. I will be supporting the amendment.

[4.51 p.m.]

Ms WEBB - Thank you to members for their contributions, questions and comments, it is useful to add to the discussion. To answer a few of them, I will start with the question from the member for McIntyre, who asked about why 12 months and what if it is too difficult in 12 months. To clarify around the amendment, the target is not being set for the next 12 months. It gives the minister 12 months to set a target for 2030.

Mr Valentine - To do the analysis.

Ms WEBB - Yes. Within the next 12 months after the bill comes into play, the minister would undergo whatever process the minister deems fit. It does not prescribe the process here at all. The minister comes to a target for 2030. There is not pressure in the sense of having to meet anything or think something being too difficult to achieve within the 12 months in terms of the target. What will be happening in the next 12 months, to be clear, in the bill as it stands, the minister will be working hard with staff on a climate change action plan. The next section we get to, 5A, talks about climate change action plans.

If you look at the time lines there, the first one has to be prepared within two years. If you look at subclause (2), over the page, it says the minister is to set the first climate change action plan within 12 months of the day on which this act is seen to have effect. In the next 12 months the minister will doing broad work, crunching numbers that entirely relate to this. The work of this to be done in 12 months will be part of what is already occurring across that time frame, between the minister preparing and consulting on and developing the first of the climate change action plans.

Interestingly enough, what the amendment calls for is that by the end of 12 months the minister would then set the target for 2030 for the reduction in absolute emissions, whatever that may be, through whatever process the minister has arrived at it. Actually, then we would be doing another climate change action plan process five years later, that is what this bill, as it stands, says is to happen. We are to redo. Before we got to 2030 even, what this amendment allows for is that when we do the next iteration, five years hence, we would also review and potentially reset our 2030 target for the reduction in absolute emissions. We can keep it up to date, based on what has occurred over the next what will be six years.

The first climate change action plan gets done in the first 12 months. Five years after that we do the next iteration of the climate change action plan. This amendment allows for the target that has been set for 2030, still out there in the distance, to be reviewed and reset. We can bring it up to date on information gained in the development of the second climate change action plan.

It is a very light-on requirement. It is not prescriptive at all, not prescriptive about how this target is arrived at. It is not prescriptive about who has to be consulted. It is not prescriptive about how ambitious the target has to be. It just says to make one. That is why I find it quite interesting to respond to the member for Murchison's concerns, which I understand would be valid concerns. The member for Murchison was looking for a commitment from me about the fact that such a target set for 2030 would not be used to attack certain industries.

Naturally, I cannot give that assurance because I cannot control behaviour. What I can point to though is if we are worried about the target being weaponised, this is the target that is entirely in the control of the minister - entirely, according to this amendment. It gives the minister absolute discretion to set whatever the target is going to be.

If the minister were to set a target that was able to become weaponised in some way, that would be a shame, absolutely. It would be a real shame. The person who has control of this target is solely the minister, not me. Not anyone he or she might choose to interact with, to consult on with it. None of us can give an assurance about how people might make commentary on or refer to a target, or progress towards it later. In a healthy democracy we do not control that. So, I am not able to make that commitment.

Madam CHAIR - You make it on behalf of yourself. That is what I was asking.

Ms WEBB - Certainly. But, what we would expect - part of the reason of making a target visible is that it becomes accountable too, so we would seek to understand how we are tracking. I would be looking for an understanding about how we are tracking on that target. I can commit that I would use it as a measure of accountability to understand.

Accountability is not a weapon. Accountability is a normal part of a healthy democracy and accountable interaction with the government of the day. I come back to the fact that the person who has control over this emissions reduction target is the minister.

If there was to be concern about weaponising, surely the minister would be thinking about that in setting the target.

To return to those concerns about particular sectors being slower than others and different rates, nothing about this targets an individual sector or business. This is an economy-wide measure, it is an economy-wide target. It is not a sectoral or target. It is unfortunate that the Leader's contribution kept referring to it as a sectoral target because it is not. We will no doubt have that conversation elsewhere.

In your first response you repeatedly talked about it being a sectoral target. It is not.

Mrs Hiscutt - There is no other way you can do it.

Ms WEBB - It is an economy-wide target. It absolutely allows for the fact that there will be different things happening at different paces across the state, across the economy. Is it prescriptive in that?

I will make sure I am covering the questions that were raised.

Ms Rattray - Can you respond to 5D, the greenhouse gas report on page 15 that was referred to?

Ms WEBB - In relation to this? We will be doing reports on numbers that we will be crunching. We would use those numbers to inform our target. It is part of the fact that the work of developing a target for 2030, and then ongoing, that work will be then done. It is not extra work. It is not additional work. We will be crunching numbers about it. We can then make them visible in the target.

That reporting is good. The work done to feed into that reporting would be the same work we had used to feed in to setting targets.

Ms Rattray - It is not duplication then, in your view?

Ms WEBB - It is not duplication because you are taking information you have put together there and putting out something to create a target and make it visible. It is not duplication. I can confidently say it is not going to create duplication in that sense.

Mr Valentine - It helps to form a picture.

Ms WEBB - The member for Murchison was asking about fire impact and the unexpected and potential likelihood of different catastrophic significant fires. Of course, that will impact our emissions profile, I imagine, quite distinctly. Not being an expert on this, I am imagining it does two things. One is it emits carbon through the burning process. Also, we lose forests as a point of sequestration previously. Probably there is a double whammy involved in that. That might not be an appropriate scientific term to use.

There will be factors that we cannot necessarily entirely predict and we are already having to manage how we plan for and calculate those into our thinking around this bill in a number of the other parts of the bill. That might even mean that a target is set to say - and it would not be worded in this way but it will be the plain English way that I will express it - here is our best-case scenario target, here is our target if a few terrible things happen. Here is our target if every terrible thing we can imagine might happen. We could even have that. It becomes a range.

Or we could have the one target. We could go from mid-range target. If a few things we could probably predict are going to occur do happen, this is our mid-range target. There is no test to it, there is no terrible, punitive impact from whether we meet it or not but we would be able to tell the story about whether we met it, whether we exceeded it or whether we did not meet it. We would have a description about the factors that led towards how close we were to that target. I hope that covers that.

There is nothing punitive about this. It is entirely in the minister's control. Nothing in the amendment prescribes how the minister should go about setting it or what the target should be. There is a further point where it can be reviewed before we get to the 2030 time frame this target relates to so we can keep it up to date or the minister can keep it up to date. It is a measure of visibility and accountability in how we are tracking on our reductions from actual emissions we are making. That is an important point of accountability to the community and to the parliament and for us to be able to understand well and describe our progress.

If anyone can think of something I have not covered that was raised before I sit down sing it out. I have covered the notes that I had on my paper. I encourage members to support this. It is not something scary. It will be a shame if it was presented that way to anyone. There is a positive opportunity and the member for Mersey raised it in that way too that it could be seen as a positive opportunity to talk about our success and help us to understand the successful trajectory we are on as a state economy-wide. I hope members can see that and can support the amendment.

Mrs HISCUTT - I need to reiterate again that a net zero target ensures consistency with internationally agreed emissions reporting frameworks. I have been through that. This is what the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change does and the Kyoto Protocol does. It reports on net emissions. We already have that. An absolute emissions target cannot be an economy-wide target because by its very nature it excludes the forestry sector. It could push activity onto other sectors.

I have already been through this once but I need to say it again, this is why the Government has committed to detailed annual reporting of emissions. It is already here, page 15, 5D Greenhouse gas report. The minister will be reporting on this including both emissions

reduction and sequestration. It is already there and I notice that the member for Nelson uses the words like 'it is a measure of accountability' and 'it is a measure of accountability and visibility'. It is an economy-wide target. There is no other way of working out who is accountable if you are not doing it by sector. That is the only way that this will be seen to be happening. What will happen is that the mining sector, the agriculture sector, they will be pointed out as not doing their part because there is no other way you can do it with accountability.

I ask members not to go into this. What the Government has prepared has been consulted on for two years and there are pages and pages of people who have put consultations in and there was only three out of 25 who mentioned absolute targets.

The Committee divided -

AYES 7	NOES 7
Mr Edmunds	Ms Armitage
Ms Forrest	Mr Duigan
Mr Gaffney	Mr Harriss
Ms Lovell (Teller)	Mrs Hiscutt
Mr Valentine	Ms Howlett
Ms Webb	Ms Palmer (Teller)
Mr Willie	Ms Rattray

Madam CHAIR - As the member was unable to convince the majority, I declare that the division passes in the negative.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 6, Subclause 5 agreed to.

Madam CHAIR - Before I call this one, the member for Nelson has a couple of amendments on this. She will have a limited number of calls on the subclause. I urge members if they have questions on the amendment, after she has spoken to it, to put as many questions as you can. She will still need to claim one call for the second amendment.

Ms WEBB - Can I get clarification on that, Madam Chair. I will use one call to make the first of the amendments on this clause. Then, we have calls on the amendment and then I will have the second of my calls on this clause to move the second amendment I want to move. Is that correct?

Madam CHAIR - If the amendment is not agreed -

Ms WEBB - Say, fails?

Madam CHAIR - You have already used one call on the clause. It depends on how it goes.

Ms WEBB - Yes, but I am not using - I think it is clear now.

Madam CHAIR - Yes? It is clear?

Ms WEBB - Yes.

Clause 6 -Subclause 5A

[5.10 p.m.]

Ms WEBB - Madam Chair, I am going to move the first amendment from this clause, in my name. I am going to turn the page over, same page, it is called second amendment on my sheet, sorry. On page 2 of my amendment sheet, at the top.

Second amendment, same page, proposed new section 5A, subsection (1):

Leave out "5 years".

Insert instead "3 years."

I will speak to that, and move the next amendments separately. This is a pretty straightforward amendment. I imagine we might move through it quicker because members probably have a firm idea on how they feel about it. The reason that I have proposed this amendment is that to me - and on advice from a range of sources - looking at consultation material that the Government has on this bill and speaking to stakeholders, what I have heard is that because we have climate change impacts happening faster than anticipated and speeding up all the time, we are looking for urgent and responsive action. We need to be quite nimble and responsive about how we move forward with this. We need to adapt and change as we go, and time frames are important for reviewing things.

This is a pretty straightforward amendment that relates to the fact that we will be making climate action plans, which is excellent. It simply suggests that instead of having a five-year period between each action plan, that we review and make a new action plan every three years. It is consistent with the urgency of the task, and the fact that we may need to shift and adapt - particularly, given unforeseen circumstances that do transpire and impact into the plans that we have made.

We see different time frames for different things nationally and internationally. There are some things that reflect the urgency of the transition at an international level. For example, we have the UN Conference of the Parties (COP) happening every year, because they know that things shift and change so often. Other things happen on different time cycles. We can peg this to a cycle of time that suits our state and that allows for some time to pass and impacts to be observed and noted, as well as allowing us to have a review every three years on our climate change action plan. We know that unexpected things can happen, at any moment - COVID-19 taught us that - and we have to shift and change. We do not necessarily have to throw out what we have, and create something entirely new. This says every three years we review and then reconfirm a climate change action plan. It might mean making some small adjustments. It could mean having to consider something quite significant that has occurred because that may happen, across a three-year period.

I do not need to labour the point. Members may well have ideas about the validity of this and I encourage you to see this is a very positive opportunity. It is not onerous, it is responsive.

It does not have to be something that results in us throwing everything out and having to start from scratch. It gives us the opportunity to stay current.

Mrs HISCUTT - Madam Chair, the Government does not support this amendment and the rationale for such a shift is unclear. Climate Tasmania has consistently made the point they consider there is a policy churn over successive governments. This would appear to exacerbate the problem. A five-year time frame brings the reporting into line with international cycles, such as the submission process for countries to pledge nationally determined contributions, the NDC, and the IPCC is currently in its sixth assessment. A shorter time frame limits the ability to effectively deliver and access actions to a high standard.

It would also create resourcing issues within government which would almost consistently be in policy development mode without the opportunity to focus on delivering and implementation. New sub-actions can be added during life cycles of the plan. The member noted the need to be nimble and responsive. We can continue to be nimble and add actions in as the conditions change. We would not wait until the next action plan in five years time.

At the same time the bill establishes a five-year as a minimum time frame and if members look on page 9, 5(A) Climate change action plan, it clearly says 'at least every 5 years thereafter'. It is 'at least', it is not every five years. A three-year time frame would also put the action plan out of sync with other elements of the bill including the emission reductions and resilience plans and the risk assessment, which could result in missed opportunities to include relevant links and activities in the respective elements.

I urge members not to accept this amendment but to stay with what the Government's bill is. As I said before, it has been consulted heavily over the last two years.

Mr VALENTINE - We need to recognise the urgency of climate change and its impact on the globe. You might say, what can a little old Tasmania do? Little old Tasmania can be a leader and it is amazing what happens when people lead. There is an opportunity for us to show we are serious about this and set tighter time frames around some of these things. We have seen marine heatwaves on the east coast. We have talked about that, 21 degrees over recent years is significant. If we were to find there are heatwaves happening at shorter period and all those sorts of things we might want to really ramp up our plans.

If you are reviewing them over a three-year period you have your mind on it. It is not put on the backburner for a little while, we have done that, we do not have to look at that for another few years so we will not keep that front and centre. It is serious stuff and we need to treat it seriously. Adding the shorter time frame in is something that will help to demonstrate to the community that we are serious and we intend to do the best we can to try to reduce our emissions basically and I support it.

Mrs HISCUTT - I would like to read on page 9, 5(A) Climate change action plan subclause (1), so that people understand what is there. It says:

- 5A. Climate change action plan
- (1) The Minister is to prepare a climate change action plan within 2 years after the commencement of this Act and at least every 5 years thereafter.

If something crops up two years into it then the minister will address that there and then. He has to be nimble. He has to be quick. He has to see it and he has to do it so putting in 'leave out 5 years' and insert '3 years', is irrelevant because he can do it at least every five years. Five years is a reasonable term. It has been consulted on. There were 25 odd submissions who came back on the bill. That was not an issue. That was something that was raised as being okay. Five years was alright. Everyone is happy with it and it is at least every five years. It could be one year if the minister happens to see there is some issue that needs to be addressed that can be done under it as it is.

I urge members there is no need to change that and I urge members not to vote for that amendment. What is here is quite adequate. It gives the Government the ability at any time to change or address that, there is no need to change it.

Mr GAFFNEY - It says from royal assent, and I am assuming this will not get royal assent until early next year. I do not think it will get there this year.

Madam CHAIR - It will. I reckon it was a commission.

Mr GAFFNEY - It will get there this year? Or it will go back downstairs, but let us say, that is two years after that, so that makes it 2024 and then five years after that makes it 2029, one year before we have to have the 2030 deadline target. If you go back to something like the voluntary assisted dying bill we put in a three-year one to start with so, we knew how it was going very quickly. Then we went to a five-year after that. It would be important, with this one, to go to a three-year one after two years of the thing, as we have been told it is changing very quickly. There are different international conferences, there is different information coming all of the time.

If the Leader says, if there is an issue, it can come up in one year and the minister can do a 'be nimble and be quick,' well, let the minister 'be nimble and be quick' every three years so that the feedback to the community is up to date and is relevant. People of all generations are out there, they do not want to have to wait five years before they get the feedback about the climate action plan. That is what they are annoyed about at the moment. They want more action. We need to know what is happening on a regular basis, every three years. I do not think this is an unreasonable ask or request. If it is a matter of resourcing, notice the urgency about this issue and put more resources into it. Then, after two years and then another three years, in five years from now, the councils will be discussing this again. Otherwise, it is going to be seven years, is that correct? Yes. Two years and then five years after that, it will be another seven years. It makes sense for this to be every three years.

Mrs HISCUTT - To clarify, the Government has committed to delivering the first action plan within six months, this is urgent and we need to get moving. As the member for Hobart assessed, this is serious stuff. The five-year time frame was recommended by the Independent Review of the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008. It is huge. Anyone can access this online. Recommendation 5 was make the climate action plan a legislative requirement. It goes on to say:

Amend the Act to make the development of a Climate Action Plan a statutory requirement.

The CAP should be developed on a five-year basis and take into account these other things that I have discussed before.

Mr GAFFNEY - What year was that report? I did not get it.

Mrs HISCUTT - The Independent Review of the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008.

Mr GAFFNEY - 2008, 14 years ago?

Mrs HISCUTT - This here says the Independent Review of the Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008. The review was done in 2020 and the final report was delivered late last June 2021. That was the act of 2008, not the review.

Ms RATTRAY - This is possibly something that the mover of the amendment might not be able to answer, so I am going to perhaps seek the Leader's response, given that the department has done a huge amount of work. The minister is to prepare a climate change action plan within two years. You indicated within six months. Is that correct?'

Mrs Hiscutt - He has committed to six months.

Ms RATTRAY - Can I take from that it would normally take about six months to complete a climate action plan? I am trying to work out, if it takes a year and you have to do it every three years, you would no sooner get one done than you are virtually doing it again. That may well be what the member is proposing that happens.

I am trying to work out in my mind, if the first one takes six months, is it expected that ongoing they will take six months, or perhaps they might take longer? If it takes a year, as I have indicated, you no sooner have one done and you are virtually going in to needing to start again to prepare for the next one in that three-year time frame. That is what I am working through here. I am interested in what advice the Leader can provide. I am not sure how easy it is to actually prepare a climate change action plan.

Mrs HISCUTT - In conjunction with the independent review of the acts last year, the Government consulted on Tasmania's next climate change plan. They typically take around 12 months to prepare and consult on. The consultation reports are online if the member wishes to have a look. A shorter time frame limits the ability to effectively deliver and assess actions to a high standard. It would also create resourcing issues within government, which would almost consistently be in policy development mode without the opportunity to focus on delivery and implementation.

The five-year time frame is a reasonable standard to set, bearing in mind that the legislation says at least every five years. If there is an urgent thing, it could be the minister would start on it straightaway.

Ms RATTRAY - If it needs that amount of work, why would the minister have committed to getting the first one done within six months, even though the legislation says that the proposed legislation is to prepare a climate change action plan within two years?

Madam CHAIR - The first one is in 12 months, if you turn the page.

Mrs HISCUTT - To help the member a bit, because this bill is hopefully ready to go, the minister has done a substantial amount of work towards that already.

Ms RATTRAY - I am taking it one page at a time here.

Mrs HISCUTT - That is why he can commit to the six months for the first one.

Ms LOVELL - I understand the reasoning behind this amendment. What we are trying to achieve here is - as I understand the Government's argument as well - the balance between making sure that we are not putting an onerous, unmanageable workload on the department and on the people who will be doing the work on the action plan, while at the same time maintaining that ability to be agile and nimble and react where we need to and change things where we need to.

I will admit I did look at it to start with and thought five years seems like a long time. Hearing from the Leader now that the minister can react more quickly and change things and amend the plan as needed and will respond to things, I am comfortable with that.

At the same time, I do not want to put that workload on the people who will be doing the plan, and take away resources from the actual work of implementing the plan, which is what we really want to be doing. However, the key for me is that ability of the minister and the commitment from the minister to be constantly reviewing the plan and making sure that it is a living document.

The other thing for me is we often talk about plans like this and needing to have more long-term strategies in place. We often look at these short-term strategies and short-term plans that do not really talk about any type of long-term vision or actions that need to be taken. This is an area where there does need to be that balance between both. I am provided with enough comfort from the Leader today regarding that commitment from the minister and I am sure that the minister knows that plan will be being closely watched and the action he takes in the meantime will be closely watched. We know we have mechanisms to bring him to account on that if that is required, so I am comfortable with that, given that reassurance. At this stage, I would not support the amendment.

[5.31 p.m.]

MS WEBB - Thank you to members for their contributions, talking points and raising questions. I will touch on a few things to wrap us up. I find it interesting to talk about that somehow we have to have a competition between policy development and implementation. Most government departments do both, in an ongoing way and they are resourced to do that.

This clearly says to me it is resourcing in this space that is at question here, if there is a competition here between ongoing policy development and implementation of strategy. I should be ashamed if we had to put policy on hold in our health department, or our education department or other areas of government in our infrastructure area. It would be a shame if we had to put planning and policy on hold while we implemented things because of competing resources. I do not think we would ever hear that suggested to us. I suggest that is not an issue of time frames, that is an issue of government choice in regard to resourcing. It could be fixed at the stroke of a pen in a budget.

The suggestion that this would put government in a constant planning mode and having that being said as some form of bad thing, is quite extraordinary I would have thought. We would expect government to be in a constant planning mode in this space, and responsive and ready. I find it interesting also that it would be suggested that changing the time frame for these climate change action plans will put it out of sync with the rest of the document because there are already a lot of different time frames in documents relating to when things are going to come into play and when their next iterations would be done.

With this amendment, we are talking about the climate change action plan, which essentially is a foundational statewide document in that sense. The other things that are in here as plans and that have time frames for review and updating are more specific and targeted. We have the sectoral-based plans, we have risk assessment documents to be done, things like that.

This is the foundational document, the climate change action plan. The first one, as we have heard, will come out in six months and then those other things all have their own times when they first come into effect. The sectoral ones, for example, specify the transport one has to be done within the first year, I believe it is, and then the others within two years.

Madam CHAIR - Let us focus on the one we are dealing with at the moment.

Ms WEBB - What I am speaking to, if you do not mind -

Madam CHAIR - I do mind.

Ms WEBB - So what I am speaking to, with your indulgence if I can explain - the comment made about being out of sync, I am comparing it to the time frames about when things are going to happen for those other elements that have been suggested.

Madam CHAIR - Let us focus on this amendment you have in front of you.

Ms WEBB - So in making the argument for this amendment and addressing the issue raised about out of sync, those other things all come into play at different times. Their first iteration is anything from one to two years after the bill comes into effect, and then five-year cycles after that.

This foundational document if it is a three-year cycle for review and update maintains its currency, then, as the foundational document sitting behind all those others. At every stage whenever those other iterations are coming up for those other documents, which will not be in sync with each other, happening at all different times, this maintains the foundational currency throughout that process for the others.

The Leader very strongly draws our attention to the fact that this time frame of five years was a recommendation from the review of that act. I hope the Leader is prepared to be as wedded to the recommendations from that review of the act for other matters as she has been for sticking with the five years. For example, that review also recommended that climate change be taken into consideration in all government decisions. We should be legislating for that too, and have an amendment to that effect.

If we are to be cleaving closely -

Madam CHAIR - Let us focus on the one in front of us.

Ms WEBB - If we are cleaving quite closely on this amendment to those recommendations, I hope we will be doing the same for the others.

They are all the matters I wanted to address in other people's contributions. I hope members will consider this is quite practical and relevant to the urgency of the situation. It keeps our foundational planning document up to date, no matter where other documents are in their cycles. We should be able to effectively resource it, because in this space we should be able to plan and implement at the same time in an ongoing way.

Mrs HISCUTT - For clarity, so that we know what we are talking about. The five-yearly time frames are for the action plan, the emissions reduction plans for sectors and the risk assessment. There is annual reporting on greenhouse gas emissions - there is a report - and the climate activity statement. That is so that we know what we are talking about. At the minute we are talking about the five-yearly time frame for those first three that I mentioned.

Madam CHAIR - The question is that the amendment be agreed to.

The Committee divided -

AYES 4

Ms Armitage Mr Gaffney (Teller) Mr Valentine Ms Webb

NOES 10

Mr Duigan (Teller) Mr Edmunds Ms Forrest Mr Harriss Mrs Hiscutt Ms Howlett Ms Lovell Ms Palmer Ms Rattray Mr Willie

Amendment negatived.

Ms WEBB - On my second call I am going to move my third amendment.

Page 10, same proposed new section, subsection (4) after, "adopt".

Insert "and numerical estimates of the emissions reductions that the plan is likely to bring about".

This is in the same part that we are talking about climate change action plans and it is subclause (4) which already says that the climate action plan:

... must include details of the emissions reduction measures that Tasmania will adopt.

This adds that it should also include numerical estimates of the emissions reductions that the plans might bring about.

I will be fairly straightforward in prosecuting the argument on this one. The failure to provide a numerical estimate invites us not to be held to account or be transparent about it. That is not to suggest that setting a numerical estimate is a punitive action to take. It can be reasonably done. It can even be done in a range, or a band, because it can be hard to land numerical estimates in many of these matters. It can be expressed in a way that is meaningful overall, whilst still being some measure of accountability. It still allows us to have a discussion about how we are tracking against that, and where we are when we have arrived at the end of the life of the plan.

We can talk about how we have implemented the measures that were described in the plan, and that is fine. We can talk about what we achieved in terms of emission reductions with those measures. Then it would make sense to be able to talk about how well we tracked against our estimate for where we would be at the end of the life of that plan. Accountability is not scary and punitive. It is a sensible way of keeping track of progress and being able to then effectively plan what the next steps will be.

The community provides the parliament with a mechanism to evaluate and measure progress on the delivery of that plan. If we just report on activity without reporting on how we did, in relation to how we expected to do, then the risk is that we are going to more inclined to be treading water and not being as forward-looking and ambitious as we might otherwise be. To be clear, the part we are talking about is in relation to that overall climate action plan. This is not about sectoral plans, which will come later. This is about our overall climate action plan.

Again, this is going to be work. To come up with a numerical estimate of what we expect to achieve through the measures in the plans in terms of reductions and emissions, that work has to be done as part of the planning process. We will know what we hope to achieve with the measures we are putting forward. That is the point. Our aim with this is to do well with reducing our emissions and making a plan about the steps to do it, and we would have an expectation as we figure that out - through the partnership approach, in consultation with all manner of people - we would have an idea about what we expect to achieve with the measures that we are putting forward. This asks for that to be included in the plan. We are reporting on the emissions. We are reporting frequently on how we are doing. This is just putting an estimate of what we are expecting to achieve, which then we can actually meaningfully interpret and understand the reporting of how it is further down the track.

My understanding is there is potentially some difficulty or a challenge around coming up with the numerical estimates around emissions reduction initiatives and what we might expect them to deliver. That is where we can be sensible then about what a numerical estimate looks like. It does not have to be an absolute single number, it could be a band or a range. It could be a best-case scenario, mid-case scenario, worst-case scenario. We could take an approach to this that is flexible and meaningful, given the uncertainties that do exist.

That is my basic pitch on this amendment. I hope people see it as a fairly straightforward visibility and accountability on how we are tracking, how we expect to do when we make these plans.

Mrs HISCUTT - The Government does not support this. The Government is sympathetic to the view. It is entirely consistent with the Government's focus on emissions, to record estimates of them where possible. Actually the *Hansard* in the other place shows this commitment. However, the Government does not accept a legislative requirement to do so. In

some actions it will not be possible to attach a numerical estimate to emissions projects. For example, the action plan would deliver broader benefits beyond emissions reductions. Not all actions include emissions reductions specifically, for example, capacity building skills, research, education, awareness and pilot technology.

There needs to be a level of rigour around any emissions estimates to ensure that estimates are not overestimated or underestimated. There would need to be an agreed-upon methodology to calculate emissions reductions. Emissions reductions methodologies generally rely on assumptions to estimate emissions reductions, resolve data gaps and predict future trends which can lead to the underlying assumptions being contested and claims made of greenwashing.

However, we will attach the estimates where we can. The Government will report on emissions in the annual greenhouse gas emissions report for all sectors, and in the annual climate activity statements. You can see the minister has made commitments in the other place wrapped around this. We do not want it in the legislation, because it may not be possible. I urge members to not vote for this amendment.

Ms RATTRAY - Is there a template? I am not sure who might be able to answer that, the member proposing the amendment, or whether it might be the expertise sitting at the table with the Leader. I am interested in whether there has ever been - I am not sure we would be leaders in this field. Thinking about the economic impact analysis that was done for the agriculture sector, somebody has plucked some numbers there and come up with some assumptions. I am interested in whether it is achievable.

I take on board the Leader said there might be some aspects you cannot put a number on, whether we are up here at 10, we need to get down to five. Or one, we are doing really badly, we need to come up to five. I am not sure how it might work. How would it work if it was able to be reported on for those areas the Leader has said there has been a commitment made in the other place by the minister?

Mrs HISCUTT - As I have already said, the emissions reduction methodology generally relies on assumptions to estimate emissions reductions. There are a range of standards and protocols, but there is no consistency there.

Ms Rattray - That is the word I was looking for, standards.

Mrs HISCUTT - There is a range of standards and protocols, but there is no consistency amongst them. The message here is emissions reduction methodology generally relies on assumptions to estimate emissions reductions.

Ms Rattray - But they will be reported on if possible?

Mrs HISCUTT - Yes.

Mr VALENTINE - With things that really matter like finances and all those sorts of things, we are very keen to make sure the estimates we put down add up and we can meet our commitments and all those sorts of things. It is called a budget.

Mrs HISCUTT - I am sure that is about accurate, right?

Mr VALENTINE - We need to get to that sort of an area with this. We can play it along and be amorphous, but at the end of the day if we are going to try to control this area we need to know more about it. We need to drill down a bit more. I do not think with the way the bill stands at the moment it does that. This adds to the opportunity to actually drill down a bit more. I do not think it sets an absolute on this. It says 'numerical estimates of the emissions reductions that the plan is likely to bring about'. There will be areas you cannot. I do not think anyone is suggesting every aspect in the plan has to have a numerical estimate next to it. It is the aspiration of thinking about it and saying, can we put something against this and if we can, let us make a good stab at it.

I do not see this as a huge thing. It will take effort - of course, it will take effort. However, if we are serious, we need to take that time to actually drill down and be a bit more acute about it. How serious are we? We say the community is serious about climate change and they want to see us take some good steps and this is one way of being able to improve the bill to focus in a little bit tighter.

Mrs HISCUTT - Yes, we are serious about this. This is why the Government is trying to get this bill through and get it running.

Mr Valentine - I know, I am saying I agree with you.

Mrs HISCUTT - The Government will report on the emissions in the annual greenhouse gas emission report for all sectors, and in the annual climate activity statement, which is tabled in parliament. That can be seen at Part 5D (3) and 5E (3). Those reports will be tabled. Members will be able to talk about them in parliament and make any sort of conclusions that they wish to make.

The minister has made a commitment that this will happen. We have to have something here that is realistically achievable. It will be done where we can and when we can.

[5.53 p.m.]

Ms WEBB - Thank you to members for their contributions on this. To reiterate, this does not ask the Government to do anything beyond what the Leader has just actually made a commitment to do, because it does not prescribe that every action in the climate action plan has to have a numerical estimate against it. It is an overall estimate for the whole plan. There may well be actions in the action plan that do not attract an assessment of an expected reduction because there might an educational activity, or those sorts of things. It is not specific in terms of having to estimate impacts of every action, it is an overall expectation.

What I imagine is, because of some uncertainty around potential elements in the plan, we could put numerical estimates to the elements where it is possible and say - what it asks us to do is to say estimates of the emissions reductions the plan is likely to bring about. We can certainly say it is likely to bring about at least this numerical estimate, this number. There are elements we cannot quantify, so that will be beyond that in some way, which we are not sure about yet. That is why it can be a band. It can be a minimum of, up to such and such. Or it can be, as I said, different ways of presenting a band of estimates rather than a specific single number.

I accept there are various ways and methods for calculating these things and there is not necessarily a consistent one that is applied by everyone. In terms of consistency, if this amendment is successful and this becomes part of what is presented in a climate change action plan, the important element of consistency is how we choose to do it the first time and then in ongoing ways after that. The consistency that we provide in how we go about coming up with these numerical estimates and how we can continue to do it is probably relatively important. I do not think we have to demonstrate that we are consistent with how every single different entity might do it or other jurisdictions might do it.

We are seeing a requirement here already in the act for those annual reporting mechanisms and what these estimates - made explicit in the plan - would do is make that reporting more meaningful. We would understand how we are tracking against what we expected or the minimums of what we expected, or if we presented a band we would understand how we were tracking within that band. It allows for that better understanding and better accountability. Accountability not being a dirty word but a positive word, so that we can know best how we might need to be adjusting and changing so that we can celebrate when we are doing well, so we can understand where we have done exceptionally well and then make even more ambitious estimates or plans for next time.

I encourage members to see this not as something that is a negative, it is a positive. It is okay that it can have some uncertainty about it. It allows for that in the wording of the amendment and it does offer that small degree of better understanding and accountability when we are looking at how we track over time.

Mrs HISCUTT - To develop an overall estimate of emissions reductions would require assessments of each and every project. The minister has committed to do this where he can and we will report on emissions annually, as is in the legislation. Members, I want to reiterate, this bill as it is, has been consulted on for over two years and we feel that we have landed in a good place. I urge members not to add stuff that has not been consulted on. There are little changes that we do when we review things but please do not change anything that has not been consulted on widely. I urge members not to add this amendment.

The Committee divided -

AYES 7

Mr Edmunds Mr Gaffney (Teller) Ms Lovell Ms Rattray Mr Valentine Ms Webb Mr Willie

NOES 7

Ms Armitage Mr Duigan Ms Forrest Mr Harriss Mrs Hiscutt (Teller) Ms Howlett Ms Palmer

Madam CHAIR - As the member was unable to convince the majority, I declare that the division passes in the negative.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 6 -Further amendment proposed

[6.10 p.m.]

Ms LOVELL - I move the amendment in my name to clause 6.

Page 11, proposed new section 5A, subsection (6), paragraph (e), after "government".

Insert ", relevant unions, the peak body representing trade unions".

I do not expect we will need to spend long on this amendment because it is consistent with the amendment we supported into the bill previously. The previous amendment in relation to unions and the peak body was in the objects of the act so that was in relation to the consultation generally and a consultative approach. This is specific to the consultation about the climate change action plan, again including relevant unions and their peak body in clause (e) along with relevant business, industry, scientific, environmental and community bodies, children and young people, local government and the Tasmanian community.

Unless members have specific objections to this particular clause I expect this to be a fairly brief debate and I urge members to support it.

Mrs HISCUTT - The Government does not support this amendment. The bill requires the action plan to be developed in consultation with relevant business, industry, scientific, environmental and community bodies, children and young people, local government and the Tasmanian community. The list is inclusive, not exclusive, and the Government is open to hearing from all interested parties. We welcome that, so the term 'relevant business, industry ... bodies' broadly captures the range of stakeholders, including unions.

Specifically naming some interest groups could result in criticism that other interest groups could not have been named and we have been through this argument. I urge members not to back up what has already happened. There is no need to add more at this point, and I urge members not to support this amendment.

Ms LOVELL - We have already been through this, we have had this argument and as the Leader pointed out, it has already been done. I will point out that now they are back to being business and industry groups not community groups, so it would be good to have them named in there to be clear.

Mrs Hiscutt - It is good that they are everywhere, is it not?

Ms LOVELL - Apparently.

Amendment agreed to.

Mrs HISCUTT - Madam Chair, I seek leave to report progress.

Progress reported; Committee to sit again.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I move -

That at its rising, the Council does adjourn until 11 a.m. on Tuesday 25 October 2022.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs HISCUTT (Montgomery - Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council) - Mr President, I move -

That the Council do now adjourn.

The Council adjourned at 6.06 p.m.

Appendix 1

QUESTION ON/ WITHOUT NOTICE



Question No. [number] of [Year] Legislative Council

ASKED BY: Jos	h Willie MLC	incorporated into
ANSWERED BY:	Leonie Hiscutt MLC	Hansand L. Hiscutt
QUESTION:		19.10.22
L. How many c compare to t	omplaints have been received in 202 the same period last year?	22 to date and how does this
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- 2. Can the State Government please provide a daily breakdown of the dropped Metro trips by region for the past six months?
- 3. How many reported incidents of violence and antisocial behaviour has been recorded on Metro buses in 2022 and can the government please provide a table as per the one provided to me in 2021 which included the categories aggressive person, school bus misbehaviour, inappropriate behaviour, assault on passenger and assault on driver?
- 4. In which suburbs did the violence and antisocial behaviour occur and can the government provide a table, as per the one provided to me in 2021, which included the Hobart Network, Launceston Network and Burnie Network?
- 5. How many at fault accidents have occurred involving Metro buses in 2022?
- 6. How many no-fault accidents have occurred involving Metro buses in 2022?

ANSWER:

- There have been 803 complaints substantiated from Jan Oct in 2022. In comparison, there were 558 complaints substantiated from Jan – Oct in 2021.
- 2. To address the staff shortage in Bus Operators, Metro modified its training program and recruitment processes to enable higher volume recruitments (whilst still meeting the required standards). Over the course of 2022, Metro has recruited 111 Bus Operators. The main contributor for the dropped trips in the months of April and May was shortages of Bus Operators due to Covid related absences, general sickness, absences and staff shortages.

Recruitment and training continue to be a priority.

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The daily breakdown is as follows:

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Anti Social Behaviour (Jon — Oct 2022)

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As of 11 October 2022, there have been a total of 291 incidents of violence and antisocial behaviour on Metro Buses across three networks in Hobart, Launceston and Burnie during 2022.

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<u>Anti Social Behaviour: Suburb (Jan</u> — Oct 2022)

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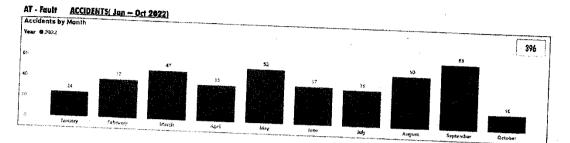
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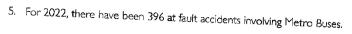
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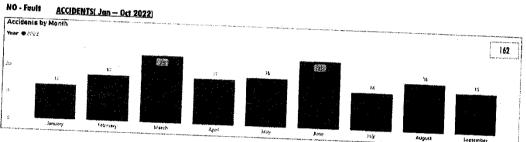
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6. For 2022, there have been 162 no-fault accidents involving Metro Buses.



The below table shows the total number of trips per year. At Fault trips means where Metro was at fault and the percentage of affected trips compared to total trips delivered. Not at Fault trips refers to accidents where Metro was not at fault and the percentage of affected trips compared to total trips delivered.

Accident	()	2019	2020	2021	2022
Trips		788,494	763,263	774,021	767,626
At Fault	Quantity	335	296	412	396
	% of Total Trips	0.04%	0.04%	0.05%	0.05%
Not at	Quantity	259	294	251	162
Fault	% of Total Trips	0.03%	0.04%	0.03%	0.02%

APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

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Hon Michael Ferguson MP Deputy Premier Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Date: 19 October 2022