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The Executive Officer  
Climate Change Interdepartmental Committee  
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## **Draft Climate Change Strategy for Tasmania**

The Tasmanian Fishing Industry Council (TFIC) is the peak body representing the Tasmanian seafood industry. Its primary role is to promote and protect the best interests of all those involved in the industry, that is, aquaculture, processing and wild catch. TFIC's main goal is retaining and creating value for the states commercial seafood industry.

TFIC is aware of the predicted and apparent implications that are being imposed by the influence of climate change on industry and are therefore wholly supportive of all efforts by the State Government to strategically plan for the predicted changes to the marine environment associated with increasing climatic variability. To date, the most likely climate change related occurrences to impact upon industry will be caused via an increase in average sea temperatures. This subject was touched upon briefly in the draft with references to invasive species and impacts upon non-endemic farmed marine species, principally salmonids and oysters.

Impacts of any kind to the States seafood industry as a result of climate change are a significant concern for TFIC. Speaking purely from an economic perspective any alterations to an industry that is worth over \$420 million dollars to the state at 'farm gate' value and employing in excess of 7,000 people directly will undoubtedly have substantial flow on effects across a number of industry levels.

TFIC's concluding view of the draft document is that it goes into reasonable detail about the possible implications of climate change and outlines potential strategies to deal with such scenarios. However, the extent of detail used to describe the State's level of vulnerability to the potential impacts of climate change should be expanded to display a more holistic view. We are aware of the Governments current limitations in this field due

to the apparent scarcity of accurate data and view this also as an area that needs immediate rectification.

A substantial proportion of the draft outlined trends in the States green house gas emissions and potential measures to reduce such levels. TFIC believe greater detail and focus should be included regarding potential greenhouse gas 'sinks' that Tasmania has direct access to. Naturally, these would detail the State's already expansive forest resources that are well documented sink agents for green house gas emissions. Such a focus could also include possible actions to increase this resource and document the effects this would have on emission levels. As well as concentrating on forest resources the use and development of differing marine algae sources to reduce greenhouse gas emission is an issue that should also be addressed by the State Government. TFIC has paid close attention to ongoing research and development in this field and believes the State's potential in this area should not be over looked.

The subject of Tasmanian's greenhouse gas status is identified via the draft strategies *goals*, however the detail here only describes the process of keeping emissions at a low level. TFIC are of the view that further identification, research and development of sink agents should potentially be added to the second of the strategies and goals of maintaining Tasmania's status as a low greenhouse gas emitter.

TFIC are particularly supportive of the Government's strategy to plan for the impacts of climate change on industry as outlined by *Objective 4*, however we believe more resources and effort should be directed towards identifying all the flow on effects associated with climate change that may impact on the State's seafood industry. As briefly described in the strategy document the greatest area of vulnerability for the seafood industry are from an increase in sea temperature which may negatively impact upon the State's aquaculture sector and provide niche opportunities for invasive marine species. The impacts of these changes on industry sectors are already being felt and their rate of progression is much greater than any current threats being posed to the State's agricultural sectors. With this in mind and also considering the economic benefits the seafood industry brings to the state and lack of *Current Action* TFIC believe that a number of *New Initiatives* should be included that directly address these problems.

The phrase, '.....there is insufficient knowledge on the impacts of climate change' appears several times in the strategy document related to a number of aspects of the States seafood industry, this lack of data needs to be addressed via the implication of the *New Initiatives* and not used as an excuse to delay the adoption and implementation of the required actions.

In terms of research into impacts of climate change, as outlined in *Objective 9*, TFIC are of the view that greater emphasis should be placed on the use of industry stakeholders as a source of data and information as well as on traditional sources such as research institutions. This is a particularly important issue for the State's seafood industry where accurate research data is often hard to obtain and historical and anecdotal evidence must be taken into consideration in decision making processes.

To summarise the wide ranging and proactive approach taken by the Governments draft strategy to climate change encapsulates a number of issues that are foremost in the minds of TFIC members. TFIC's principal concern is that due consideration is given to the State's seafood industry in the finalised strategy and that the current lack of accurate data available to help predict climate change impacts on the marine environment be addressed.

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