

TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The Victorian Greens' plan to fight the climate crisis, grow jobs, and power Victoria with 100% renewable energy by 2030.



**THE
GREENS**

“Climate change is a threat to well-being and planetary health. Any further delay...will miss a brief and rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.”¹

– 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report
compiled by the entire world’s climate scientists

“The Greens’ plan for renewables by 2030 sounds hard, but it stacks up”²

– Professor Andrew Blakers, Director, Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSES),
Australian National University

“Climate science makes it abundantly clear that we must ensure that the 2020s are the decade of a massive clean energy expansion, transformation of our economic systems and rapid decline in emissions.”³

– Cam Walker, Friends of the Earth

“I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is.”⁴

– Greta Thunberg, Swedish school student who sparked a global wave of student climate strikes

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/#SPM>

² <https://theconversation.com/the-greens-plan-for-90-renewables-by-2030-sounds-hard-but-it-stacks-up-51115>

³ https://www.foe.org.au/climate_change_and_natural_disasters

⁴ <https://womenintheworld.com/2019/01/29/i-want-you-to-panic-climate-activist-greta-thunberg-16-lays-it-on-the-line-for-world-leaders/>

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INTRODUCTION



From Victorian Greens Leader Samantha Ratnam and Deputy Leader Ellen Sandell

Here in Victoria, climate change is already having a devastating impact on our lives. We're facing significant harm from fires, floods, heatwaves and extreme weather events.

The climate crisis is the most serious issue facing Victoria, and what we do, collectively, in the next few years will determine the future for people and the planet.

In the 60,000 years before European invasion and colonisation, First Nations people cared for and sustained this land. As custodians of this land, First Nations people understand that the health of the community is only as strong as the health of the environment. But in the last 34 years, humans have released more carbon and methane into the atmosphere than in the entire 60,000 years prior.

If we're to reverse the damage of the past 34 years on Country and community, we need to go further and faster when it comes to climate action.

Advocating for strong climate action is, and always has been, a top priority for the Greens.

The Greens have marched with Victorians and thousands of young people in the streets of Melbourne to demand a climate-safe future for all of us.

We've echoed those calls time and time again by taking action in Parliament.

The Greens have always pushed the government to go further and faster on tackling the climate crisis, and we've had some significant wins.

Alongside the community, the Victorian Greens successfully fought for a ban on gas fracking, saved pristine Westernport Bay from a giant gas terminal, and our campaigning helped achieve a Victorian renewable energy target which has led to a massive investment in new clean energy across the state.

But there's a lot more climate work to do in Victoria.

The Labor Government still supports opening up more gas drilling across Victoria, including near the 12 Apostles. Labor is still logging our precious native forests, has no plan to get out of coal and has made Victoria the only state with a tax on electric vehicles.

We need the Greens in Parliament in Victoria more than ever.

This Greens plan outlines a comprehensive and effective policy platform that would see swift action on climate change, right here in Victoria.

The move to renewable energy, clean manufacturing, electric transport and energy efficient homes is not just a gain for the environment, it's a gain for everyone in our community.

Acting on the climate crisis means creating new jobs for workers right across our state and saving Victorian households thousands on their energy bills.

With more Greens in Parliament, together we can push the next government to go further and faster on tackling the climate crisis. It's time to hold Labor to account and to demand real action on climate change.

As mothers, as environmentalists, and as MPs, climate action is our priority. It's the reason we became active in politics and it will be a top priority for the Greens in the next Parliament.



SAMANTHA RATNAM
Leader of the Victorian Greens



ELLEN SANDELL
Deputy Leader of the Victorian Greens

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Moving beyond coal and gas

The climate crisis threatens our planet and our future..

The biggest cause of climate change is the mining, transporting and burning of fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas.

According to the historically conservative International Energy Agency (IEA), not one new coal or gas project can proceed if we are to stay below 1.5 degrees.

Despite this, both the Victorian Labor and Liberal's climate and energy plans envisage more fossil fuels. Neither party has a plan to get out of coal, and both support new gas projects.

Right now in Victoria, there are 11 new coal and projects planned or underway, including new gas drilling near the 12 Apostles, a gas import terminal proposed for Corio Bay, and a new gas fired power plant planned at Hastings.

Labor has used public money to extend the life of the Yallourn coal station and is gifting millions in taxpayer dollars to dodgy coal projects including making the world's dirtiest hydrogen from brown coal in the Latrobe Valley.

The Greens are the only party in Victoria with a fully costed plan to get Victoria off coal and gas and repower our state with 100% renewable energy.

Net Zero Emissions

Tackling the climate crisis means removing all sources of greenhouse gas emissions and drawing down existing emissions from our atmosphere.

We need to shift electricity generation to renewables and storage and increase renewable electricity production to allow the direct and indirect electrification of all energy - electricity, petrol and gas - used by households, businesses, transport and industry.

We also need to protect and restore our landscapes and oceans including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands to store more carbon and drawdown emissions.

The United Nations and global scientists make it clear that states such as Victoria must reduce emissions by 75% by 2030 and reach net zero by 2035 to play our part in limiting warming to 1.5 degrees and avoiding reaching tipping points that can't be reversed and the worst impacts of catastrophic climate breakdown.

The Greens are the only party putting forward a set of policies and a comprehensive climate and energy plan that matches the international, economic, scientific and environmental imperatives of the climate crisis.

Our plan commits to targets of reducing Victoria's emissions by 80% by 2030 and reaching net Zero by 2035 or sooner, in line with what the climate science demands.

Liberal and Labor both have inadequate emissions reduction targets that are not science based and their explicit policy is to keep mining and burning fossil fuels. Their policies will not protect Victorians or our environment and will not enable us to reap the economic rewards of comprehensive action.

The Greens' Tackling the Climate Crisis plan outlined in this document will help Victoria to go further and faster on climate change, for the benefit of our climate and everyone in our community.

Key Elements of the Greens' Plan

- ▶ No new coal or gas for Victoria, including scrapping plans for gas drilling near the 12 Apostles and for a gas import terminal for Corio Bay, and reinstating a permanent ban on all new onshore and offshore gas drilling.
- ▶ A legislated end date of 2030 for coal mining in Victoria with a timeline of coal plant closure between now and then.
- ▶ Increasing Victoria's legislated renewable energy target to 100% by 2030, supported by \$10 billion in new renewable energy generation, storage, and grid upgrades.
- ▶ A job-for-job guarantee for coal workers and secure funding for the Independent Latrobe Valley Authority to oversee planned and orderly coal closure and a Just Transition for workers.
- ▶ Doubling royalties on all coal and gas operations for the remainder of their operations to ensure fossil fuel companies pay their share and to raise \$214 million in additional revenue.
- ▶ A plan to get 1 million homes off gas over the next six years, with Get Off Gas rebates of up to \$3000 and zero-interest loans of up to \$3000.
- ▶ A \$902 million commitment to purchase the Portland aluminium smelter and repower it with renewable energy to showcase clean smelting and also operate the smelter as a publicly-owned 'reverse battery' to help release energy into Victoria's grid when we need it most.
- ▶ Making electric vehicles more affordable and installing more charging stations, including up to \$15,000 to replace an old petrol car with an electric vehicle and a grant scheme to connect homes to electric vehicles.

- ▶ A new \$1 billion per year Zero Extinction Fund to reverse environmental destruction, restore habitat, and fund the recovery of Victoria's ecosystems so they can drawdown carbon.
- ▶ Legislating an end to native forest logging in 2023.
- ▶ Introducing a climate trigger for all new major projects, planning scheme amendments and planning permits to ensure any new development considers climate impacts.

SECTION ONE: POWERING VICTORIA BEYOND COAL

Summary:

- ▶ A legislated end date of 2030 for coal mining in Victoria with a timeline of coal plant closure between now and then.
- ▶ Increasing Victoria's legislated renewable energy target to 100% by 2030, supported by \$10 billion in new renewable energy generation, storage, and grid upgrades.
- ▶ A job-for-job guarantee for coal workers and secure funding for the Independent Latrobe Valley Authority to oversee planned and orderly coal closure and the development of new industries for the region, such as offshore wind, clean manufacturing and mine site rehabilitation.

Coal and gas are the leading causes of the climate crisis.

But right now Victoria still gets two thirds of its electricity from mining and burning coal, and the Victorian Labor Government has no plan to move our state beyond coal and gas.

For decades, coal mining and electricity generation in the Latrobe Valley has powered Victoria. Unfortunately, it's also been fuelling the climate crisis.

Victoria needs to replace coal with 100% renewable energy by 2030, and the Latrobe Valley community deserves an honest conversation about coal closure and future economic opportunities for their region.

In recent years, Victoria has made some progress on building new renewable energy and storage, but we need to be going a lot further and faster. Victoria is lagging behind other states and countries and we need to do more to meet our global obligation to phase out coal by 2030 and limit warming to 1.5 degrees.

The good news is that a big build of renewable energy for a 100% renewable Victoria will create more than 50,000 new jobs and help every household save on their energy bills.

Ending coal by 2030

Burning coal for electricity remains Victoria's biggest source of climate pollution. 70% of Victoria's electricity comes from three coal-burning power stations in the Latrobe Valley, yet the Victorian Labor Government has no plan to move beyond coal.

The United Nations, global scientists and environment groups make it clear that tackling the climate crisis requires states like Victoria to close all coal power stations by 2030. But right now Victoria's coal plants are licensed by Labor to operate as late as 2048.

The writing is on the wall for Victoria's coal plants. They're old, unreliable and spew toxic pollution that is harming the health of local communities.

Planned coal transition

It's vital for governments to take a lead role in planning the orderly replacement of coal with renewables, instead of leaving these critical decisions to billionaire-owned power companies.

That's why the Greens have developed a timeline for Victoria's coal plants to close between now and 2030, giving communities advance notice and support to invest in new industries and jobs well before 2030.

Closure dates for Victorian coal plants

Coal power station	Owned by	Current planned closure date	Greens closure date
Yallourn	Energy Australia	2028	2024
Loy Yang A	AGL	2040-2045	2027
Loy Yang B	Alinta Energy	2046	2030

Stopping toxic coal pollution

Victoria's power stations are Australia's dirtiest, and some of the dirtiest in the world. They spew out huge quantities of toxic sulphur, mercury, nitrogen and particle pollution, all of which harm the health of the local community.

The Greens' plan also requires power stations to introduce clean technologies for the remainder of their operating life, to stop toxic pollution and protect the health and wellbeing of the Latrobe Valley community.

Powering Victoria with 100% renewable energy

Over the past four years, the Victorian Greens have successfully pushed Labor to build more renewable energy. But we are still lagging behind other states and what climate science demands.

Right now Victoria gets around 30% of its energy from renewable sources, but we can and must be aiming for 100%.

The Greens' plan legislates a 100% renewable energy target for Victoria by 2030, and includes a mega \$10 billion investment to drive 100% renewable energy. Our plan supports:

- ▶ Large offshore wind developments capable of replacing entire coal plants.
- ▶ Solar and wind farms across the state, including community and First Nations led projects where benefits are returned to local communities.
- ▶ Expanding solar for homes, businesses and public buildings.
- ▶ New big-battery and pumped hydro storage projects, including publicly-owned storage, to ensure Victorians control our own energy security and aren't at the mercy of big corporations.
- ▶ Retrofitting large energy users in our grid (like the Portland aluminium smelter) so they can increase and decrease their power usage and help stabilise energy demand across our grid.
- ▶ Household batteries, microgrids and neighbourhood batteries to store more locally-generated energy close to where it is made and used.
- ▶ Upgrading and expanding our transmission and distribution networks (the poles and wires that move energy around) to create a stable energy system fit for the 21st century.

Getting to 100% renewable energy is a big job, but it's absolutely possible. The technology exists and the Greens have a plan.

With more Greens in Parliament we can push the next government to go further in tackling the climate crisis, ending coal and gas and creating a 100% renewable Victoria. Even better, we can also create tens of thousands of new jobs, reduce energy bills and bring power back into public hands.

Supporting the Latrobe Valley community to a new future beyond coal

Victoria needs to replace coal with renewable energy, but we can't abandon the workers and communities who have powered our state for generations.

Without a plan, coal workers and the Latrobe Valley community are at the mercy of corporate boardrooms and coal billionaires, who will abandon them when coal is no longer profitable.

The Greens' plan for a fair transition for the Latrobe Valley includes:

- ▶ A job-for-job guarantee for Victoria's coal workers in the Latrobe Valley, costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office.
- ▶ A revamped Latrobe Valley Authority with new and guaranteed funding of \$48 million/year until 2035 to oversee the transformation of the Latrobe Valley beyond coal.

Job-for-job guarantee for coal workers

The Greens' plan for a fair transition beyond coal includes a job-for-job guarantee for coal workers in the Latrobe Valley that will guarantee new employment at existing pay rates where workers shift out of the coal industry.

The guarantee would operate for ten years from leaving employment, while workers over 55 who choose to retire instead of continuing work will have the option to receive an equivalent income until they reach pension age. Businesses outside of the coal, oil and gas sector who hire a former coal worker would be eligible for a wage subsidy equal to 50 per cent of a full-time worker in the coal mining sector. The employee must be working in Victoria and receive a wage at least equal to the amount they received in their previous coal job for the employer to be eligible for the wage subsidy.

If an employee is unable to find a job that attracts the wage guarantee, they can claim the amount directly from the Victorian Government.

An independent and fully-funded Latrobe Valley Authority

It's not just mining and power station workers left in the cold when coal plants close without notice - the whole of the surrounding community is also affected. That's why the Greens' plan for a fair transition beyond coal also includes looking after the future of the entire Latrobe Valley region.

Our plan would see the Latrobe Valley Authority become independent and granted secure and ongoing funding to 2035. While this Authority was created in the wake of the Hazelwood power station closure under pressure from the community and the Greens, Labor has failed to give it the power or funding to plan for coal replacement or oversee the development of new economic opportunities.

The Greens' plan would legislate the Latrobe Valley Authority as independent, provide long-term funding, and give it the broad functions needed to plan for the staged and orderly retirement of Victoria's coal power stations by 2030 and capture a new economic future for the region. Opportunities include developing an Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence, establishing a workforce training centre to build Victoria's renewable and electrification workforce, pioneering world leading mine rehabilitation and attracting clean manufacturing jobs to the region.

PAYING FOR OUR PLANS

The Greens' fully costed plan to move Victoria beyond coal, support workers and power our state with 100% renewable energy includes the following:

- \$10 billion to build new renewables storage by 2030, \$4 billion of this in the forward estimates. This includes large-scale storage, retrofitting large energy users to increase and decrease their usage to help stabilise energy demand, grid upgrades, solar gardens, neighbourhood batteries, micro-grids, solar and batteries for public housing, grants for

First Nations people to build renewable energy enterprises and establishment costs for Power Victoria.

- ▶ \$576 million in secure funding between 2023-2035 for an independent Latrobe Valley Authority to oversee coal closure and the development of a new economic future for the region.
- ▶ A job-for-job guarantee for coal workers as Victoria's three coal plants close between 2024 and 2030.

The Greens will make the big banks, property developers and the gambling industry pay their fair share of tax so we can invest in climate action, affordable housing and public services for all.

We'll immediately double royalties on coal, oil and gas corporations before they close.

Our plans will also be paid for by spending smarter and making our state borrowings work for the community.

SECTION TWO: GETTING OFF GAS & CLIMATE FRIENDLY HOMES

Summary:

- ▶ No new gas for Victoria.
- ▶ A plan to get 1 million homes off gas over the next six years, with Get Off Gas rebates of up to \$3000 and zero-interest loans of up to \$3000.
- ▶ \$190 million in grants to support Victorian businesses to go gas-free.
- ▶ Banning new gas connections to Victorian homes from 2025.
- ▶ Increasing the energy efficiency of Victorian homes.

Gas makes up 17% of Victoria's climate pollution and more than 2 million of our state's homes are hooked up to this polluting fossil fuel.

Yet the Labor Government in Victoria lifted a hard-won ban on gas drilling and is fast-tracking new gas projects, including next to the 12 Apostles.

Fossil gas isn't just fuelling climate change, it's also expensive and bad for our health. Research shows using gas in our homes causes up to 12% of childhood asthma.

Fixing our homes and making them all-electric by removing gas will save us money, help our health and make a big dent in Victoria's emissions.

No new gas

The climate crisis is already driving extreme weather events and putting our future at risk. Allowing more gas is pouring fuel on the fire, yet Victorian Labor is fast-tracking gas drilling next to the 12 Apostles and has opened up Victorian farms and bushland to new gas drilling.

The United Nations and the International Energy Agency have made one thing very clear: we cannot afford a single new fossil fuel project if we are to have any chance of limiting catastrophic climate change.

The Greens will fight to stop new gas drilling near the 12 Apostles, ban all new drilling in our pristine oceans, and reinstate the hard-won moratorium on onshore gas to keep our state free

from new drilling. We will also fight to stop the environmentally destructive plan to build a gas import terminal at Corio Bay near Geelong.

Get Off Gas rebates to get 1 million Victorian homes off gas

Gas use in Victorian homes is higher than anywhere else in Australia. Gas from the Bass Strait was once cheap and plentiful, and Victorian homes got hooked up. But now, gas prices are skyrocketing and fossil gas is fuelling the climate crisis. Gas use in the home is also associated with increased risk of asthma, especially in children. Victoria has a big job ahead in getting our homes off gas and powering them instead with cheap renewable energy.

The Greens’ plan to get 1 million Victorian homes off gas over six years will provide rebates of up to \$3000 per home to support homeowners and landlords to replace old gas appliances with new efficient electric ones. Each home will also be able to access up to \$3000 in interest-free loans. These rebates and loans will cover up to 50 per cent of the replacement cost of gas heating, cooking, hot water, and rewiring, as outlined in the table below. These Get Off Gas rebates are in addition to incentives under the existing Solar Homes program that already support solar, batteries and, in some circumstances, replacement of gas hot water.

Get Off Gas rebate eligible items⁵

Reverse cycle A/C	Up to \$2500
Solar / heat pump hot water heating ⁶	Up to \$1500
Induction cooktop	Up to \$500
Switchboard Upgrade / Rewiring costs ⁷	Up to \$750
Get Off Gas interest-free loan eligible items, to supplement the cost of any of the above	Up to \$3000

Going gas-free will save households more than \$1800 per year on energy bills and will help ease the cost of living while also tackling climate change. It’s time for the gas-free revolution to take hold in Victoria.

Get Off Gas grants for businesses

Victoria was once a manufacturing powerhouse and the business heart of Australia. Industries like brick manufacturing and food production created jobs and helped to drive Australia’s

⁵ Up to a total of \$3000 (each rebate up to maximum 50% of purchase price). Reverse cycle A/C grant can be used across multiple systems.

⁶ If not currently eligible under the Solar Homes program.

⁷ Required as part of eligible appliance upgrade.

economy. Yet in the last two decades, electricity and gas companies have hiked prices and many manufacturers have abandoned Victoria, taking jobs with them. Current record-high gas prices are pushing businesses to the brink.

The vast majority could meet their energy needs with electricity, but got locked into gas back when it was cheap and abundant. The Greens' plan includes a \$190 million grant scheme for businesses to upgrade their energy systems and go gas-free. Businesses will be supported to undertake an energy assessment and can apply for partial funding to enable their electrification.

As we replace coal and gas with cheap, clean, renewable energy, Victoria has a huge opportunity to reduce energy costs for existing businesses and bring more manufacturing to our state, powered by cheap, abundant renewable energy.

Banning new gas connections

Currently under Victorian law, new homes are forced to connect to gas where it's available. In June this year, the Greens introduced a bill to remove this requirement, and the Victorian Government has responded by committing to make it a reality. This is an important win, thanks to the hard work of climate groups, local governments, and the Greens in state parliament.

It's good news that new homes won't be forced to connect to gas, but we also need to prevent home-owners being locked into gas by property developers or the gas industry. The Greens' plan for a gas-free Victoria includes banning any new gas connections from 2025, so homes and families aren't locked into using fossil gas when we have a cheaper and more efficient alternative in electricity made from renewable energy.

Cities and countries around the world, including the Netherlands, Norway, New York, Quebec and a new suburb in the ACT, are going gas-free. Electric homes are the future, and Victoria needs to join the club.

Increasing the energy efficiency of Victorian homes

Energy efficiency should always be the number one climate policy. Energy saved in the first place is new energy we don't need to build, or that can go into fully electrifying homes, transport and industry.

Yet much of Victoria's housing is not up to scratch, especially rental homes.

The Victorian Greens' household energy upgrades plan includes:

- ▶ Reforming Victoria's energy upgrades program so that insulation is included. Right now it's not eligible even though it's a critical retrofit that makes a huge difference.
- ▶ Reforms to the Victorian Solar Homes Program to ensure apartment buildings are eligible for shared solar systems.

- ▶ Up to \$6000 in grants and interest free loans for the replacement of gas appliances with efficient electric ones.
- ▶ Increasing the minimum energy efficiency rules for new homes to 8 stars and mandatory display of 'home energy ratings' when putting up a home for sale or rent.
- ▶ A solar gardens scheme that enables renters to buy into solar they can take with them when they move home.
- ▶ Mandating and enforcing strong minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes.

PAYING FOR OUR PLANS

To assist Victorians to get off gas, the Greens will invest \$3 billion over six years, with \$2 billion over the first four years, along with \$190m for business grants.

The Greens will make the big banks, property developers and the gambling industry pay their fair share of tax so we can invest in climate action, affordable housing and public services for all.

We'll immediately double royalties on coal, oil and gas corporations before they close.

Our plans will also be paid for by spending smarter and making our state borrowings work for the community.

SECTION THREE: REVIVE MANUFACTURING, POWERED WITH 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

Summary:

- ▶ A revamped and properly funded Latrobe Valley Authority whose functions include expanding clean manufacturing as Victoria transitions away from coal.
- ▶ Buying the Portland Aluminium smelter and repowering it with renewable energy
- ▶ Building three publicly-owned solar panel manufacturing and recycling factories in strategic locations across Victoria.
- ▶ \$190 million in grants for businesses to switch from gas to renewables and help balance the grid as a network of 'virtual power-plants'.

Victoria was once the manufacturing powerhouse of Australia. Industries like smelting, brick manufacturing, car manufacturing and food production created jobs and helped to drive Australia's economy.

Yet in the last two decades, electricity and gas companies have hiked prices and many manufacturers have abandoned Victoria, taking jobs with them.

Now, as we replace coal and gas with cheap, renewable energy, Victoria has a huge opportunity. **We can bring manufacturing back to Victoria, this time powered by cheap, abundant renewable energy.**

An independent Authority to spearhead Victoria's manufacturing revival

The Greens' plan would legislate the Latrobe Valley Authority as independent, provide long-term funding, and give it the broad functions needed to plan for the staged and orderly retirement of Victoria's coal power stations by 2030, while also leading the capture of a new economic future for the Latrobe Valley region and Victoria.

A key function of the Latrobe Valley authority will be spearheading the revival of local manufacturing in our state, powered by 100% clean energy. Opportunities include:

- ▶ Developing our state's capability to meet the manufacturing needs of an exciting new offshore wind industry.
- ▶ Local manufacturing of items such as heat pumps, hot water heaters and other electric appliances, to accelerate Victoria's transition off polluting gas.
- ▶ Bringing electric vehicle manufacturing to Victoria, including electric buses, cars and bicycles.

Buying the Portland Aluminium smelter

The Alcoa owned Aluminum smelter in Portland, Victoria currently consumes around 10% of Victoria's electricity.

In March 2021, the Australian and Victorian governments jointly announced \$38.4 million in subsidies each year for four years to the smelter. This was just the latest in a series of taxpayer handouts given to stop Alcoa closing the shelter and leaving workers out of a job.

For too long, Victorians have been propping up Alcoa's operations, while profits go offshore.

Instead of handout after handout, the Greens are committing \$902 million to purchase the Portland aluminium smelter and bring it into public hands.

The smelter will be repowered with renewable energy to showcase clean smelting and will also operate as a publicly-owned 'reverse battery.' As such a big energy user, the smelter can simply power down at times of high energy use in the grid, helping to free up energy when we need it most.

Local produced material, such as aluminium, will play a key role in shoring up Victoria's manufacturing future.

Publicly-owned solar panel manufacturing and recycling factories

Solar in Victoria is booming, presenting a huge local manufacturing opportunity. But at the same time, solar panels have a limited life and so it's imperative that they can be recycled locally.

The Greens have a cost plan to build three new publicly-owned solar panel recycling and manufacturing facilities in strategic locations across Victoria. These factories will create jobs, ensure we recycle used solar panels and return profits to the public over time.

Get Off Gas grants for businesses

Victoria was once a manufacturing powerhouse and the business heart of Australia. Industries like brick manufacturing and food production created jobs and helped to drive Australia's economy. Yet in the last two decades, electricity and gas companies have hiked prices and many

manufacturers have abandoned Victoria, taking jobs with them. Current record-high gas prices are pushing businesses to the brink.

The vast majority could meet their energy needs with electricity, but got locked into gas back when it was cheap and abundant. The Greens' plan includes a \$190 million grant scheme for businesses to upgrade their energy systems and go gas-free. Businesses will be supported to undertake an energy assessment and can apply for partial funding to enable their electrification.

As we replace coal and gas with cheap, clean, renewable energy, Victoria has a huge opportunity to reduce energy costs for existing businesses and bring more manufacturing to our state, powered by cheap, abundant renewable energy.

PAYING FOR OUR PLANS

The Greens' Clean Manufacturing Revival plan for Victoria includes:

- ▶ \$576 million in secure funding between 2023-2035 for an independent Latrobe Valley Authority to oversee coal closure and the development of a new economic future for the Latrobe Valley region and Victoria, including spearheading our state's clean manufacturing revival.
- ▶ \$902 million to purchase the Portland aluminium smelter, repowering it with renewable energy to showcase clean smelting and also operate the smelter as a publicly-owned 'reverse battery' to help release energy into Victoria's grid when we need it most.
- ▶ \$12.5 million to establish three public-owned solar panel recycling and manufacturing facilities in strategic locations across Victoria.
- ▶ \$190 million in grants for businesses to switch from gas to renewables and help balance the grid as a network of 'virtual power-plants'.

The Greens will make the big banks, property developers and the gambling industry pay their fair share of tax so we can invest in climate action, affordable housing and public services for all.

We'll immediately double royalties on coal, oil and gas corporations before they close.

Our plans will also be paid for by spending smarter and making our state borrowings work for the community.

SECTION FOUR: CLIMATE FRIENDLY TRANSPORT

Summary:

- ▶ Making electric vehicles more affordable and installing more charging stations, including up to \$15,000 to replace an old petrol car with an electric vehicle and a grant scheme to connect homes to electric vehicles.
- ▶ A massive increase in train, tram and bus services.
- ▶ More funding for separated bike lanes, safer footpaths and pedestrian crossings.
- ▶ Making public transport accessible.
- ▶ Free and cheaper public transport fares.

To tackle the climate crisis, we must reduce transport emissions.

Transport is Victoria's fastest growing source of carbon emissions.

Petrol cars and trucks are polluting, bad for our health, and are getting more expensive to run.

We need to make it easier for people to switch to cheaper and climate-friendly transport, like public transport, electric vehicles, and bike riding and walking.

The Greens will push the next government to cut transport emissions, make electric vehicles more affordable, massively boost public transport services, and build more separated bike lanes, safer footpaths and pedestrian crossings.

Accelerate our EV future

Electric vehicles are essential for the transition to 100% renewable energy and to reduce reliance on coal and gas.

Victoria has millions of old, polluting cars and trucks still on our roads.

People want to make the switch to electric vehicles, but the Victorian Labor Government is making them even more expensive with their tax on electric vehicles.

The Greens’ plan will see Victoria become a world leader in the switch to cleaner electric vehicles, drastically cutting emissions, reducing air pollution and creating jobs.

Abolish Labor’s EV tax

The Greens will introduce legislation to scrap Labor’s EV tax. The Victorian Greens led the charge in parliament against the Labor Government’s tax on electric vehicles. Environmental and industry groups deemed Labor’s EV tax as ‘the worst EV policy in the world’.

Solar Cars

Electric vehicles are batteries on wheels. The Greens will provide a subsidy for people to connect their EV to their home with bi-directional chargers. With rooftop solar, people will be able to charge their electric vehicles, then use the EV battery to power their home. This will lower bills, stabilise the grid and support the clean energy revolution.

Affordable Electric Vehicles

The Victorian Greens will offer subsidies of up to \$15,000 for 100,000 electric vehicles to make EVs more affordable, with a scrap and replace scheme targeted at people on low incomes with older, more polluting cars.

E-bikes are a great zero-emission alternative to car travel. They are good for your health and allow you to ride further with less effort.

For electric cars, a standard \$10,000 eco-bonus will apply to cars that cost under \$78,000, rising to \$15,000 for people who scrap an older, polluting vehicle.

For electric bikes a standard \$1,000 eco-bonus will apply rising to \$5,000 with a scrap and replace scheme.

Electric car	
Eco-bonus with scrap and replace	\$15,000
Eco-bonus	\$10,000
Electric bike	
Eco-bonus with scrap and replace	\$5,000
Eco-bonus	\$1,000

More EV charging stations

The Greens will accelerate the rollout of charging stations across Victoria with over 1,000 new chargers, including at public car parks, shopping strips, train station car parks and residential apartment blocks.

No new petrol car sales from 2030

Across the world in places like England, Norway and California, governments are taking decisive action and banning the sale of polluting fossil fuelled cars.

In the ACT, the Greens/Labor government have already committed to a phase out of petrol car sales. The Victorian Greens will do the same and ban the sale of polluting petrol car sales from 2030. This will significantly accelerate the current trajectory for EV takeup, and make them more affordable and more readily available.

3,000 Electric Buses

The Victorian Greens will manufacture 3,000 electric buses to create a network of high frequency, electric buses across Melbourne and regional cities as part of the plan for more public transport.

Jobs, Industry and Innovation Fund

Electric vehicles offer huge opportunities to create jobs and develop local industries. A \$100 million jobs, industry and innovation fund would support industry research and development in areas such as software development, vehicle-to-home charging and battery recycling. It would also support local manufacturing of new vehicles and components and the expansion of tertiary qualifications in electric vehicle servicing, repair and manufacturing.

Clean Air Zones

Clean Air Zones will reduce air pollution, lower emissions and cut congestion by encouraging cleaner forms of transport. They will include:

- ▶ A 24 hour inner west Clean Air Zone for trucks.
- ▶ A peak hour CBD Clean Air Zone for all petrol vehicles

The Clean Air Zones would be supported by a truck replacement fund to support the switch to electric trucks.

More train, tram and bus services

People shouldn't have to wait 20 minutes, and often much longer, for their train, tram or bus to turn up.

More trains, trams and buses will cut climate-damaging transport emissions, reduce car traffic, and make it easier to get around our city and our state.

To keep up with more services, we also need to upgrade our track and tunnel networks across the city and beyond.

We need a massive increase in train, tram and bus services so Victorians can get where they need to go – faster.

The Greens' plan includes:

- ▶ A massive increase in services for metropolitan trains and trams including:
 - Trains and trams running every 5-10 minutes from 7am-7pm, seven days a week across most of the entire network.
 - Early morning and late-night services running every 10 minutes all week.
- ▶ A solar-powered, high-frequency bus network across Melbourne and regional cities.
- ▶ Fast-track planning of new tunnels and tracks to increase services across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Safer bike lanes and footpaths

More than two-thirds of people in Victoria want to walk and ride their bikes more.

But Victoria doesn't have enough safe bike lanes, walking paths and crossings, so people don't always have the option.

For too long the Victorian Labor Government has underinvested in making riding and walking safer and more accessible, allocating only around 1% of its transport infrastructure budget to bike riding and walking.

To support people to take up walking and bike riding, we need more safe bike lanes and better paths and crossings.

Our streets are for everyone, so the Greens will make sure they work for everyone who uses them.

Governments should be making it easier for people to make the switch to cheaper, climate-friendly transport, like bike riding and walking. This means investing more in safe bike lanes, paths and pedestrian crossings.

Instead the Victorian Labor Government is spending billions on unnecessary polluting toll roads.

To support people to take up walking and bike riding, we need more safe bike lanes and better paths and crossings.

Our streets are for everyone, so the Greens will make sure they work for everyone who uses them.

The Greens plan includes:

- ▶ A Big Bike Build of hundreds of kilometres of separated bike lanes and paths across metropolitan Melbourne and regional centres
- ▶ Upgrades to our streets, footpaths and crossings to make them safer and easier for people to walk around.

Accessible public transport

Right across the state, people who use wheelchairs, have limited mobility or push prams can't get on many of our trains and trams.

Despite over 40 years of activism from the disability community and their allies, the Victorian Labor Government is still decades off making our public transport accessible.

At the current rate of construction, our network won't be accessible to everyone until 2066.

The Greens will make our public transport system accessible for all.

The Greens plan includes:

- ▶ Doubling the number of accessible tram stops to accelerate Melbourne's transition to a fully accessible tram network.
- ▶ Continuing to push for more low floor trams.
- ▶ Upgrading train stations across the city to make them accessible, and user-friendly.

Cheaper climate-friendly public transport

Governments must do more to reduce the cost-of-living and to support people to shift to climate-friendly transport.

With the Greens' Climate Ticket, young people under 21 will travel for free on public transport across the state and the maximum anyone will pay is \$3 per day on any public trains, tram or bus.

The Greens' Climate Ticket will cut transport emissions and help ease cost-of-living pressures by making public transport more affordable.

The Greens' Climate Ticket includes:

- ▶ Free public transport for people aged under 21.
- ▶ \$1 a day concession fares.
- ▶ \$3 a day adult fares.
- ▶ Travel on all public trains, trams and buses across Victoria.
- ▶ Monthly, quarterly or yearly tickets.

PAYING FOR OUR PLANS

The Greens Climate-Friendly Transport plan includes:

- ▶ \$2.5 billion capital expenditure for bike riding and walking projects.
- ▶ \$250 million for train station upgrades.
- ▶ \$100 million for planning and early works on transport infrastructure projects.
- ▶ \$750 million towards solar buses and depots.
- ▶ \$774.7 million for a climate ticket public transport pass.
- ▶ Affordable Electric Vehicles will be funded by reforming motor vehicle duty on new petrol cars to a fee-bate scheme. EV chargers, the Jobs, Industry and Innovation Fund and Solar Cars will be funded through revenue from Clean Air Zones.
- ▶ Solar car subsidies will be provided to 1,000 homes, to value of \$3,000 each.

The Greens will make the big banks, property developers and the gambling industry pay their fair share of tax so we can invest in climate action, affordable housing and public services for all.

Our plans will also be paid for by spending smarter and making our state borrowings work for the community.

SECTION FIVE: ZERO EXTINCTION AND NATURE RECOVERY

Summary:

- ▶ Stopping Labor's destruction of nature by ending native forest logging, banning barbaric duck hunting and stopping our rivers being sucked dry.
- ▶ Putting First Nations people at the centre of Caring for Country with stronger rights and programs to return sovereignty over land, water and oceans.
- ▶ A new \$1 billion per year Zero Extinction Fund to reverse environmental destruction, restore habitat, and fund the recovery of Victoria's 2000 native plant, animal, bird and fish species facing extinction.
- ▶ Fixing our broken nature laws so they actually protect forests, rivers, grasslands and wildlife from destruction.

Nature is our life support system.

People depend on a healthy environment to thrive, yet in Victoria more than 2000 plant and animal species are facing extinction and many of our ecosystems are on the brink of collapse.

The Victorian Labor Government continues to allow the destruction of Victoria's forests, rivers and grasslands for private profit, and is failing to fund the urgent programs Victoria needs to tackle invasive species and ensure the recovery of threatened plants and animals.

We need more Greens in Parliament holding Labor to account on nature and pushing to secure a healthy environment for the future.

Stopping ongoing nature destruction in Victoria

Victoria is the most cleared state in Australia, with close to 70% of the state cleared since colonisation. Once widespread ecosystems, like native grasslands, have been reduced to just 1% of their previous extent.

Yet Labor and Liberal governments in Victoria continue to make habitat loss worse, with active support for native forest logging, land clearing, destructive new road projects and over-extraction of water.

The first step in restoring land and waters in Victoria is to stop the activities that are accelerating loss of habitat and wildlife. That's why the first step in the Greens' plan for zero extinction and nature recovery includes:

- ▶ Ending native forest logging in 2023, with a transition plan to move workers into new jobs and make the most of our existing plantation forests.
- ▶ A moratorium on new water licences, strengthening First Nations rights to water, and a plan to return water for healthy rivers.
- ▶ A ban on new oil and gas drilling in our oceans and on land, and an end to coal burning in Victoria by 2030.
- ▶ Ending native duck hunting and an overhaul of wildlife laws that currently allow large-scale wildlife killing permits.
- ▶ Strengthening Victoria's environmental assessment process so it has the teeth to stop destructive projects, and communities are not left fighting them off one by one.

Putting First Nations people at the centre of Caring for Country

First Nations people have cared for lands and waters for tens of thousands of years. Yet since colonisation, traditional knowledge and practices of caring for Country have been erased and ignored, causing ecosystem breakdown, extinctions, and a massive loss of biodiversity and wildlife.

It's time to reset.

The Greens' plan to ensure First Nations people are front and centre in caring for Country includes:

- ▶ An \$18 million fund to ensure First Nations people receive payment so they can participate in self-determination and environmental consultation processes, instead of being expected to provide their expertise and labour for free.
- ▶ Strengthening First Nations water, aquifer and ocean rights and limiting how much water we take out of our rivers, so there's still enough to maintain the cultural practices which keep First Nations people and their Country strong.
- ▶ A Dedicated First Nations Ranger training and employment program to bring Traditional Owner cultural knowledge to caring for Country, funded from within the Greens' \$1 billion year Zero Extinction Fund (see below for more information).
- ▶ A \$1 billion fund to enable Traditional Owners to buy back private land, so it can be cared for, restored and protected by First Nations people.

A Zero Extinction Fund to restore habitat and threatened plants and animals

Victoria is facing an extinction crisis. Since 2014, the number of species and ecosystems on the brink of extinction has risen from 687 to 2000.

Unlike NSW, Victoria has no dedicated program to protect and restore threatened species and the biodiversity programs we do have are woefully underfunded.

The decisions by successive Labor and Liberal governments to slash environmental funding is a political choice. The Victorian Labor Government is spending more than \$20 billion on two unnecessary polluting toll roads while over the past 8 years they have spent just \$560 million on biodiversity programs. This is a tiny fraction of the state budget and far less than is required to protect and restore the environment we all depend on.

Central to the Greens' plan to reverse environmental neglect in Victoria is a \$1 billion a year ongoing Zero Extinction Fund, about 1% of the state budget. The following initiatives will be prioritised out of this fund:

- ▶ A dedicated Save our Species program for Victoria, similar to the existing program in New South Wales.
- ▶ Doubling the funding for our national parks management, expanding marine parks, and employing more rangers and Indigenous rangers dedicated to conservation and caring for Country.
- ▶ A large-scale program to restore private and public land with weeding, invasive species management, fencing waterways, tree planting and restoring grasslands and wetlands, creating thousands of jobs along the way. This program will also include reinstating traditional cultural knowledge practices of caring for Country.
- ▶ Fully funding Trust for Nature's work to permanently protect and restore habitat on private land with legally binding covenants.
- ▶ Restoring urban biodiversity in cities and towns with healthy swimmable rivers, bee and bird corridors, and biodiverse urban forests and green spaces.
- ▶ Planning works and education campaigns so Melbourne can start drinking recycled water, instead of sending our polluted water out into the bay and relying on desalination.

Fixing Victoria's broken nature laws

Strong laws are a powerful tool that can protect our rivers, forests and oceans and ensure we all have a healthy planet for the future. But unfortunately, many of Victoria's nature laws are outdated, lack the teeth to have an impact, or are simply ignored by the Labor government. For example, Victoria's laws allow widespread slaughter of native wildlife while invasive deer species are considered a protected species.

The Greens plan' to ensure our nature laws are fit for the 21st century (and actually used to protect the environment) includes:

- ▶ Strengthening Victoria's environmental assessment process so it has the teeth to stop destructive projects, and communities are not left fighting them off one by one.
- ▶ Making the tools in Victoria's biodiversity laws mandatory for the government to use, like in the United States. This would ensure, for example, that vital habitat must be protected and the government is required to work to restore every threatened species.
- ▶ Modernising wildlife laws so they actually protect wildlife. Right now, these laws consider native wildlife to be either a resource or pest, while introduced species, like deer, receive protection.
- ▶ Reforming the laws that apply to invasive species to ensure protecting threatened species and ecosystems are the focus of invasive species management, alongside ensuring invasive species like feral deer are managed on agricultural land.
- ▶ Making Victoria's Conservation Regulator independent, so they will be bold in holding the government and industry to account and protecting nature.

PAYING FOR OUR PLANS

The Greens will pay for our \$1 billion per year Zero Extinction Fund by making the big banks, property developers and the gambling industry pay their fair share of tax.

We'll increase royalties on coal and gas corporations before they close, charge banks a levy on their profits, modernise water levies so rural water levies are paid at the same rate as urban ones, tax developers more when they make windfall profits and increase the tax on online betting.

Our plans will also be paid for by spending smarter and making our state borrowings work for the community.

SECTION SIX: ENDING NATIVE FOREST LOGGING IN VICTORIA

Summary:

- ▶ Reversing Labor's anti-democratic laws that criminalise peaceful forest protesters, and repealing the archaic laws that lock Victoria into supplying forests to private companies until 2030.
- ▶ Legislating an end to logging in 2023, and protecting native forests for the vital habitat they provide to threatened wildlife and for the carbon they store that protects us from climate change.
- ▶ Establishing a Victorian disaster response team employing former logging contractors to deploy their skills and experience to respond to fire, storm, flood and other emergencies.
- ▶ Processing plantation timber in Victoria and setting up Victoria as a national leader in alternative timber products.
- ▶ Showcasing alternative forest-based economic opportunities, such as an elevated forest walk tourism venture in Victoria's central highlands, working with First Nations people.

First Nations people have cared for forest Country for thousands of years, have never ceded sovereignty over forest Country, and understand that forests are essential to health and wellbeing.

Yet in 2022, as the world faces dual climate and biodiversity crises, the Victorian Labor Government continues to decimate native forests with logging, while criminalising citizens protesting to protect vital forest habitat.

Each year, millions of dollars in taxpayer money is spent on logging our irreplaceable native forests, while the state-run logging company VicForests is plagued by scandals and corruption.

The Greens have a detailed and fully costed plan to end native forest logging, move workers into new jobs, and meet our timber needs with plantations and other timber alternatives.

Laws to protect forests not log them

Just months before the November election, Labor steamrolled new laws through Victoria's Parliament that will punish peaceful forest protestors with up to \$21,000 in fines or one year in jail. These laws are a dangerous attack on our democracy and the fundamental right to peaceful protest. The Greens will reverse these laws.

The Greens will also repeal the current outdated laws, known as the Woodpulp Agreement Act, which locks the Victorian Government into supplying vast volumes of our precious native forests to the Maryvale pulp mill to be turned into paper and cardboard. Our plan ensures that Victoria can continue to make paper and timber products using locally grown plantations and timber alternatives.

The Greens will also ensure Victorian law continues to prohibit the burning of native forests for energy.

Protect native forests for carbon, water and habitat

Victoria's forests are the most carbon-dense in the world and are our most precious natural asset in the fight to tackle climate change. We urgently need to protect what little forest is left, while actively restoring previously logged forests.

Ending native forest logging will also ensure the security of Melbourne's drinking water, help protect Aboriginal cultural heritage, and safeguard habitat for more than 70 forest-living plant and animal species on the brink of extinction.

Traditional Owners must be at the heart of plans to protect forests. Treaty and self-determination are essential to care for forest Country and heal from the harms of the past.

Create a Victorian disaster response team employing former logging contractors

Climate change means Victoria is facing an increase in disasters like fires, storms and floods. Over recent years, our SES volunteers have been struggling to keep up with the huge increase in demand for emergency services, and unfortunately we can anticipate that climate change will make disasters more frequent and severe.

Logging workers and contractors are skilled with heavy machinery and working in regional areas, and they already use these skills to do fire prevention and response work around our forests, making them an ideal group of workers to form a professional emergency response team that can be deployed when and where they are most needed. The Greens will also bring forward Labor's transition plan to move workers into new jobs, but with an end date for native forest logging of 2023, not 2030.

Process plantation timber in Victoria

Victoria grows plantation timber in the west of the state, but instead of turning these into timber and paper here in Victoria, these trees are exported overseas. The Greens' plan would make sure locally-grown plantations are used right here in Victoria to make paper and high-value wood products.

Our plan also includes growing our state's alternative timber industries including hemp to produce high-grade hemp timber alternatives, urban sawmilling to use city trees that are cut down, and massively increasing local cardboard and paper recycling and production.

Showcase alternative economic opportunities for forests

The Greens' plan includes working with First Nations people to protect forests across the state, including in the central highlands region on Melbourne's doorstep. First Nations people will play the central role in self-determining how land is protected and cared for (for example, as a national park, Indigenous protected area or otherwise), and in designing the economic ventures to showcase the region's unique beauty and wildlife while creating new jobs. Our policy includes a proposal for an elevated forest walk, like the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk in Western Australia. Any proposal such as this would need to be consented to and developed in partnership with Traditional Owners.

PAYING FOR OUR PLAN

Native forest logging in Victoria is subsidised each year with Victorian taxpayer funds. The Parliamentary Budget Office calculates that ending native forest logging in 2023 will save Victoria \$205 million over the next decade. The Greens will reinvest these savings to protect forests, restore nature and support worker transition.

The Greens' plan includes:

- ▶ \$21 million to establish a disaster response team employing former logging workers.
- ▶ Our plan includes a costed elevated forest walk as one possibility; however, Traditional Owners will be engaged to determine their preferences and priorities.
- ▶ Bringing forward Labor's \$120 million timber worker transition package to support the local use of Victoria's plantation timber and the development of a local hemp-timber industry.
- ▶ Creating and managing new protected areas across Victoria's remaining forests as part of the Greens' \$1 billion per year Zero Extinction Nature Fund.

SECTION SEVEN: PREPARING FOR CLIMATE DISASTERS

Summary:

- ▶ Expanding funding for Victoria's SES to respond to increasing climate disasters, via a comprehensive investigation of funding and capability.
- ▶ Climate proofing the planning system.

The climate crisis is here now. Fires and floods are becoming more frequent, and communities are being left behind.

We need to build critical disaster response capability now, and ensure our planning system is fit for purpose, to keep people safe as we face the impacts of successive governments not taking action on climate.

Building Victoria's SES capability

In the past three years alone, Victoria has faced catastrophic fires, destructive storms and now unprecedented flooding.

In times of disasters, all Victorians rely on the incredible generosity of hard working SES volunteers, yet Victoria's State Emergency Services has been underfunded and undersupported by Liberal and Labor Government for years. Facilities are not up to scratch, SES branches lack the basic equipment they need and volunteers feel taken for granted.

The Greens plan includes more funding and an independent review into how our State's SES is structured and funded, to ensure we are prepared for a future with more climate disasters.

Our plan also includes redeploying logging workers to form a professional emergency response team that can be deployed during emergencies.

Climate proofing the planning system

We urgently need to reform our planning system so that climate change is a fundamental consideration in every planning decision.

Climate trigger assessments

In Victoria's planning system, there is no requirement for planning decisions to help reduce climate change or to adapt to a changing and warmer climate. In fact, there is no reference to climate change at all in the Planning and Environment Act. The disconnect between our planning system and climate action means too many major projects and urban developments are being greenlit without any consideration of whether they increase climate change, adapt to weather extremes, increase natural disaster risk, or even if they are likely to make the climate crisis worse.

The Greens will introduce mandatory climate trigger assessments for all new major projects, planning scheme amendments and planning permits. Before undertaking any development project, developers would have to ensure:

- ▶ Projects do not contribute unnecessarily to climate change through excess pollution, reduction in open space or reduction in green spaces.
- ▶ Projects are climate-sensitive: they should be assessed against disaster risk, and cannot exacerbate the impact of events on the area

Projects that significantly exacerbate the climate crisis or put communities at risk because of more frequent climate disaster events will not be approved.

This will also require urban heat island effect mitigation statements to be prepared as part of the assessment. The urban heat island effect occurs in built up areas with large amounts of concrete, asphalt and other surfaces that absorb heat, and with limited shade and green open space. Cities can be as much as four degrees hotter than regional areas. In the summer, this contributes to heat-related illnesses and can even cause death. Under our plan urban heat island effect mitigation statements must be prepared as part of every permit application or planning scheme amendment, including how the development will increase open space and tree cover. The climate trigger assessment means that projects that increase the urban heat island effect will not be approved.

Increasing canopy cover and green space across the city

Our urban forests are an essential part of our city, and are equally important in our response to the climate crisis. Our tree-lined streets not only improve liveability and amenity for residents, but they also reduce the heat island effect and help cool our cities by providing shade and storing carbon.

But in the city, we are losing too many of our trees. Melbourne lost 0.3 per cent of its canopy between 2014 and 2018 with disproportionately higher losses in some areas. While some councils offer protection for significant trees, there is a lack of consistency in the level of protection across the state. Much of our canopy loss occurs on private land, where it is more difficult to monitor or prevent tree destruction.

Although the state government has a number of tree planting programs, it takes about 20 years for a new tree to return to the previous amenity level of a mature tree, on top of the significant

loss to carbon capture. The planning system must do more to encourage the retention of mature trees and prevent their unnecessary destruction.

To protect and increase canopy cover the Greens will:

- ▶ Introduce stronger deterrents to prevent tree loss on private land, including by investigating a price on tree loss in all development activity. This would require developers and private lot owners to pay a fee per tree lost due to development activity on private land, based on the age, health and value of the tree, which would be directed to creating more open space and canopy cover in built up suburbs.
- ▶ Strengthen significant tree protections through higher penalties for illegal removal.
- ▶ Support councils to strengthen enforcement of tree protection regulations and improve consistency in tree protection across the state.
- ▶ Require a portion of all funds collected via the developer contributions plan (DCP) to contribute to a significantly bigger scale of local street tree planting.

Creating more green and open space is also a major factor in reducing the urban heat island effect. Currently there is no minimum garden requirement for the precincts earmarked for the most intense density such as activity centres and mixed use zones. However, these precincts are experiencing more intense urban heat island warming especially during heatwaves, and the lack of minimum permeable space, maximum site coverage or minimum tree provision means many activity centres are concrete jungles.

The Greens will ensure all medium and high density precincts need to provide 20 per cent green open space and 40% canopy cover. This will apply immediately for new zones and be phased in for new development in existing built up zones such as Sydney Road and Chapel St. Introducing a 20% green open space requirement in these areas will help cool the precinct in heatwaves and provide much needed open space for communities.

Green infrastructure for residential buildings

In Victoria, the average existing home has an energy rating of 2.1 stars. While we have made improvements in environmental sustainable design (ESD) in recent years, too many of the planning system's ESD measures are voluntary and aspirational rather than mandatory. Where they are mandatory, like the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS), too many developers only comply with the bare minimum, and fail to implement ESD measures like solar panels, green roofs or light coloured roofs into their designs. The Greens will ensure new mandatory ESD principles are incorporated into the statewide planning scheme, including:

- ▶ New minimum NatHERS ratings of 8 stars, moving to 10 stars by 2030
- ▶ Require apartment buildings of five storeys and above to provide 50% of their roof space for either solar panels or a green roof (garden)
- ▶ Minimum garden areas are required at ground floor level in all residential zones
- ▶ Mandatory light coloured roofs to help mitigate the urban heat island effect
- ▶ Mandatory minimum building separations in activity centres and mixed use zones

SECTION EIGHT: STOPPING DODGY FOSSIL FUEL DEALS

Coal and gas corporations and billionaires are polluting our air and water, and fuelling the climate crisis.

In 2021, Labor made a secret financial deal to extend the life of Yallourn, Australia's most polluting coal plant.

It's time for Victoria to stop bankrolling fossil fuel corporations and billionaires, and instead spend public money on school, hospitals, housing and repowering our state with renewable energy.

The Greens plan includes:

- ▶ Banning all donations from fossil fuels companies to political parties and candidates at state, federal and local government level.
- ▶ Doubling royalties on all coal and gas operations for the remainder of their operations to ensure fossil fuel companies pay their share and to raise \$214 million in additional revenue.
- ▶ Stopping the subsidies to big coal, oil and gas corporations, including the secret deal to extend the life of the Yallourn coal plant, CarbonNet's failing carbon capture and storage project, and a publicly funded project to make the world's most polluting hydrogen from brown coal.
- ▶ Publish a register of meetings between ministers and mining and other lobbyists to improve transparency and shine a light on dodgy deals.
- ▶ Stop ministers and advisers from working for the fossil fuel industry within five years of leaving parliament.



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