

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

between the
STATE GOVERNMENT
and the
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF
TASMANIA
on behalf of
TASMANIAN COUNCILS

December 2008



AN AGREEMENT made the 16th day of December two thousand and eight,

between

THE CROWN IN RIGHT OF THE STATE OF TASMANIA, and

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA

I. PREAMBLE

The Tasmanian Government and the Local Government Association of Tasmania representing the 29 Tasmanian councils (the parties) agree, within their respective roles and responsibilities, to implement this partnership agreement (the agreement) on mutually agreed terms with the following objectives:

- to provide a platform for formal discussion between the State Government and local government on climate change
- to identify priorities for collaborative action beyond 2009
- to reduce carbon emissions that contribute to global warming
- to consult with Tasmanians about, and to educate Tasmanians on, climate change
- to share knowledge and information related to climate change
- to promote mitigation against and adaptation to climate change through planning.

The agreement is based on the Tasmanian Government's and local governments' commitment to achieve the objectives outlined above. Because of the rapidly evolving nature of climate change, the agreement is designed to be a living document that can be readily adapted as new information arises.

The actions outlined in this document are the starting point for a long-term and constantly evolving coordinated approach to climate change. They focus on what is achievable in the first year of implementation of the partnership agreement. Action in later years will be identified and prioritised on an ongoing basis. The agreement will be ongoing.

2. PRINCIPLES

The following principles underpin the agreement. The principles are drawn from Dr Kate Crowley's *Framework for Action for Reducing the Government's Greenhouse Gas Emissions* (December 2007), and from the *Guiding Principles on Climate Change* adopted by the Local Government Association of Tasmania's General Management Committee in 2007.

Principles from Dr Kate Crowley's *Framework for Action for Reducing the Government's Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

- **Leadership** – Strong leadership is required to drive change past the inevitable obstacles and challenges that face new ways of organising and behaving. Government needs to both demonstrate leadership in driving change and also create the environment for others, within the public sector and the broader community, to demonstrate leadership.

- **Shared responsibility** – Every individual is responsible for the problem of a warming climate and therefore every individual is responsible for the solutions. Leadership that fosters inclusivity and facilitates a sharing of the solutions will help to bring about an improvement in the environment and human wellbeing.
- **Best practice and beyond** – Identifying international best practice and then striving to move beyond it will place Tasmania's approach to climate change at the cutting edge of current thinking.
- **Accelerating outcomes** – Climate change requires organisations to respond much more quickly than they have in the past. The framework seeks to ensure that results are achieved quickly by removing barriers and creating incentives for change while at the same time building in long-term sustainability.
- **Creative thinking and innovation** – Climate change is a complex, multi-disciplinary issue that requires new ways of thinking. Leadership that grants people permission to think creatively will also foster collective learning and adaptive management.
- **Openness and transparency** – Empowering people to find the solutions to a warming climate requires building trust. A key way to build trust is to communicate openly and transparently through multiple communication pathways.

Local Government Association of Tasmania's General Management Committee, *Guiding Principles on Climate Change*

- Combining **mitigation** and **adaptation** strategies at all levels of government and industry.
- Commitment to **long-term** and **strategic** consideration of climate change across local government functions.
- **Leadership** within the local community in understanding and acting on climate change.
- **Flexibility** and resilience within local government processes to adapt to climate change impacts upon human and natural environments.
- Recognition of shared responsibility and **collaboration** across all level of government, industry and community.

3. DESIRED OUTCOMES

The parties agree:

- that the development and delivery of climate change strategies will be coordinated
- that the agreement will set an agenda for change and lead the Tasmanian community by example
- to coordinate activity to mitigate against climate change through reducing carbon emissions
- to coordinate activity to adapt to climate change
- that the Tasmanian community will be better informed about climate change
- there will be improved communication and information sharing between the parties leading to a better response to climate change.

4. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The Premier's Local Government Council will oversee the implementation of the agreement.

- The major roles of the Premier's Local Government Council will be:
 - regular monitoring and reporting on progress of the agreement to each sphere of government
 - overseeing the annual evaluations and a major three-year review of the agreement
 - approving any new schedules to the agreement
 - considering any outstanding issues raised during the period of the agreement.
- Implementation reports will be made to each meeting of the Premier's Local Government Council for the duration of the agreement.
- The parties will evaluate progress on the agreement at the end of each year. The evaluation will provide an opportunity for issues and priorities to be discussed and confirmed.
- The agreement may be amended and new schedules added at the annual evaluation.
- The parties agree that any disputes as to the operation of this agreement will be negotiated through the Premier's Local Government Council.

SIGNED for and on behalf of THE CROWN)
 IN RIGHT OF THE STATE OF TASMANIA)
 by the Hon David Bartlett, Premier)

Signed for and on behalf of the LOCAL)
 GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION OF)
 TASMANIA)
 by Mayor Mike Gaffney, President)

I. FUTURE PLANNING AND ACTION COMMITTEE

Background

The State Government and local government in Tasmania recognise that knowledge and understanding of climate change is constantly evolving. Our collaborative response will need to evolve at the same time. The objective of this agreement is to facilitate discussion between the two spheres of government and to act as a platform for a long-term collaborative approach to address climate change.

Issues

The parties agree the key issue to be addressed is the need for a forum of representatives from the State Government and local government to provide advice and direction on the implementation of this agreement and on the next stages in collaboration on climate change.

Goals

1. Provide direction and monitor the implementation of this agreement.
2. Identify priorities for collaborative action beyond those identified in schedules 2, 3 and 4 of this agreement.
3. Provide advice on priority areas for collaboration on climate change subsequent to the first 12 months of this agreement.

Actions and timeframes

The parties agree the following actions and timeframes will be used:

No	Action	Timeframe	Measure
1.1	Establish a future planning and action committee. The committee will also identify priorities for beyond 2010	Within 2 months of signing the agreement	By the end of 2009, the committee will have developed the direction of the partnership agreement for 2010 and will present that direction for PLGC consideration
1.2	During the first year of implementation of this partnership agreement, the working group will determine the priorities for 2010, how those priorities will be addressed, and timeframes in which to address these priorities	Within 12 months of signing this agreement	
1.3	The committee will also identify priorities for beyond 2010	Within 12 months of signing this agreement	

For links to Tasmania Together Benchmarks, LGAT's Strategic Plan, Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change see schedules 2 to 4.

2 CARBON EMISSIONS REDUCTION

Background

Tasmanian councils recognise the need to reduce carbon emissions. Six councils are auditing carbon emissions and working to reduce their emission levels.

The State Government is currently auditing its carbon emission levels, following which it will establish a monitoring and reporting program for emissions, and develop and implement agency emission reduction plans by the end of 2008.

Issues

The parties agree the key issues to be addressed are:

- the need for governments to take a leadership role on climate change
- the need for governments to take action to reduce carbon emission levels to mitigate against climate change.

Goals

1. Determine a carbon emissions baseline for the local government sector.
2. Agree on a carbon emissions reduction target.
3. Develop and implement emissions reduction strategies in each local government area.

Actions and timeframes

The parties agree the following actions and timeframes will be used:

No	Action	Timeframe	Measure
2.1	Assess baseline carbon emissions and set emissions reduction targets for the local government sector	Within 12 months of signing the agreement	State Government and local government baseline carbon emission levels available on the climate change website
2.2	Develop climate change action plans in all council areas	Within 18 months of signing the agreement	Climate change action plans in all councils, and reported against in each council's annual report
2.3	Develop a carbon emissions reporting database for local government that is consistent with Australian Government greenhouse and energy reporting	Within six months of the baseline carbon emissions assessment	Reporting database in place and in use by all councils

No	Action	Timeframe	Measure
2.4	Annual monitoring and review of progress towards climate change action plans	Ongoing	Decreasing carbon emissions in line with the local government sectoral target as identified in 2.1

Links to Tasmania Together Benchmarks

Goal 12, standard 4, indicator 1: levels of greenhouse gas emissions (megatonnes)

Links to LGAT's Strategic Plan

KRA 2: Provide leadership and promote continuous improvement in local government

KRA 5: Promote the alignment of strategic plans and policies of all governments to maximise capacity building in local communities

Links to the Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change

Priority Area 1: Government Leadership - reduce the carbon emissions of the Tasmanian Government

3. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND EDUCATION

Background

The State Government and local government have agreed to undertake joint community consultation and education programs. Working together, the two spheres of government can educate and influence Tasmanians in relation to climate change. While the State Government has embarked on an awareness-raising campaign, and individual councils are working within their communities to educate residents, there remain opportunities for the two spheres of government to work together on community consultation and education programs.

Issue

The parties recognise the need for:

- shared leadership on climate change
- greater understanding of the impacts of climate change on local government including
 - risk assessment and management
 - mitigation and adaptation
 - emergency management
 - community recovery
- greater awareness of initiatives, projects and programs at the community level
- coordination of climate change initiatives across governments and the community.

Goals

1. Lead Tasmania in a strong statewide response to climate change.
2. Build a better understanding of climate change and related impacts within Tasmanian communities.
3. Provide access to current information on climate change to Tasmanians.
4. Coordination and cooperation across sectors in climate change initiatives.

Actions and timeframes

The parties agree the following actions and timeframes will be used:

No	Action	Timeframe	Measure
3.1	Hold joint State Government and local government forums to seek ideas and solutions from the community	Within 12 months of signing the agreement	Level of community engagement assessed through an annual survey
3.2	Incorporate relevant community input into State Government and local government climate change initiatives	Ongoing	
3.3	Provide and promote information relating to climate change and climate change initiatives through existing State Government and local government websites	Ongoing	
3.4	Provide information via regular communications, such as community newspapers and newsletters, to the community	Ongoing	
3.5	Develop and promote online forums on climate change	Within 12 months of signing the agreement	
3.6	Identify contact people in all councils and agencies to include in relevant meetings and correspondence	Ongoing	
3.7	Survey the community to assess community engagement on climate change	Annually	

Links to Tasmania Together Benchmarks

Goal 8, standard 1, indicator 4: Involvement in community action to improve or protect local services or activities

Goal 8, standard 3, indicator 1: Number of State Government regional community forums

Links to LGAT's Strategic Plan

KRA 2: Provide leadership and promote continuous improvement in local government

KRA 4: Promote community involvement and participation in the system of local government

KRA 5: Promote the alignment of strategic plans and policies of all governments to maximise capacity building in local communities

Links to the Tasmanian Framework for Action on Climate Change

Priority Area 8: Resilient and Adaptive Communities - educate Tasmanians on climate change and share knowledge and information related to climate change

4. PLANNING

Background

Planning can play a significant role in mitigating against, and adapting to, climate change through:

- sustainable land use management
- management of the built environment.

Significant planning reforms are underway in Tasmania under the Better Planning Outcomes project. The actions set out below will be carried out alongside the Better Planning Outcomes project, and align with the national planning principles for reducing energy and water demand from land use and infrastructure design that were developed by the Local Government and Planning Ministers' Council in 2007.

Issues

The parties agree the key issues to be addressed are:

- reducing carbon emissions through planning
- full consultation and education on the way planning strategies and decisions can help local communities mitigate against, and adapt to, climate change
- gathering and communicating knowledge and information related to planning and building responses to climate change to enable informed and responsible decision-making by the local community and councils.

Goals

1. Coordination and cooperation in the development of best-practice planning schemes.
2. Integration of planning for climate change at the state, regional and local levels.

Actions and timeframes

The parties agree the following actions and timeframes will be used:

No	Action	Timeframe	Measure
4.1	Consult the community on best-practice planning approaches to lower carbon emissions, for example through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• energy use• management of stormwater• car and cycle parking	Within 12 months of signing the agreement	Climate change is incorporated into each of the regional planning schemes
4.2	Engage the community in considering options to lower carbon emissions through urban design that increases residential densities and improves pedestrian, cycle and public transport infrastructure and services	Within 12 months of signing the agreement	

4.3	Integrate pedestrian, bicycle and public transport principles into land-use planning, strategies and development decisions	Within 12 months of signing the agreement	
4.4	Identify and disseminate research, including opportunities for joint research on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the likely impacts of climate change on government assets • potential adaptation strategies 	Ongoing	

Links to Tasmania Together Benchmarks

Goal 1, standard 1, indicator 7: Transport accessibility

Goal 12, standard 4, indicator 1: levels of greenhouse gas emissions

Links to LGAT's Strategic Plan

KRA 1: Ensure local government's voice is represented in public debates and all relevant legislative reviews and intergovernmental forums

KRA 2: Provide leadership and promote continuous improvement in local government

KRA 5: Promote the alignment of strategic plans and policies of all governments to maximise capacity building in local communities