

PRINCIPLES

1. Climate change poses the greatest threat to our world in human history and requires urgent local, national and global action. The preservation of human life is paramount.
2. This is the critical decade for combating climate change.
3. The amount of greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere necessitates not only urgent, substantial mitigation but also prompt adaptation to climate change.
4. Early action to reduce greenhouse emissions, including carbon pollution, is cheaper and fairer than delaying action.
5. Climate change policy should be based on the best available science.
6. Climate change policy should inform and frame all other policies.
7. Victoria is one of the world's largest per-capita emitters of greenhouse gases, with 50% of Victoria's emissions coming from the burning of brown coal.
8. Victoria therefore must work towards a significant net emissions cut by 2020.
9. The lack of an effective global (or Australian) GHG emissions mitigation agreement must not prevent Victoria from reducing its emissions.
3. Victoria being positioned, through innovation, to capitalise on the new jobs, skills, technologies and markets available in a low carbon economy.
4. The provision of support, throughout the low carbon transition, to those regions, businesses and communities particularly vulnerable to emissions mitigation programs, and in particular to the Latrobe Valley
5. Regulating the phase-out of existing coal-fired power stations, and banning development of new fossil-fuel based power stations.
6. Banning the exploration and development of new fossil fuel resources including coal seam and other forms of unconventional gas.
7. Complementary mitigation measures, developed and implemented in collaboration with other governments where possible.
8. Assisting the Agriculture and Forestry sectors to reduce emissions - including from ruminant livestock production and land clearing - and to maximize effective and sustainable carbon farming and bio-sequestration.

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

Mitigation

1. Binding Victorian emissions targets to achieve a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by at least 40% from 1990 levels by 2020, and net zero or negative greenhouse gas emissions as soon as feasible and by no later than 2050
2. Developing and then implementing a detailed plan to end Victoria's reliance on fossil fuels by shifting to a low carbon economy.
9. Government support for adaptive actions to protect the environment and key public assets, and to manage major public risks.
10. The implementation, through public and private action, of the Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and ongoing review with community and expert involvement.
11. Assisting the Agriculture sector to adjust to reduced water availability and to make itself more energy self-sufficient.
12. Ensuring that coastal zone planning regulations allow for expected rise in sea levels, which could be 1.1 metres by 2100 (see Land Use Planning Policy).