

2 August, 2015

Climate Change Act Review Secretariat  
Department of Environment Land, Water & Planning  
PO Box 500 Melbourne VIC



Environment Institute  
of Australia and  
New Zealand Inc.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

***Review of the Climate Change Act 2010 submission – Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand***

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) is pleased to have this opportunity to provide a submission to the review of the *Climate Change Act 2010*.

The EIANZ is the peak professional body for environmental practitioners in Australasia. Our mission is to promote independent and interdisciplinary discourse on environmental issues. The Institute advocates that 'best' environmental practices be delivered by competent and ethical environmental practitioners.

I am forwarding this submission to you on behalf of the Victorian Division of the EIANZ<sup>1</sup>, which represents approximately 200 members out of a total membership of 1,800 (approximately 11% of total membership in Australasia). Our membership is represented by a diverse range of technical disciplines including scientists, policy makers, engineers, lawyers and economists.

A review of the *Climate Change Act 2010* is welcomed by the EIANZ as an opportunity to set Victoria on a strong footing for addressing the causes and effects of climate change.

As part of our submission to the review, an online survey was forwarded to all our Victorian EIANZ members seeking feedback on the questions as specified by the Department:

1. How effective is the current *Climate Change Act 2010* in driving climate change action by government, business and the community?
2. What role should the Act play in:
  - a. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
  - b. Adapting and preparing for the impacts of climate change?
  - c. Growing a globally competitive Victorian economy?
  - d. Providing accessible information to the Victorian community on climate change?
3. Based on the Terms of Reference, is there anything else you would like the Independent Review Committee to consider when developing its report and recommendations?

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<sup>1</sup> While this submission is made on behalf of the EIANZ Victorian Division and has been drafted with the input and review of members, it does not purport to represent the diverse views of all individual members.

In addition, the online survey also included the following questions:

- In your opinion, should Victoria have a state-level emissions reduction target? If yes, do you have any thought on what the target should be?
- What policies do you believe are the most appropriate for Victoria to reduce emissions and address climate change from a state basis?

**EIANZ members provided a submission response to the survey and these results summarised below:**

- Members consider the current Climate Change Act 2010 to have limited effectiveness in driving climate change action by government, business and the community, with the majority of members considering the Act to be slightly effective or not effective across these sectors.
- Members believe the Act should play a central role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in setting the basis through goals, ambitions or targets to guide practical measures to reduce emissions.
- The Act should play a role in guiding government and business in improving their resilience to climate change impacts; however this role is seen as secondary to the main role stated in the above point.
- The Act should play a role in developing industries that will be central to Victoria's economy in a low carbon world. Again, this role should be secondary to the main role of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in setting the basis through goals, ambitions or targets to guide practical measures to reduce emissions.
- The dissemination and provision of information on climate change is an important consideration for the Act, given the importance of education in encouraging emissions reduction and preparing for the effects of climate change.
- The overwhelming majority of members surveyed (83%) were of the view that Victoria should have a state-level emissions reduction target. This could form the basis for developing actions to reduce emissions.
- Policies which encourage transitioning to renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, improving the resilience and energy intensity of infrastructure and reducing deforestation are important to reduce emissions and prepare Victoria for the effects of climate change.
- EIANZ members consider it important to have information, especially statistics, on climate change readily available and for opportunities for efficiencies in other Acts and legislation to be considered.

EIANZ welcomes any further opportunities to discuss details of this or other policy reviews by the Department.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Juniper

Victorian Division - President



Dr Tim Richards

Victorian Division - Treasurer



Jon Womersley

Board Chair and President

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand