

## FACT SHEET

### *Safe Climate Bill 2020*

The *Safe Climate Bill 2020* (the Bill) will repeal the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* and replace it with an overarching framework for Tasmanian climate policy.

The Bill acknowledges the climate emergency, and contains the aims (or objects) to respond to it by –

- providing a legislative framework to facilitate a sustained, meaningful response to the climate emergency in Tasmania; and
- setting binding targets for the government to act on the climate emergency; and
- enabling strong and independent advocacy for meaningful responses to the climate emergency; and
- facilitating, and providing incentives for, the replacement of unsustainable practices with sustainable practices; and
- improving public health, security, and wellbeing outcomes in changing climate; and
- protecting the interests and rights of future generations through a meaningful response to the climate emergency; and
- ensuring that, in responding to the climate emergency, inequality is redressed.

The Bill establishes a Joint Standing Committee on a Safe Climate (the Committee), to provide ongoing Parliamentary oversight and leadership on matters relating to climate, and to provide recommendations to Parliament.

The Bill also establishes a Safe Climate Commission (the Commission). The Commission is an independent, statutory body with a broad range of advocacy and practical functions. The Commission has a role in providing advice to Government, and providing comment on Government policy and compliance with the proposed Act.

The Commission also has a broader role to influence decisions in the community and business sectors.

Some of the powers of the Commission include –

- The power to gather and publish emissions data from the highest emitters in the State; and
- The ability to develop a range of carbon accreditation standards; and
- The power to hold citizen juries.

The broad power of the Commission to gather information from businesses and other entities is balanced by a general duty of confidentiality.

The Bill establishes an emissions abatement framework with targets of a 4% reduction every 4 years (approximately 1% per year) for whole-of-state emissions and for emissions from each sector. The emissions reduction targets apply to direct emissions and do not count sequestration as a net target does.

Additional targets can also be prescribed.

The Bill requires government to develop an emissions abatement plan which contains measures to meet the targets under the Act.

In order for a Government to not introduce measures to meet a target the Government must show that a meeting a target would be unreasonable or unduly harmful. This creates a framework whereby action on climate is the new norm, and the onus of proof is on arguing against, not for, emissions reduction.

The Bill also sets a process for developing and updating a carbon stores plan to increase the amount of carbon sequestered in carbon stores in Tasmania. The plan relates to soil, vegetation and any other carbon store that may be prescribed.

A carbon store, under the Act, can be a organic or synthetic system. This allows for the framework to adapt to future technological developments.

The Bill also contains requirements for the State, and Local Government, to develop and review adaptation plans. Adaptation plans must model the impacts of the climate emergency on Tasmania, and contain measures to address these impacts

The State climate adaptation plan must also assess legislation that may need to be amended for the purposes of climate adaptation.

The Bill contains provisions to allow a council to request cost recovery for costs associated with the development of municipal climate adaptation plans.