

Will Hodgman, MP
Leader of the State Opposition
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***Underwhelming Bartlett effort on climate change:
where are the practical measures?***

The State Government's framework for action on climate change is underwhelming and fails to recognize the need to engage all Tasmanians in the task of driving greenhouse gas emissions down.

Leader of the State Opposition, Will Hodgman, said that years after launching a plan to develop a climate change strategy, what he had seen of the framework today did little to excite or engage.

One of the most glaring omissions is the failure to introduce incentives for home-owners to install energy and water efficient devices, such as solar and reverse cycle hot water, rain water tanks and subsidies for home insulation.

The State Liberals committed in the recent Budget Reply to implementing such incentives, with a \$7.5 million recurrent policy to provide rebates of up to \$1000 for the installation of solar and reverse cycle hot water, and rainwater tanks, and up to \$500 for improved insulation.

The State Government's response today has been to announce a public relations campaign encouraging Tasmanians to use less carbon.

"That is typical of this government being all spin and no substance. It should put its money where its mouth is and offer Tasmanian households the sort of practical assistance available in other states to encourage people to do their bit to reduce greenhouse emissions," Mr Hodgman said.

Mr Hodgman said the State Opposition would consider the details of the framework, along with the Federal Government's green paper on an emissions trading scheme, to consider the best way forward for Tasmania in terms of this issue.

He maintained that Tasmania must be at the front and centre of the new investment in climate science and low-emissions innovation that will arise from the move to a more greenhouse friendly economy.

"There will be a need for increased investment in applied climate science and Professor Garnaut, in his recent report, recommended a new research council be charged with elevating, coordinating and targeting Australia's effort in low-emissions research," Mr Hodgman said.

"Tasmania should be at the hub of this, and we should be establishing ourselves as a world leader in climate change, utilizing our wealth of knowledge in areas such as marine based climate science, and in forestry, and our strength as a producer of clean, renewable energy," Mr Hodgman said.

"The Tasmanian Labor Government has been dragging its feet on this issue – last year it actually voted in the Parliament against the principle of legislated emission reduction targets.

"On the face of it, the framework released today seems to indicate that the government is still playing catch up on the most important social, environmental and economic issue facing this generation."

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