

## A CLIMATE COMMISSIONER

# THE GREENS' PLAN TO SAFEGUARD OUR CLIMATE, COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT FROM DANGEROUS CLIMATE CHANGE



We are facing a climate emergency. The Greens have a plan to end climate pollution, fix our broken energy system and safeguard our communities and our environment from climate change.

Here in Victoria, we are already feeling the impacts of climate change. Bushfires are happening in winter, droughts are getting worse and extreme weather events are more frequent.

The Greens know that we must prepare for these impacts now, to protect our communities and environment for the future.

We cannot rely on Labor or the Liberals to respond to the climate emergency. They continue to allow big corporations to burn dirty fossil fuels that destroy our climate and environment.

We need greater scrutiny for whoever is in government, so the public can hold them to account and demand strong action on climate change.

## OUR PLAN

The Greens will create a new Climate Commissioner for Victoria, as head of a new independent Climate Commission.

The Greens' Climate Commission would:

- Produce a regular State of the Climate Report for Victoria.
- Update the Victorian Budget to report on climate change spending by government.
- Undertake a Local Climate Impact Inquiry
- Identify projects to remove dangerous carbon from the atmosphere.

Like the Auditor General, the Climate Commissioner will scrutinise government action (or inaction) on climate change.

An independent Climate Commission will give climate change increased prominence within government and the cross portfolio perspective that is needed to adequately address climate change.

## 100% RENEWABLE VICTORIA

In addition to our Climate Commissioner, the Greens have a bold set of policies to transition Victoria out of dangerous fossil fuels and to 100% renewable energy. For further information, visit:

- [100% Renewable Victoria](#) – Our plan for publicly owned renewables generation, storage and network upgrades, and to phase out coal by 2030.
- [Power Victoria](#) – Our plan for a public energy retailer, to stop price-gouging by corporate energy companies and deliver savings on energy bills.
- [Solar for Everyone](#), [Solar for Schools](#) and [Solar for Public Housing](#) – Our plans to ensure all Victorians can benefit from clean, renewable solar energy.

## STATE OF THE CLIMATE REPORT

The new Climate Commissioner will produce a State of the Climate Report every second year, with the first in 2019. The report will show Victorians how we are being affected by climate change.

The State of the Climate Report will report on positive decisions – like protecting forests to store carbon – and negative decisions – like approving new roads that increase emissions.

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This information will allow the public to make informed decisions about how political parties are performing in tackling climate change.

### CLIMATE BUDGET

The Climate Commission will work with the Department of Treasury and Finance to include a new mandatory section in the Victorian Budget that reports specifically on Government spending related to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

A Climate Budget will hold our government to account financially, to show how serious they really are about protecting us from the worst impacts of climate change.

### LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACT INQUIRY

The impacts of climate change are often location specific. While many regional towns face greater bushfire threats, our heavily populated city areas become urban heat islands and coastal communities are impacted by rising sea levels. This means communities need local responses to climate change.

The Climate Commission will run a Local Climate Impact Inquire, in partnership with local government, communities and environment groups, to identify localised climate change impacts and ways these can be addressed.

The Inquiry will also investigate the impacts of climate change on our natural environment: from our alpine forest ecosystems, being destroyed by droughts and unprecedented fires, to our coasts and marine environment, being degraded by warming oceans and changing tidal patterns.

The Inquiry will make recommendations to government on funding that should be allocated to support communities across the state in managing climate change impacts. It will also make recommendations to protect our precious natural environment, for its own value and its ability to remove and store climate pollution.

The government will be required to respond to recommendations from the Inquiry, giving communities a clear picture of its commitment to protecting us all.

### CARBON DRAWDOWN

Our forests and oceans have together absorbed more than half of carbon pollution over recent decades, but they are under enormous pressure. There's already too much carbon in the atmosphere and we need to be actively removing it in an environmentally responsible way.

The Climate Commissioner will identify Victorian specific projects to remove carbon from the atmosphere, to reverse the damage that has already been done.

### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The Greens would allocate \$20 million over four years to establish and run the new Climate Commission. Creation of the Climate Commission will form part of the Greens' fully-costed election platform.