priority goals for the organisation

Capacity building

To address the greatest threats to Tasmania's environment, we need to grow our capacity.

Our Objectives

By 2021, Environment Tasmania is at least a $1 million organisation.

To achieve this, we will:

- Expand and broaden our supporter base
- Deliver consistent supporter engagement and meaningful opportunities to take action
- Develop a medium and major donor program that delivers 60 per cent of our funding mix
- Develop a regular giving program that delivers 25 per cent of our funding mix
- Ensure a maximum government contribution of 25 per cent of our funding mix, averaged over three year project cycles

ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA

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Proud member IUCN

5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2021

5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 2021

Our way of working

- We are independent and non-partisan.
- We are committed to campaigning, because it is the most effective way of delivering large-scale, systemic change to protect nature.
- We are democratic, pragmatic and courageous. Campaigning can deliver outcomes, but to secure those outcomes, we work to build support in the Tasmanian community and engage in democratic processes.
- We provide a local voice, representing Tasmania environment groups on the most pressing challenges facing the Tasmanian environment.

Our role as a peak body

Our goal is to support a local environment movement that is connected and skilled-up to deliver on their objectives. We deliver on this goal by providing:

- Networking and training opportunities
- Opportunities for collaborative campaigning to address the largest threats to Tasmanian's environment
- A watching brief on the state of Tasmania's environment
- Shared resources for member groups
- Regular communication to member groups

ENVIRONMENT TASMANIA

who we are

Environment Tasmania is the peak body for environment groups in Tasmania.

Our mission

Our mission is to protect the places we love, the clean air, water and natural resources we rely on. We do this by building community support to create the power and influence necessary to deliver long term social change.

our priority campaigns

Our priority campaigns for the next five years have been selected based on an analysis of the greatest threats to Tasmania's environment and where we have the best opportunity to deliver solutions. These are most obvious and immediate threats to Tasmania's environment.

Climate change

2015 was the hottest year on record globally. Climate change was a major factor in driving the record-breaking heat in 2015 worldwide. Averaged across Australia, temperatures for nine of the 12 months of 2015 were above-average.[1]

Changes in Tasmania's climate have far-reaching implications for agriculture, tourism, electricity generation, fisheries, biodiversity and human health. Average annual temperature in Tasmania rose by 0.8°C over the century to 2013. Tasmania's total annual rainfall has reduced, most noticeably in autumn, and there has been greater variability in rainfall year-to-year since 1975 (Grose et al., 2010; BOM/ACSC, 2011).[2]

Fire: Fire is a particular threat to our wilderness world heritage area. More than 72,000 hectares of western Tasmania was burned by bushfires ignited by lightning strikes on January 13 2016.[3] A long-term drying trend, record-breaking dry spring and a dry, hot summer – driven in large part by climate change – played a significant role in increasing the susceptibility of the forests to fire.[4] Much of the burnt areas of alpine flora are unlikely to ever fully recover.

Ocean warming: Ocean temperatures on Tasmania's East Coast are now among the most rapidly warming in the world.[5] In April 2016, water temperatures off the state's east coast had been 4 degrees Celsius above average for more than 100 days. CSIRO research scientist Dr Alastair Hobday said this was a glimpse into Tasmania's climate future, where many species would become stressed and die and new species would enter on the warm East Coast Current.[6]

Invasive species: With warming waters comes invasive species like *Centrostephanus rodgersii* (long-spined sea urchin).[7] The urchin chews through kelp. Scientists predict that *centrostephanus* will eventually destroy 50 per cent of the rocky reef habitat on Tasmania's east coast and have serious implications for the sustainability of rock lobster and abalone fisheries (Johnston et al 2005).[8]

Ocean acidification: In 2013, the planet was building up heat at the equivalent of four Hiroshima bombs worth of energy every second. 90% of that heat is going into the oceans, which has created a 30 per cent increase in ocean acidity levels.[9] This acidity level makes it much harder for organisms that calcify to build their shells. In Tasmania, ocean acidification will have increasingly serious impacts on marine ecosystems and our shellfish industries.

Water shortages: Changing rainfall patterns creates risk for water supplies and irrigation but also for Tasmania's large hydroelectric system.[10]

Sea level rise: In Tasmania, an estimated 8,700 – 11,600 houses, with a value of up to $3.3 billion, may be at risk of flooding towards the end of this century, assuming a sea level rise of 1.1 m which is at the higher end of projections.[11]

Terrestrial species extinction: Plants and animals in cool, high altitude habitats (King Billy Pine, burrowing crayfish, broad-toothed mouse, for e.g.) have very limited ability to adapt to rapid climate change.[12]

Our objectives

There are significant opportunities for Environment Tasmania to build support for action on climate change. Very few local groups are telling the story of climate change impacts specific to Tasmania or mobilising effected groups – like farmers, fire fighters, fisheries or coastal land holders – to protect their interests. With 12 senate seats and a number of marginal seats, Tasmania also has the potential to impact on the national debate about climate action.

By 2021 ET's advocacy and stakeholder engagement work has increased Tasmanian community concern about climate impacts and increased pressure on state and federal government for climate action.

PHOTO: WILD OCEAN TASMANIA

Industrialisation of our coastal waters

Over-fishing: As well as the impacts of warming waters, ocean acidification and invasive species, Tasmania's marine environment is under pressure from over-fishing.

Areas of our famous Abalone fishery are unsustainable. Rock Lobster is experiencing an ecological collapse and the Giant Crab, Shellfish and Scallop fisheries have chronically depleted populations. Four of the main recreational fishing favourites – Banded Morwong, Bastard Trumpeter, Striped Trumpeter and Blue Warehou – have depleted or overfished populations.[13]

Aquaculture: Tasmanian salmon farming has grown from a 53 tonnes a year industry to a 40,000 tonnes a year industry in 30 years. And the industry has plans to double production by 2030.[14]

Current planning and regulation for fish farming is sub-standard and has allowed industry development in locations like Macquarie Harbour. Scientists describe Macquarie Harbour as a "biological system under stress;"[15] oxygen levels in the water have plummeted, resulting in mass fish kills. Pollution from fish farms has spread 7.5 kms, entering the World Heritage Area and threatening the survival of endangered species such as the Maugean Skate – found nowhere else on earth.

Industry expansion plans target high conservation value areas off Tasmania's east coast and Bruny Island.

Our objectives

By 2021, ET will deliver improvements to Aquaculture planning and regulation which prevent further aquaculture industry expansion into high conservation value marine areas.

By 2021, ET will participate in negotiations with industry and government on the creation of a comprehensive network of marine reserves in Tasmania.

Logging of our high conservation value forests

Tasmania has 1.2 million hectares of native forest remaining –or around 35 per cent of the total 3.4 million hectares of forested area.[16] In 2012, Environment Tasmania was a signatory to the Tasmania Forests Agreement, which enabled a 172,000 hectares extension to the Wilderness World Heritage Area and protection for roughly 330,000 hectares of high conservation value forest on public land as future reserves. In 2014, the Tasmanian Government passed laws to undo the Tasmanian Forest Agreement. While the World Heritage Area extension has held, high conservation value forests scheduled for protection have been returned to 'future production' production forests and can be logged from 2020.

Our objectives

By 2021, ET's collaboration with signatories to the Tasmanian Forest Agreement has secured protection for high conservation value forests in the state.

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