

Submission to:

***Embracing the Climate Challenge: Tasmania's
draft climate change action plan 2016-2021***



24 March 2016

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Submission summary and Recommendations

The Heart Foundation welcomes the opportunity to submit a response regarding the *Embracing the climate challenge: Tasmania's draft climate change action plan 2016-2021* (Action Plan). Our responses to the posed questions follow in the body of the submission, and a summary of recommendations can be found below.

Recommendation 1: That the proposed practical actions numbered 1-6 on pages 4-5 of this submission are prioritised in response to the issue of climate change.

Recommendation 2: That the proposed targets numbered 1-4 on pages 5-6 of this submission are adopted to pursue our greenhouse gas abatement effort.

Recommendation 3: That the final Action Plan addresses actions towards ensuring food security, particularly to strengthen food systems and to ensure access to healthy food and bio-security as responses to climate change.

Recommendation 4: That the claim of 'no major constraints to population expansion made in the draft action plan' be proven. Indicators of population capacity include: land and water supply for required activities; the capacity of our cities to function in a social, economic and environmental efficiency context; and there is measurable improvements in the health and wellbeing of Tasmania's population.

Recommendation 5: That the State Government (when administering the Tasmanian Planning Scheme) does not rule out establishing potentially difficult (unpopular) requirements or prohibitions on use and development for the sake of not wishing to regulate, at the expense of combatting climate change.

Recommendation 6: That a Health Impact Assessment for Climate Change be undertaken in Tasmania (similar to the Western Australia model) as part of the final Action Plan.

Recommendation 7 That the State Government implements a 'Health in All Policies' approach to provide the necessary focus on health and wellbeing as recommended in the report of the *Joint Select Committee into Preventative Health, Parliament of Tasmania 2016*.

In addition to the responses provided to the questions posed in the draft Action Plan, the primary assertion made by the Heart Foundation is that the challenges posed by climate change differ very little from other challenges that we already face in regard to promoting the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians. Climate change simply heightens the focus on the same set of issues.

Improving and protecting health and wellbeing needs to be the underlying context for the agreed actions. The Heart Foundation contends that to achieve the necessary cultural changes across State and local government for responses to climate change and a low carbon future, then this should be through the mechanism of State Policies (*State Policies and Projects Act 1993*). A State Policy would set the policy and aspirational framework and the imprimatur to corral the activities of State agencies and councils for a consistent and co-ordinated response to climate change. In addition a State Policy has longevity for consistent application of policy. At another level the Tasmanian Planning Scheme is the mechanism for regulating and prohibiting predominately the private sector through the granting of permits.

Responses to the questions posed in the draft Action plan

What practical actions should we prioritise over the next five years in our response to the issue of climate change?

The draft Action Plan advises:

‘Assisting communities to reduce exposure and build resilience to climate risks will help minimise economic disruptions...’

‘Collaborative planning needs to increase if we are to ensure that Tasmanian communities, local economies and the environment are not exposed to unmanageable risks as a result of the changing climate.’

‘We can reduce our exposure to the impacts of climate change by ensuring adaptation planning is based on the best possible projections of, and information on, climate change.’

‘Climate change’ has brought a sharper focus to issues that have always been in the Tasmanian environment through the prospect of frequent extreme events.

The Heart Foundation supports actions that reduce exposure and builds community resilience in response to known and unknown (requiring adaptive planning) hazards arising from climate change. Responses cannot, realistically, be put into a five year timeframe, but it is critical that responses not be delayed. We submit that the responses to climate change must have a focus on the health and wellbeing of Tasmanians, and visitors to Tasmania. This requires us to consider improving health not just in terms of controlling communicable diseases, but also in terms of providing supportive environments that prevent non-communicable chronic disease, and for us to consider wellbeing in terms of alleviating induced stress from greater exposure to hazards.

For practical actions over the next five years the Heart Foundation proposes:

1. Direct policy to proactively improve the liveability of our cities and towns through policies for active living, active travel, mixed density housing, mixed use, food security and open space. These are subject matters that address themselves to the built environment and the social determinants of health, and relevantly provide a sound basis for responding to the climate challenge. The Heart Foundation submits that a State Policy (under the [State Policies and Projects Act 1993](#)) is an available and appropriate mechanism for implementing policy that has the imprimatur of Parliament and the prospect of longevity of application¹.
2. That the areas of the State that are assessed (on current knowledge and estimation) as vulnerable to different types of hazard exposure (particularly from frequent extreme weather events) are mapped.

Whilst it is expected that large areas of Tasmania will be shown to be vulnerable (depending on the measures adopted to determine level of and intensity of risk), nevertheless this is a starting point for defining magnitude, policy response and required adaption measures.

3. That firm policy responses to land use and future development (broadly defined) in areas defined as vulnerable to hazard exposure are determined. Confirm the policy positions through the State Policy instrument for a whole of State Government and Council focus across all their jurisdictions and activities.

¹See [Heart Foundation \(Tasmania\) draft State Policy for Healthy Spaces and Places](#) and the [Supporting Advocacy Document](#)

4. That policy responses are also applied as provisions and standards (restrictions and prohibitions), on use and development through the state planning provisions for the proposed Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
5. That the 4th action at Table 4 is restated to read:

'Actively apply policies and programs directed at improving the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians with emphasis on reducing exposure to climate induced hazards, building resilience and improving equity in our communities.'

The 'action' currently reads:

'Identify additional policies and programs to respond to the potential health impacts of climate change'

As currently worded the action goes no further than to 'identify' policies and programs. The Heart Foundation contends that as much is known of current and prospective health impacts, the interest should be in 'actively applying policies and program' to focus on building resilience and improving equity in our communities.

Further, the draft Action Plan states (P31):

'Strategies addressing health protection, preventative health and primary health in Tasmania need to consider the impacts of projected climate changes on human health, particularly on the more vulnerable members of the community.'

The recognition of health impacts from climate change, albeit potential, is a positive first step. However this health and wellbeing action needs to be applied on a continuous basis to ensure preparedness to respond to current and unknown health issues from climate induced diseases and other sicknesses. This is particularly the case for the wider social consequences from frequent extreme weather events affecting the physical and mental health of vulnerable people - the elderly, low income, those with poor health and with disabilities.

6. That the State Government implement the findings and recommendations of the *Joint Select Committee into Preventative Health, Parliament of Tasmania 2016*.

In the context of health impacts from climate change the Heart Foundation fully supports the findings and recommendations of the *Joint Select Committee into Preventative Health, Parliament of Tasmania 2016*. Of particular note, in the context of being prepared and responsive to climate change that the State Government adopts the recommended 'health-in-all-policies' structure to provide the necessary focus on health and wellbeing.

Recommendation 1: That the proposed practical actions numbered 1-6 on pages 4-5 of this submission are prioritised in response to the issue of climate change

What targets, both legislated and policy driven, should Tasmania adopt in pursuing our greenhouse gas abatement effort?

The Heart Foundation proposes the following targets be adopted to pursue our greenhouse gas abatement effort:

1. Make a State Policy (*State Policies and Projects Act 1993*) that has as its subjects active living, and active travel that embraces, walking, cycling and public transport and food security as clear priority areas.

Active living, through integrating physical activity into daily routines, and active travel² are instrumental to redressing increasing rates of chronic disease in the community. It is contended that a healthy community will be more receptive to, and supportive of the actions proposed for reducing carbon emissions. In addition, and whilst a focus on active travel may help reduce vehicle emissions, the major gains from an active travel focus will be in terms of reducing transport disadvantage, enhancing accessibility for a significant proportion of the population, and concurrently increasing physical activity.

2. Target the provisions and standards for use and development in the state planning provisions for the Tasmanian Planning Scheme to focus on health and wellbeing³ under climate change scenarios of heightened temperatures and extreme hazard events and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
3. In the interim, until State Policy and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme embrace climate related policies on active travel, the State Government encourages and facilitates local government to adopt and apply equivalent *Positive Provision Policy for Cycling Infrastructure* policies to local streets and pathways.

The Heart Foundation is pleased to see that the Government has adopted the *Positive Provision Policy for Cycling Infrastructure* October 2013. Adopting the policy will hopefully mean no more 'unsafe' new infrastructure such as the Arthur Highway bridge over Iron Creek (opened 2014). The bridge, located between the major and emerging urban settlements of Sorell and the Southern Beaches, makes no provision for safe walking and cycling.

4. Introduce policy and targets through available mechanisms, including State Policy and the Tasmanian Planning Scheme that address the ongoing challenges to food security, access to healthy food and biosecurity.

Recommendation 2: That the proposed targets numbered 1-4 on pages 5-6 of this submission are adopted to pursue our greenhouse gas abatement effort

The Action Plan states:

'Our fast-growing agricultural, wine and niche food industries are particularly well placed to benefit from effective planning for our current and future climate.'

In Table 3 '*Getting our primary industries climate ready*' there is the action:

'Embed an understanding of climate variability and projections into AgriGrowth Tasmania's strategic approach to developing Tasmania's food and agriculture sector (for example through initiatives such as enterprise suitability mapping).'

² **active travel (transport)** embraces travel modes that involve physical activity such as walking and cycling and includes the use of public transport that is accessed via walking or cycling and may allow for integration of multi-modal transport in the course of a day.

³ The Tasmanian Planning Scheme must further the Objectives in Schedule 1 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*; in this case, specifically objective (f) Schedule 1 Part 2 in respect to health and wellbeing.

The Action Plan primarily sees opportunities for agriculture and aquaculture but not the contra challenges from climate change including frequent extreme weather events.

For aquaculture, increasing sea temperatures is noted in the context of adaption to remain sustainable. Currently there are biotoxin events and the Pacific Oyster Mortality Syndrome (POMS). Whilst these events may not be specific to climate change there is nevertheless a forewarning of challenges to food security, in these cases to aquaculture.

Climate change is likely to alter (potentially significantly alter) the current arrangements for food supply and the security of food production and exchange. See Annexure 1 to this submission for a Tasmanian case study on climate change and food security.

The Action Plan needs to comment on and address as actions: food security, access to healthy food and bio-security in its responses to climate change.

Strategies to ensure local food systems are better able to meet the needs of Tasmanians include:

1. Strengthening existing food systems
2. Ensuring local government is a key stakeholder
3. Addressing the broader social determinants of health need to be addressed
4. Ensuring adaptive approaches (not a one size fits all approach) are taken. This means responding to place and community needs in each place is very important
5. Engaging consumers to meet the needs of the market
6. Ensuring changes are made incrementally, and
7. Involving small and medium growers and community groups, although large producers with a suitable mindset should not be excluded.

Recommendation 3: That the final Action Plan addresses actions towards ensuring food security, particularly to strengthen food systems and to ensure access to healthy food and bio-security as responses to climate change.

How can our natural advantages best be used to maximise Tasmania's contribution in the effort to combat climate change?

The challenge is to not squander actual and perceived 'natural advantages'. The paper claims (on page 30) that:

- [there are] 'no major constraints in Tasmania to population expansion'.
- 'Tasmania does not have any shortages of land or water for household use in the major urban areas where most population growth will probably occur'.
- 'The scale of population increases in Tasmania's cities is not expected to result in the same congestion issues that some cities in mainland Australian are facing'.
- 'environmental impacts are anticipated to be manageable under current regulatory arrangements'

Advantages, natural and cultural, need to be conserved, managed and resource allocation planned to ensure Tasmania's economic assets are realised and protected.

In the light of recent and current experiences where energy supply is stressed; water is being rationed; food production is suffering disease and dry conditions; where urban development can be classed as sprawl; and coastal areas are under population pressures related to available infrastructure; we find that the health and wellbeing for a sizable proportion of the population is a major challenge to the community as well as to the individual. It could be argued that the liveability advantages claimed for Tasmanian cities and towns are more perceived than real.

On current indicators the claims of 'no major constraints to population expansion' needs to be proved. This comment is not to be read as opposition to increasing population or a lack of capacity to increase population, but a call for planning for the allocation of resources and investment in infrastructure for the advantages to be realised.

Recommendation 4: That the claim of 'no major constraints to population expansion made in the draft Action Plan' be proven. Indicators of population capacity include: land and water supply for required activities; the capacity of our cities to function in a social, economic and environmental efficiency context; and there is measurable improvements in the health and wellbeing of Tasmania's population.

On natural hazards and efficient use of resources, the draft Action Plan refers to the 'statewide planning scheme and new planning policies without imposing unnecessary regulation.'

State Policy, state planning policies and State Planning Provisions articulate the aspirational objectives, planning scheme provisions and standards directed at measures to combat climate change.

At this point the legal status and implementation possibilities of 'new planning policies' is unknown. Policies aside, for a proper and strategic response to climate change there will need to be regulation and prohibition of use and development under the Tasmanian Planning Scheme. Therefore there will need to be recognition by the State Government that potentially difficult and unpopular requirements or prohibitions on use and development cannot be avoided.

Recommendation 5: That the State Government (when administering the Tasmanian Planning Scheme) does not rule out establishing potentially difficult (unpopular) requirements or prohibitions on use and development for the sake of not wishing to regulate, at the expense of combatting climate change.

What amendments or enhancements would you propose to the *Climate Change (State Action) Act 2008* to ensure that Tasmania is responding effectively to the issue of climate change?

The Heart Foundation does not make any submissions on the legislation.

Health and Wellbeing

The Heart Foundation contends that the Action Plan understates the potential impacts on health and wellbeing from climate change.

The report states:

‘With our comparatively milder climate, Tasmania is unlikely to experience the degree of climate-related health issues that are expected elsewhere (page 30).’

It is also stated (page 31) that ‘strategies addressing health protection, preventative health and primary health in Tasmania need to consider the impacts of projected climate changes on human health, particularly on the more vulnerable members of the community’ and that ‘the Government will identify policies and programs needed to respond to human health impacts of a changing climate’. As previously stated, we submit that the 4th action at Table 4 (which currently reads ‘Identify additional policies and programs to respond to the potential health impacts of climate change’) is amended to read:

‘Actively apply policies and programs directed at improving the health and wellbeing of all Tasmanians with emphasis on reducing exposure to climate induced hazards, building resilience and improving equity in our communities.’

Health and wellbeing should be a key focus of the Action Plan, as considerable evidence is available which demonstrates that climate change will have health consequences. These should not be downplayed as is currently suggested in the Draft Action Plan, and that the health issues should be canvassed, that adaptive strategies are developed relevant to Tasmania, and that these are a key focus in the final Action Plan.

Put very simply, climate change can have an effect on health through^{4,5}:

- Vector-borne diseases
- Zoonotic diseases
- Loss of life from an increase in the rate of natural disasters such as storms, tornados, hurricanes, floods, droughts and bushfires
- Water-borne diseases caused by the scarcity of fresh water and water pollution
- Health consequences for survivors of natural disasters – for example, disease, overcrowding and mental health problems
- An increase in respiratory, cardiac and allergic illnesses due to worsening air pollution – for example, as a result of more frequent bushfires
- An increase in gastrointestinal illnesses due to food-borne diseases

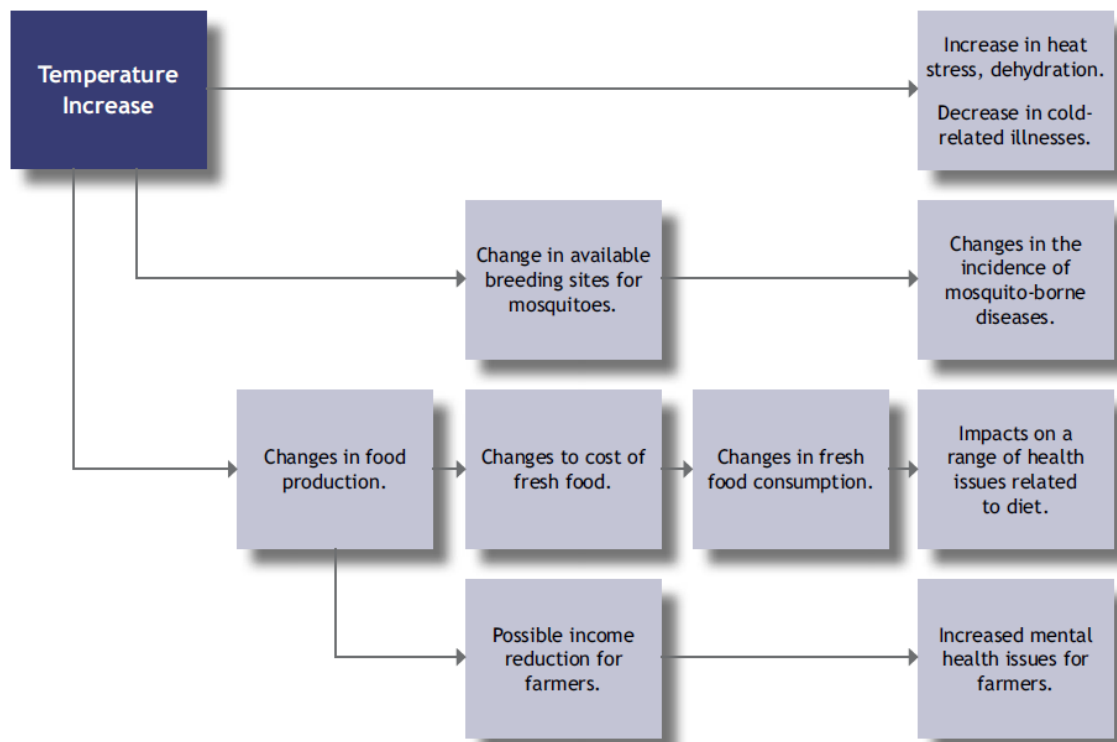
⁴Better Health Channel, *Climate change and health* (2011), Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian State Government. Available from: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/climate-change-and-health> (accessed 22 March 2016)

- An increase in heat-related illnesses, such as cramps, heat exhaustion, heat stroke, dehydration, blood clots, heart attack, stroke, heart failure, renal failure and possibly death
- Loss or reduction of livelihood and reduced availability of fresh food as a result of changes to agriculture, forestry and fisheries
- Homelessness
- Health problems related to living in temporary accommodation – for example, overcrowding and hygiene issues
- Mental illness and trauma related to social, cultural and geographical dislocation.

Suggested evidence to draw from can be found in [Health impacts of climate change – adaptation strategies for Western Australia](#)⁵. A two-phased project was undertaken in Western Australia to determine the health impacts of climate change in their state. This project, in effect, was a statewide Health Impact Assessment relating to climate change. Phase One of the project involved the identification of the potential health impacts that could arise given a particular set of climatic situations in the future, consideration of their current coping capacity and identification of health related vulnerabilities of people, regions, infrastructure and the economy to specific climatic and environmental events. The second phase entailed a risk assessment of the health impacts on communities including specific reference to vulnerability, and the development of adaptations which could be used to mitigate the identified impacts.

For relevance the Western Australian strategies include the south-west area of the State that is not too unlike parts of Tasmania. The report contains the following diagram (figure 1 below) to represent the links between climate, the environment and health.

Figure 1: Examples of potential direct and indirect health impacts of temperature increase in 2030.



⁵ Department of Health, *Health impacts of climate change – Adaptation strategies for Western Australia* (2008), Government of Western Australia. Available from: http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/cproot/1510/2/Health_Impacts_of_Climate_Change.pdf (accessed 23 March 2016)

Further evidence of the need to focus on health and wellbeing in relation to climate change can be found in the [Climate change challenges to health: Risks and opportunities](#)⁶ report. This report provides eight high-level recommendations which are critical in properly preparing for the challenges that climate change poses to health and provide an ideal framework for which action can be determined for Tasmania.

The Heart Foundation submits that Tasmania's Climate change Action Plan 2016-2021 should include a Health Impact Assessment for Tasmania that provides responses and adaptive measures to the effects of climate change on health and wellbeing.

Recommendation 6: That a Health Impact Assessment for Climate Change be undertaken in Tasmania (similar to the Western Australia model) as part of the final Action Plan.

In addition there is the need to set-up the governance structures for health and wellbeing. Again we refer to the findings and recommendations of the *Joint Select Committee into Preventative Health, Parliament of Tasmania 2016* and the recommendation for establishing a 'Health in All Policies' approach to provide the necessary focus on health and wellbeing.

Recommendation 7 That the State Government implements a 'Health in All Policies' approach to provide the necessary focus on health and wellbeing as recommended in the report of the *Joint Select Committee into Preventative Health, Parliament of Tasmania 2016*.

There are actions that can be taken now to improve our urban environment and help mitigate the adverse effects of climate change through a focus on health and wellbeing. For instance measures can be taken to improve the environment of our cities through extensive street tree planting to provide shade necessary for encouraging physical activity and with the additional benefit of reducing the 'urban heat island' inherent from the hard surfaces prevalent in our cities and towns.

Relevantly, Gehl⁷ defined 12 'quality' criteria for healthy spaces and places that are instructive on the types of measures to encourage physical activity and improve the attractiveness of urban spaces. Further to the phenomenon of heat island, it could be similarly instructive to assess the contribution to urban heat island from all-day car parking in our city environments.

Recommendation 8: That the final Action Plan identifies measures for improving the comfort of our cities and towns by promoting healthy spaces and places.

⁶ Australian Academy of Science, *Climate change challenges to health: Risks and opportunities*, Recommendations from the 2014 Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank (2014). Available from: <https://www.science.org.au/files/userfiles/support/reports-and-plans/2015/think-tank-recommendations-climate-change-health.pdf> (accessed 23 March 2016)

⁷ Gehl J Cities for People Island Press 2010

Heart Foundation's role and functions

The National Heart Foundation of Australia (Tasmania Division) is a company limited by guarantee, with approximately 85% of our funding coming from donors. The business is managed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who reports to the Tasmanian Board of Directors. The Board has the responsibility for determining strategy and the corporate governance of the Tasmanian business.

The organisation known as the National Heart Foundation of Australia is a Federation of related entities operating together under the provisions of a Federation Agreement. Those entities are the National Heart Foundation of Australia ACN 008 419 761 (National); and the separate National Heart Foundation entities operating in each of the States and Territories of Australia. In 2009 the National Heart Foundation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The National Heart Foundation operates under a group services model.

The operations of the Federation are overseen by the Executive Management Group (EMG). The EMG operates under its Terms of Reference as set out in the Federation Agreement and under an EMG Charter. The EMG conducts regular teleconferences and meets face-to-face on at least four occasions each year.

Our purpose is reduce premature death and suffering from heart, stroke and blood disease.

We are currently implementing our five year strategy *For all Hearts: Making a difference to Australia's heart health (For all Hearts)*. *For all Hearts* focuses our work on four key goals:

- Healthy Hearts
- Heart Care
- Health Equity
- Heart Foundation Research

We will deliver on our strategy through financial strength, our people, advocacy, data and evaluation, reputation and relevance, innovation, integration, business systems and governance.

The Tasmanian Strategic Plan has been developed to align with *For all Hearts* to provide a strategic focus for the work of the Heart Foundation in Tasmania. Our goal is to deliver the best possible outcomes under the *For all Hearts* goals within the specific size and cohorts of the Tasmanian population; the local Tasmanian context; and the operational constraints and resources available within the relatively small Tasmanian Division.



The Heart Foundation thanks the Government for the opportunity to provide this submission and would welcome the opportunity to discuss our recommendations further.



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Attachment: Annexure 1

Annexure 1: Climate change and food security – a case study for Tasmania

Food security has three domains: utilisation, supply and access. In Tasmania we have unequivocal data that determines that Tasmanians do not have equitable access to healthy food which is largely caused by wide variation in affordability, availability and cost⁸. Given the current food system does not provide good access for many Tasmanians, considering possible impacts on supply and utilisation are also critical in the face of climate change.

Climate change has the potential to impact all the food chain. Impacts include:

- Yields reduced by adverse seasonal conditions such as storm events and drought
- Impaired distribution channels through extreme events
- Spoilage, waste and market reliability due to a lack of resilience in supply chains
- Processing becomes vulnerable when supply is not guaranteed and risks this economic capability remaining viable into the future
- Increased food prices leading to reduced consumption of healthy foods⁹

There is growing acknowledgement that increasing occurrence of drought, rising sea levels, increased frequency of flooding, extreme weather events and elevated temperatures/reduced frosts will impact crop yields, quality of produce and negatively impact food pricing and availability.¹⁰

Tasmania summer 2015/2016 – what are growers saying about the very dry season

The unseasonable dry hitting Tasmania's farmers could push up the cost of vegetables, a leading grower says. Forth vegetable grower Mike Badcock has warned consumers they would have to expect price increases because of the costs of irrigating fields due to dry subsoil and falling dam-water levels.

"Cost input increases are across the board ... it's farming, that's the way it is," Mr Badcock said.

Mr Badcock said he was using about six times the water he would normally use from a private irrigation scheme, the Forthside Combined Irrigation Scheme, developed by 10 farmers about 25 years ago.

"It's a fairly sizeable scheme, we would be lost with it," he said. "Without, we would be all now be on holidays because nothing would be able to grow."

Tasmanian Irrigation acting chief executive Luke Curtain said that because of the unseasonal dry, the start of the summer irrigation season had been brought forward. The usage in October is typically what we would see in January or February.

Source: The Mercury, 6 November 2015: <http://www.themercury.com.au/news/tasmania/big-dry-pressures-the-price-of-vegetables/news->

⁸ Murray S., Ahuja KDK., Auckland S., Ball MJ 2014 The 2014 Tasmanian Healthy Food Access Basket Survey. School of Health Sciences. University of Tasmania

⁹ Edwards et al., 2011, Climate Change Adaptation at the Intersection of Food and Health. Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health; Supplement to Volume 23

¹⁰ United Nations 2007 Fighting climate change; human solidarity in a divided world, UN development program

Examples of the impacts include: in two of the last 10 years, Australia (normally a net exporter of grains) needed to import grains due to drought impacts which greatly reduced yields.¹¹ During drought years we have also seen marked increase in the price of fruits and vegetables, 43% for fruit and 33% for vegetables. These rising food prices particularly impact low-income households more than other household's types.¹² As prices increase, the impacts broaden to other household types such as those experiencing mortgage or rental stress who are also vulnerable to food insecurity¹³.

The direct connection between climate change, the food system, and our future food security requires adaptation to all of the future constraints preventing food insecurity, and importantly the associated chronic disease risks such as cardiovascular disease, obesity and diabetes.

Tasmania already has excellent data for how current availability is impacting Tasmanians ability to eat well. This is collected via the Tasmanian Population Health Survey and relates directly to the constraints and future concerns of food security outlined above.

Reason why food of adequate quality or variety is not available	Persons ages 18 years and over
Foods are too expensive	22.4%
Cannot obtain food of the right quality	22.0%
Cannot obtain adequate variety of food	9.3%
Inadequate and unreliable transport makes it difficult to get to the shops	5.6%

Source: Tasmanian Population Health Survey 2013; DHHS Public Health Services Epidemiology Unit.

With such large numbers of adults already impacted by difficult access to healthy food, considering the consequences for the food system by climate change should be prioritised.

Research conducted by University of Tasmania (UTas) last year started to explore possible food system solutions for Tasmania. The Local Food Supply project conducted by UTas¹⁴ found that to ensure local food systems are better able to meet the needs of Tasmanians, several strategic activities should be focussed on to achieve success. They include:

1. Strengthening existing food systems
2. Ensuring local government is a key stakeholder
3. Addressing the broader social determinants of health need to be addressed
4. Ensuring adaptive approaches (not a one size fits all approach) are taken. This means responding to place and community needs in each place is very important
5. Engaging consumers to meet the needs of the market
6. Ensuring changes are made incrementally, and
7. Involving small and medium growers and community groups, although large producers with a suitable mindset should not be excluded.

Considering the general principles of resilience in food system adaptation in the face of climate change impacts is prudent. Building on the previous work of UTas could help improve our understanding of the potential connection or otherwise between what foods are produced in Tasmania and what food is required to sustain good health and wellbeing for the community.

¹¹ Butler C, 2009 Food Security in the Asia Pacific: climate change, phosphorus, ozone and other environmental challenges

¹² Kettings et al, 2009, A healthy diet consistent with Australia health recommendations is too expensive for welfare dependent families. Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health

¹³ Lobstien, Friel and Dowler, Food Fuels and NCD's 2008 Lancet

¹⁴ Auckland S, Murray S, Saunders C, King A. 2015. Tasmanian Local Food Supply Project Report. School of Health Sciences. University of Tasmania