

Planning for a safe climate

A CAMPAIGN BY THE VICTORIAN GREENHOUSE ALLIANCES AND CASBE

Tackling climate change through Victoria's planning system

Land use planning decisions affect the livelihoods and health of everyone in the Victorian community. Planning decisions made today will be seen for decades to come - more than half of Australia's 2050 building stock will be constructed during the next 30 years.

The planning system provides a key opportunity for councils to directly tackle climate change in their community, but despite the efforts of councils to make the planning system a more effective tool for change, the system is not doing enough to restore a safe climate and create resilient Victorian communities.

The Climate Change and Planning Advocacy Group is made up of the seven [Victorian Greenhouse Alliances](#) and the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment ([CASBE](#)) – formal partnerships of more than 65 councils and authorities across Victoria. The group and councils have come together to advocate for changes to Victoria's planning system. The Alliances commissioned Hansen Partnership, an expert planning consultancy, to undertake stakeholder consultation and prepare an independent report on the key issues, barriers and options for change to both reduce emissions and develop a built environment to respond appropriately to climate change.

[The report](#) - 'Climate Change and Planning in Victoria' - includes comprehensive recommendations for changes to the planning system needed to properly tackle climate change. They found that in practice, local government decision-makers routinely report that commitment on climate change has not sufficiently 'trickled down' to decisions made through Victoria's planning system and climate change is ignored in favour of other policy considerations in planning schemes.

Whilst there is a disconnect between high level policy positions supporting climate action in Victoria - both by State and local government - and day-to-day planning decisions, the report highlights that Parliament has the opportunity to create explicit, mandatory and enforceable minimum climate change commitments in the planning system to tackle this disconnect.

Key Message

To enable the delivery of a safe climate and resilient communities the Victorian Government must mandate tackling climate change as a priority at all levels of the planning system.

Actions needed

- Immediately amend the Planning and Environment Act and the Climate Change Act to explicitly mandate addressing climate change at all levels of the planning process.
- Require every planning amendment at all levels of government, and at all levels of the planning framework, to include an assessment against relevant climate change considerations.
- Introduce mandatory climate change related minimum standards into planning schemes.
- Use appropriate climate science by adopting science-based targets for high level policy and aligning the Planning Framework to the most up-to-date climate science.

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We look forward to the support of all MPs to discuss this vital issue in party rooms and Parliament in the coming months and commit to making necessary changes.

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