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Era Advisory

By email to: [engagement@era-advisory.com.au](mailto:engagement@era-advisory.com.au), and uploaded to the online submission portal

## Re: Tasmanian Climate Change Act Review 2024-25

To whom this may concern,

The Tasmanian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) would like to thank Era Advisory and Ricardo, and the Tasmanian Government's Climate Change Office, for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Tasmanian Climate Change Act Review 2024-25.

The Tasmanian Chapter is committed to helping create a positive future for our state that benefits all Tasmanians. The Institute advocates for the built environment, and works to shape policies, foster collaboration, and promote design excellence that benefits society. The Australian Institute of Architects recognises that climate change is one of the biggest crises facing our communities, our country and indeed, our planet and that urgent action is required. The Institute is working across multiple fronts to advocate for and achieve net zero carbon emissions in the built environment by 2030. We're challenging government to urgently implement broader policies to bring about whole-scale change to ensure Australia fulfills its Paris Agreement commitment.

The 2025 independent review of Tasmania's *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* presents a pivotal opportunity to modernise the state's climate legislation to meet today's challenges and support long-term emissions reduction, resilience, and economic leadership.

The built environment – buildings, infrastructure, and construction materials – is a major and growing source of emissions. As Tasmania's electricity grid decarbonises, *embodied carbon* (emissions from construction materials and processes) will account for a larger share of total emissions. Unlike operational emissions, these are locked in from day one, making upfront action both urgent and cost-effective.

Tasmania can lead by embedding carbon targets into law through:

- Stronger statutory duties on emissions reduction and climate adaptation
- Whole-of-life carbon disclosure requirements for major projects
- Procurement reforms that drive low-carbon materials and all-electric buildings
- Support for circular economy strategies, workforce upskilling, and precinct-scale planning

The Institute has prepared answers to the specific review questions below.

### **1. How does climate change affect you, your business or your community?**

Climate change directly affects architectural practice in Tasmania through increased bushfire, flood, and coastal erosion risks, which shape design standards, material choices, and project feasibility. Communities face health and equity challenges due to a changing climate, rising energy costs, and housing vulnerability. Research by the University of Tasmania highlights how poorly performing housing exacerbates indoor temperature extremes and health risks, underscoring the need for climate-responsive and energy-efficient design. For businesses, this creates both risk and opportunity: risk in terms of increased costs and liability if resilience is not addressed, and opportunity to lead in sustainable, climate-adaptive design that protects communities and reduces long-term costs.

### **2. What is your role in supporting action on climate change?**

As architects, we shape the built environment and therefore an opportunity to minimise emissions and maximise resilience. This includes:

- Designing buildings that are net-zero-ready, energy-efficient, and grid-interoperable.
- Integrating passive design, renewable systems, and whole-of-life carbon assessments.
- Advocating for climate-positive planning, materials, and procurement standards.
- Collaborating with allied professionals, planners, engineers, and builders to deliver systemic change at building and precinct scale.

### **3. What further action, if any, should be taken to reduce the impacts of climate change in Tasmania?**

Tasmania should strengthen its Climate Change Act by:

- Setting clear, science-based sectoral targets for the built environment with local industry consultation.
- Mandating embodied carbon measurement and disclosure for all major building projects, again with industry consultation, while learning from best-practice across the world.
- Embedding resilience requirements into planning, procurement, and building codes.
- Incentivising circular economy approaches, including adaptive reuse, low-carbon materials, and waste reduction.
- Establishing stronger partnerships with First Nations communities to embed Indigenous knowledge in adaptation and land stewardship.

#### **4. Has the Tasmanian Government effectively engaged with you in relation to climate change and climate change policy?**

Engagement to date has been limited, often occurring at late stages of policy development without adequate technical dialogue. While consultation opportunities exist, these are not always tailored to the specific challenges and contributions of the architectural profession. More structured and ongoing engagement is required, including:

- A dedicated Built Environment Advisory Panel.
- Transparent processes for incorporating industry feedback into policy.
- Joint workshops with government, industry, and community stakeholders to co-design solutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the current consultation, to ensure that the Act and related instruments to ensure Tasmania's built environment policy is fit for purpose, enabling lower emissions, greater climate resilience, and better health and equity outcomes for Tasmanian communities. The Institute would be willing to be involved in future discussion about how to reduce the climate impact from the built environment sector.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss any of the points raised further or if we can further contribute in any way.

Kind regards,



**Daniel Lane**  
President, Tasmanian Chapter  
Australian Institute of Architects



**Jennifer Nichols**  
Executive Director, Tasmanian Chapter  
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The Australian Institute of Architects (Institute) is the peak body for the architectural profession in Australia. It is an independent, national member organisation with over 14,000 members across Australia and overseas. The Institute exists to advance the interests of members, their professional standards and contemporary practice, and expand and advocate the value of architects and architecture to the sustainable growth of our communities, economy and culture. The Institute actively works to maintain and improve the quality of our built environment by promoting better, responsible and environmental design. To learn more about the Institute, log on to [www.architecture.com.au](http://www.architecture.com.au).