



**TASMANIAN  
CLIMATE  
COLLECTIVE**

## **Tasmanian Climate Collective Submission to the Inquiry on Home Electrification, Senate Economics Reference Committee**

[Tasmanian Climate Collective](#) (TCC) offers this submission in our ongoing efforts to support the copious, overwhelming scientific advice regarding the necessary actions required to mitigate climate change, including residential electrification.

TCC is a group of committed organisations and individuals from across lutruwita, Tasmania who advocate for evidence based action on climate change. The Collective is made up of climate action, social and environmental groups and grassroots organisations. Tasmanian Climate Collective has no political affiliation and is composed of scientists, farmers, doctors, teachers, nurses and other concerned citizens calling for more action on climate change.

TCC makes numerous submissions to inquiries such as this in our efforts to improve the chance of a safe climate for the people and places we love. As a 100% volunteer run organisation, this takes many volunteer hours. Before we address the terms of reference, we would like to make a single clear recommendation:

### **Recommendation 1: Politicians and other decision makers in the Australian government should directly consult independent scientific experts and act on their advice.**

The failure of successive governments to act on the best scientific advice, has left Australians with worsening climate and ecological crises. The evidence demonstrates that Australia's climate and environmental policies are based on the advice of powerful high emissions industries in their efforts to delay the transition to a low carbon economy ([Influence Map](#), [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) and [Climate Tracker](#)). For example, the disproportionate influence of the methane gas industry is evident in the current advertising campaign that works against residential electrification ([Renew 2023](#)) and the "gas-fired" economic recovery from Covid ([SMH](#), [ABC](#)).

Australia's current climate and energy transition policies do not reflect the advice of climate scientists, biologists, physicists, ecologists, health professionals, engineers and others.

The role of TCC and other concerned citizens should not be to provide expert evidence-based advice. Our role is to demand that the federal government listen to and act on the advice of independent scientific experts, rather than the advice of high GHG emitters and their industry associations. In a properly functioning democracy, where decision makers have not been "captured" by vested interests, this role should be redundant.

It is not best practice for Senate Inquiries such as this one, to require the advice of community volunteers such as us to counteract the overwhelming influence of the fossil fuel lobby, when our elected representatives already have access to all the scientific advice and resources available to adopt the necessary policies.

With the above recommendation in mind, TCC support the submissions to this inquiry from Doctors for the Environment, Australian Renewables Academy and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. Their expertise is invaluable and if acted upon, will ensure a better quality of life for all Australians.

## Comments on the Terms of Reference

We expect that this inquiry will receive detailed submissions from Rewiring Australia, Beyond Zero Emissions and other expert organisations. Rather than repeat their recommendations, we offer a community perspective from Tasmania, a state with a high regional population, a significant amount of social disadvantage and a strong connection to the life support systems in our environment.

### (a) *Economic opportunities of household electrification*

Australia is better placed (with abundant solar, wind and mineral resources) than the USA to implement a stronger version of the USA Inflation Reduction Act. The economic benefit is in the name, with opportunities for reduction of energy price inflation in both stationary energy and transport.

For Tasmania, [modelling](#) by Rewiring Australia has demonstrated that “by 2030, full electrification of households across Tasmania would see:

The average household in Tasmania save \$4660 per year in energy bills and vehicle costs

Economic flow on effects across the region that could spark the indirect creation of up to 6,710 new jobs”

### (b) *The macro-barriers to increasing the uptake of home electrification*

The high upfront costs of electrification of est. \$12 billion by [Rewiring Australia](#) is similar to Australia’s annual fossil fuel subsidies - [\\$11.1billion](#). TCC recommend ceasing fossil fuel subsidies and reallocating these funds to residential electrification of homes and transport.

Like most measures that will reduce fossil fuel use, a major barrier to home electrification is the powerful influence of fossil fuel companies and associations, particularly the gas and petroleum industries ([Influence Map 2023](#)). This extends to the ongoing advertising, sponsorship and greenwashing by fossil fuel companies. Plain packaging has moderated the harms of the tobacco industry. TCC would like to see equivalent restrictions on the much more harmful fossil fuel industry.

The hype around the hydrogen industry is potential macro-barrier to home electrification ([Renew 2020](#)). Fossil fuel interests have demonstrated their interest in promotion of hydrogen to prolong the lifespan of their industries ([Independent 2022](#)). TCC supports the use of truly green hydrogen to replace fossil fuel generated hydrogen used in fertilisers, explosives and some hard to abate industries. As energy storage, green hydrogen is far less suitable to home and light commercial stationary energy and transport. Despite this, a disproportionate amount of renewables funding has been directed to hydrogen ([DCCEEW](#)).

The resistance of some communities to the infrastructure required for the increase in electrification can be a barrier. Helen Haines MP led the development of the [Local Power Plan](#) that focuses on:

“Community energy – where everyday people are empowered to develop, own and benefit from their own energy projects – is a way to ensure the renewable boom happens with and for us, not to us.”

This plan, or similar would help to overcome this barrier.

(e) *The optimal timeline for household electrification accounting for the likely timing of decarbonising electricity*

TCC supports the rapid decarbonisation of household electricity as soon as technically possible (based on advice from independent scientists and engineers).

(f) *The impacts and opportunities of household electrification for domestic energy security, household energy independence and for balance of international trade*

The localisation of electricity generation has significant potential to increase household resilience. The inclusion of electric vehicles in household electrification will have a further benefit of reducing our reliance on imported transport fuels. Geopolitical climate change impacts (that have likely been reported in the Office of National Intelligence, Climate Change Risk Assessment – declassified version yet to be released) could threaten supplies of transport fuels ([Breakthrough](#))

(h) *Solutions to the economic barriers to electrification for low-income households*

We recommend a levy on new items that use fossil fuels to fund revenue neutral subsidies for replacement electrical items. For example, the [Tasmanian Policy Exchange](#) (University of Tasmania) has modelled a surcharge on new ICE vehicles to fund subsidies for electric vehicles.

Like many Australians, TCC expect that the transition to electrification will follow circular economy principles with re-use and recycling options.

Also see response to (b) above.

We regret our inability to provide more detailed responses due to our limited capacity as a volunteer organisation with a long list of submissions to make. We look forward to seeing our Recommendation 1 adopted so that we can focus our volunteer hours on supporting our communities in other ways.

Tasmanian Climate Collective

[www.tasclimatecollective.org](http://www.tasclimatecollective.org)

We acknowledge the traditional owners of lutruwita, the Palawa, their ongoing custodianship of the land, community, sea and waters.

We pay our deepest respect to Palawa elders, past and present.

Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, always will be Aboriginal land