

Tasmanian Positive

Our state's sustainability strategy



Short Consultation Paper | August 2023



Carleeta Thomas, wukalina Walk.

Credit: Moon Cheese Studio.

Acknowledgement of Country

In recognition of the deep history and culture of Tasmania, the Department of Premier and Cabinet acknowledges and pays respect to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the past and present custodians of this island. The Department acknowledges and pays respect to Tasmanian Aboriginal Elders, past and present.

Cover photo: Junction Arts Festival. **Credit:** Melanie Kate Creative.

Message from the Premier



Tasmania is one of the greatest places in the world to live, work, raise a family, and run a business. We want to keep it this way, so that it is even better for the next generation, and generations to follow.

Tasmania is renowned for our clean air and water, world heritage wilderness, a strong economy built on premium exports and tourism, world-class educational institutions, and an enviable lifestyle founded in our beautiful natural heritage. We have a strong community that always looked after each other to grasp our opportunities in being a small island state, to build a strong and resilient economy with more than 100 years of investment in renewable energy and a world-leading net-zero emissions profile. Tasmania is recognised globally for producing the highest quality export produce, products, resources, education, and tourism, all creating jobs and prosperity for Tasmanians.

Tasmania has what the world wants, and we are deeply proud and grateful for what we have achieved together.

We want to continue this success and make sure that our children, our grandchildren, and their grandchildren, continue to benefit from what our great state provides. We must look to the future when we make our choices and decisions today, for the best interests of future generations. This is fundamentally what sustainability is all about.

We want future Tasmanians to have everything they need to live well – good health and nutrition, a good job or a thriving business, secure housing, and a safe community. We will do this by continuing to take strong action on climate change, investing in education and innovation for sustainable industries, securing our future economic prosperity while making sure Tasmania's natural environment and resources that underpin our health, wellbeing, jobs, and lifestyle, are preserved for future generations.

Most importantly, we want to ensure that no Tasmanian is left behind.

We all have a role to play in Tasmania's sustainable future and our greatest achievements come from working together. Now is the right time to set our vision for future generations to thrive socially and economically from our shared commitment to a thriving planet.

Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy will reflect the goals and aspirations of Tasmanians. I encourage you to be part of creating our shared sustainability vision and goals. These will guide Government policies, business investment, community actions, and individual choices as we work together for our sustainable future.

I am excited about the opportunity to promote our great achievements and further develop Tasmania's sustainability credentials as part of an inclusive and collaborative whole-of-state sustainability strategy, and I look forward to working with you to make this happen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Rockliff'.

Jeremy Rockliff MP
Premier

Introduction

The Tasmanian Government has committed to the development of a sustainability strategy in consultation with Tasmanians. The strategy will include our shared vision for a sustainable future and outline the goals and aspirations that ensure we attain that vision.

Sustainability strategies help to ensure that present-day economic development and resource use does not come at the expense of future generations or the depletion of natural resources. They also support a balanced approach to providing the necessities for present and future wellbeing, including social aspects such as health, mental health, education, food security, secure housing, and safe and inclusive communities.

Achieving sustainability is a shared responsibility and a comprehensive strategy with clear and measurable goals will support us to work collaboratively to address our sustainability challenges and provide the foundation for a better future.

How we understand sustainability

Sustainability is ensuring that future generations have what they need to live well. It is about the choices we make today and how we can ensure the wellbeing of future generations.

We can all make small adjustments in our daily actions to create a better future.

However, sustainability is not only about the environment; wellbeing and economic prosperity are just as important.

Eat Well Tasmania.
Credit: Samuel Shelley



How we can be more sustainable – key action areas

You are invited to tell us what you consider to be the key areas for sustainability action. The following is an example of what the key areas and goals for a Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy could be:

Key area for sustainability	Possible goals
Climate and Renewable Energy	All Tasmanians have access to affordable clean energy, transition to fossil fuel alternatives, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.
Health and Wellbeing	All Tasmanians have the opportunity to live healthy, active lives in communities that support connections to people, place and culture.
Education and Skills	Full functional literacy and numeracy through quality education at all ages to ensure everyone can succeed, and ensure we are ready for future industries and technology.
Circular Economy and Waste	Eliminate the disposal of waste to the environment through better consumption choices, production design and developing circular economies.
Housing and Liveability	Access to affordable, energy efficient and climate resilient housing and urban communities, built sustainably with infrastructure to support safety and resilience.
Natural Environment	Strong natural resources and environmental management through protection and regenerative practices across all sectors to preserve the quality of air, land and water, and enhancing biodiversity.
Fair, Equitable and Inclusive Society	Eradicate all forms of discrimination including gender, age, sexuality, disability, race, and ethnicity, for an inclusive and equitable society. Promote the voice, culture, heritage, and empowerment of Tasmanian Aboriginal people.



Spring Bay Mill solar panels.
Credit: Nina Hamilton

How Tasmanians can support sustainability

Everyone can contribute to becoming more sustainable. Individuals, households, communities, businesses, and community sector organisations all have a positive impact through everyday decisions about the things we buy and use, how we choose to travel, recycling, reducing waste, conserving water, and electrifying our homes, vehicles, and businesses. Businesses and individuals can contribute to better social outcomes by ensuring safe and inclusive workplaces and helping others in need through volunteering and community service.

Local governments have a substantial role through planning, environmental regulation, waste management, and connection with the community.

Benefits of sustainability

Sustainability initiatives such as reducing waste, using resources more efficiently, and switching to solar energy and electric vehicles, can result in financial benefits including cost savings for both households and businesses. Environmental protection and emissions reduction ensure the health and wellbeing of people, clean water, and food security. Also, businesses who prioritise sustainability can enhance their reputation and build stronger relationships with customers and stakeholders.

More broadly for Tasmania as a state, sustainability ensures the availability of the resources needed to support our population and economy into the future and stimulates innovation and the development of new industries and jobs.

A healthy environment not only provides the essentials for life, it also provides us lifestyle benefits and recreation, supporting better physical and mental health.

Eliminating poverty and reducing inequalities based on race, gender, sexuality, disadvantage, and trauma are fundamental principles for a better future society shaped by inclusion, respect, and equality of opportunity.

Examples of Tasmanian businesses adopting sustainable practices

Many Tasmanian businesses and organisations are leading the way in adopting sustainability practices and contributing to positive social and environmental outcomes in addition to economic growth. Each of the following examples demonstrate how businesses can simultaneously develop social and environmental benefits while also making a profit, such as helping unemployed people to enter the workforce, making affordable electric vehicles more accessible to the community, reducing the environmental impact of waste, and educating the community for a circular economy.

Hamlet

“Tackling Tasmanian unemployment the tasty way!” www.hamlet.org.au

Hamlet is a social enterprise café in Hobart that focuses on helping unemployed people build the skills and confidence needed to get a foot in the door and kick off a rewarding career. Since opening in 2016, Hamlet has helped more than 700 Tasmanians gain over 38,000 hours of work experience.

The Good Car Company

“Affordable electric vehicles that also give back to community” www.goodcar.co

Based in Hobart and with a growing presence interstate, The Good Car Company was founded to help the community to access affordable electric vehicles (EVs).

Working with climate-active community groups, local councils, and fleets around Australia, the Good Car Company helps communities and businesses to take practical action on climate change through bulk buys of quality imported EVs and FBT-exempt leasing of new EVs, helping hundreds of households and businesses shift to zero emissions transport.

Callington Mill Distillery

“A new era of Tasmanian whisky” callingtonmilldistillery.com

The state-of-the-art Callington Mill Distillery was designed locally to be a highly energy efficient producer of world-class whisky. The Tasmanian technology uses electric boilers and reclaims heat from one process to the next within a closed-loop system.

Solid waste is given to local farmers for stock and fertilisers, while recycled water is used for enriching and irrigating local soils.

Recovery Circular Hub – Glenorchy Tip Shop

“Taswegians choose re-use as practice in sustainable consumerism... and are world leaders per capita” www.recoveryshop.com.au

Tasmania’s original tip shop, the Recovery Circular Hub recovers useful products and materials from the waste streams, reducing landfill and creating new economic value through permanent employment, promoting re-use and repair, conserving embedded carbon in products, and ensuring product and material longevity.

Recovery is more than just a tip shop – the Directors contribute to educating Tasmanians about circular economics through the Churchill Trust and working with UTAS to develop education programs.

Tasmanian Agricultural Company

“Beyond sustainable beef” www.tasagco.com.au

Tas Ag Co is a regenerative Wagyu producer using non-conventional, holistic farming practices to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it back in the soil.

Multispecies crops and a rotational grazing not only give the cattle a diverse diet, but they increase soil health which assists in restoring ecological function and therefore climate resilience. No pesticides and only natural fertilisers are used.



nita Education.
Credit: Natasha Mulhall

Why a Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy is important

Tasmania has a unique opportunity to be a global leader in sustainability by building on our existing achievements and create a plan for Government, business, and communities to secure our future wellbeing and enhance Tasmania's brand.

We can only do this by working together

Brand Tasmania is working on a Tasmanian trademark concept that goes further than just being a proof of origin. Tasmanian businesses who demonstrate commitment to Tasmania's sustainability objectives through positive impact actions could use this trademark to showcase Tasmania's sustainability credentials in local, national, and international markets.

This is one way that we can encourage businesses in Tasmania to contribute to Tasmania's sustainability goals and priorities and share in the benefits of showcasing Tasmania's sustainability credentials internationally.

What are your thoughts about sustainability and what we can do to make a better future for Tasmania?

We would like to know *your* thoughts about sustainability and how important it is to you.

Consultation questions:

1.

What words would you use to describe an ideal Tasmania in 2050?

2.

What are the most important things we need to do to achieve a sustainable future for Tasmania?

3.

What do you plan to do by 2030, 2040 and 2050, to contribute to the achievement of a sustainable Tasmania in 2050?

To provide your response please visit: sustainability.tas.gov.au/discussionpaper

Youth conversation.
Credit: Moon Cheese Studio



Have your say

You're invited

Be part of developing the vision and aspirational goals for Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy. You can participate in the following ways:

1. Make a submission in response to this Short Consultation Paper.
2. Register your interest to participate in further consultation.

How to make a submission

You can answer the consultation questions online in the text fields provided at www.sustainability.tas.gov.au/have-your-say before **6 October 2023**.

Alternatively, written submissions can be forwarded to policy@dpac.tas.gov.au by **6 October 2023**.

Important information to note

Your name (or the name of the organisation) will be published unless you request otherwise.

Register your interest to participate in further consultation

Please tell us if you would like to be involved in further consultation on Tasmania's Sustainability Strategy, including participation in workshops, roundtables, or online forums on specific sustainability topics.

Expressions of interest may be emailed to policy@dpac.tas.gov.au by **6 October 2023**.



Virginia Andrews-Goff, Marine Mammal Scientist.

Credit: Jon Gazzignato

