

VICTORIAN GREENHOUSE ALLIANCES ADVOCACY PRIORITIES 2022-23: SUMMARY

#	Priority Issue	Outcomes Sought	Government Policy / Opportunity	Activities	Partners
1	Post COVID-recovery stimulus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure post COVID investment stimulus is directed towards low carbon sustainable solutions rather than emissions intensive initiatives • Secure funding for local governments to deliver climate programs that aid recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Government stimulus packages • State Government Stimulus packages • DELWP Metropolitan partnerships • COVID Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions • Direct engagement with the Minister for the Environment and local MPs • Promotion of Local Government's COVID stimulus 'Think Climate' prospectus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAV, DELWP, SV, ERG • BZE, Renew, One Million Homes • DELWP Regional Partnerships • Climate Emergency Australia
2	Federal climate policy and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the national emissions reduction target to be consistent with latest science • Strengthen existing policy frameworks and support the implementation of new complementary policies to ensure interim and long term targets can be met • Promote ongoing support and funding for mitigation and adaptation measures at the local government level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Energy Innovation Fund • Emissions Reduction Fund and Safeguard Mechanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions • Direct engagement with the Minister for the Environment and local MPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAV, DELWP, SV, ERG • Energy consumers groups e.g. Renew, One Million Homes Alliances • Climate Emergency Australia
3	National energy market reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the National Electricity Objective (NEO) to include environmental and social outcomes • Remove regulatory barriers to rapid integration of distributed generation and storage technologies • Provide support for new and emerging business models, such as local electricity trading • Empower energy users to reduce consumption through greater transparency in billing and equitable tariffs • Develop models to facilitate integrated planning between energy network planners and council land use planners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rule change proposals to Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) • Essential Services Commission inquiries and price reviews • AER regulatory processes • Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions • Coordinated engagement and lobbying with other Alliances and Councils • Formal representation on Ausnet Service Customer Consultative Committee • Cross sector workshops with Victorian energy distributors (DNSPs) • Representation on the National Energy Consumers Roundtable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy consumers groups e.g. Renew, One Million Homes Alliance • Energy Consumers Australia • DNSPs • Total Environment Centre • Climate Emergency Australia

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage energy security that includes incentives for renewable energy storage and investment in climate resilience • Extend and strengthen the Renewable Energy Target 			
4	Incentives and regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory energy disclosure and efficiency standards for commercial and residential buildings • Mandatory emission standards for vehicles • Financial support and other assistance for businesses to undertake emission reduction actions, particularly to enable landlords to work with tenants • Stringent emission standards on coal fired generators • Energy efficiency programs for low income housing public/community housing and rental housing • Scale-up private sector investment in renewable energy projects and initiatives that fast-track decarbonisation of the grid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light vehicle emission standards regulation impact statement • Victorian Energy Efficiency Target • Victorian Energy Upgrades program consultations • National Construction Code • National Australian Built Environment Rating System • Victorian Environment Protection Action 1970 and Regulations • State Government election and budget • Victoria's 'Big Build' social housing program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions (e.g. ESC and VEU) • Participate in VEU consultation panel • EPA Brown coal-fired power stations licence reviews • Engagement with building industry • Engagement with unions • Engagement with institutional (and other) investors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAV • Alliances • Ironbark • DNSPs • VicRoads • EAHA • Better Building Finance • ACOSS • HAH • MBA • Plumbing union • Climate Emergency Australia • Energy Efficiency Council
5	Transmission / Distribution Network Service Providers (TNSP/DNSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local governments pay lowest costs on OMR charges in each regulatory period • Ensure DNSPs allocate sufficient resources to partner with councils on large scale emissions reduction programs • Ensure DNSPs enable more renewable energy (distributed energy resources) • Upgrades to transmission networks to support higher penetration of renewables in priority renewable energy zones (e.g. Murray REZ) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity Distribution Price Review (EDPR) • Integrated System Plan (ISP) • Regulatory Investment Tests for Transmission and Distribution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions to the AER, AEMC, and AEMO • Direct engagement with DNSPs and TNSPs • DER working group of the National Energy Consumers Roundtable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAV • Ironbark • DNSPs • Other consumer advocates

6	Victorian Government climate and energy policy and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority initiatives are identified and the scale of investment is articulated in Victorian Government budget • Clarity on roles and responsibilities and the liabilities of the two spheres of government (following Local Government Roles & Responsibilities project – LG RR) • Influence the development of the plans to maximise opportunities for collaborative programs and funding support for their implementation • Financial support and other assistance for businesses to take action on climate • Financial support for councils and communities to adapt to climate impacts • Support for local governments to make and fulfil Emissions Reductions Pledges • Support for regions and communities impacted by the transition away from coal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government Election • Victorian Climate Change Strategy 2020-25 • Regulatory reviews in energy sector • DELWPs' regional and sector based adaptation plans • DELWPs legal review of adaptation roles and responsibilities • Reviews of emissions reduction targets and interim targets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions • Coordinated engagement with DELWP + consultation process • Funding applications for partnership projects with Victorian Government. Example: Large scale solar • Engagement with Solar Victoria • VGA representation on the Regional Climate Change Adaptation plan for Greater Melbourne Stakeholder reference group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DELWP • MAV, ERG • SV • RMIT Centre for Urban Research (LG RR project) • Better Building Finance (EUAs) • Ironbark
7	Low income and vulnerable households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure support from Solar Victoria to assist in the delivery of Solar Savers • Ensure Victorian Government incentives are targeted, available and accessible to low income and vulnerable segments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar Homes package • Federal Government/COVID commission • State Budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct engagement with DELWP and Solar Vic staff and Ministers office • Support energy advocates campaign for National Low Income Energy Productivity Program (NLEPP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy consumers groups e.g. Renew, One Million Homes Alliance, ACOSS, VCOSS, Climate Council • Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance
8	Major road lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An equitable co-investment model for lights that are cost shared with VicRoads • Fast track approval of replacement options by distributors • Savings from smart lighting trials/projects are realised and captured through changes to metering arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Energy Efficiency Target • Australian Lighting Code review • AEMC rule changes • AER regulatory processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct engagement with DELWP, VicRoads and Minister for Roads • Directly engage with DNSPs, AEMC and AER • Trial project with Ironbark and AEMO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEWLP, SV • Ironbark • ERG
9	Victorian Planning System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amend the Planning and Environment Act and the Climate Change Act to explicitly mandate addressing climate change at all levels of the planning process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Government Election • Plan Melbourne • DELWP consultation on Roadmap for ESD of Buildings and Subdivisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct engagement with Minister for Planning, Local Government and Climate Change • Engagement with DELWP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resilient Melbourne • Greenhouse Alliances • CASBE • MAV • EAHA

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require every planning scheme 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 Adopt science-based targets for high level policy, and aligning the planning system to the most up to date climate science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Victorian Planning Provisions Victoria's 'Big Build' for social housing Review of the Planning and Environment Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated engagement with CASBE other Alliances and Councils – major advocacy campaign in run up to state election, meeting with Ministers, Shadows and Cross benchers Joint letters to Ministers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unions
10	Rates based finance mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure changes to the Local Government Act streamline administrative requirements on Councils (providing support to the Solar Savers program) through revised special charges scheme or residential EUAs Facilitate access to EUAs for businesses and households through state-wide programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeals to the Local Government Act 1989, and implementation of the LG Act 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal submissions to LGV Direct engagement with LGV legislative team 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greenhouse Alliances DTF SV Better Building Finance
11	Emissions from waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable councils to develop a shared long term goal for landfill waste, thus providing investment certainty for the waste services sector to provide appropriate processing facilities Further funding to assist councils fast-track delivery of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) programs Facilitate circular economy opportunities, particularly reuse applications for waste materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling Victoria MWRRG contracts Victorian Waste to Energy Policy Emission Reduction Fund (ERF) funding opportunities COVID stimulus opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emissions from waste discussion paper SV/RMIT waste calculator MRWWG FOGO guide working group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MWRRG SV Greenhouse Alliances
12	Biodiversity land and water adaptation planning and response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Biodiversity 2037 is delivered in partnership with local governments Ensure local governments priorities for WSUD are captured within state-based adaptation action plans and programs Improve adaptation information and GIS based tools Develop catchment based modelling of runoff and streamflow reductions associated with climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water for Victoria Biodiversity 2037 Native vegetation clearing regulation Victoria's Future Climate Tool Regional Adaptation Strategies Natural Environment Adaptation Action Plan DELWP's environmental accounts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting information exchange between council networks Assist (but not lead development of) formal submissions Engagement with DELWP's Adaptation Action plan leads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPWCMA Biodiversity Planners Network (BPN) MAV Greenhouse Alliances All CMAs Living Melbourne

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the planning scheme supports the expansion of blue/green infrastructure • Ensure stronger protection for vegetation on private land • Ensure the State adapts ambitious urban/rural greening and canopy cover targets 			
13	Protecting Community Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure resources to build regional partnerships between health, local government and community sectors to achieve coordinated adaptation measures to guard against the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change • Support regional programs that improve climate adapted liveability in urban areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal health and Wellbeing plans • Health Sector Adaptation Action Plan • Regional Adaptation Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greening programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHHS Health and Wellbeing Division • RMIT, Deakin • Emergency Management Victoria • CAHA
14	Zero emissions transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of comprehensive electric vehicle charging network across the state • Remove regulatory barriers and establish robust policy frameworks to support the rapid transition to EVs • Funding for local governments to provide active transport infrastructure and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electric vehicle tax • Future Fuels Fund - ARENA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct engagement with DELWP, VicRoads and Minister for Transport • Direct engagement with ARENA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Transport Collation • Electric Vehicle Council of Australia

1. BACKGROUND

This document is designed to build a shared understanding and commitment amongst members of the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances (VGAs) on the scope of advocacy issues and activities to be undertaken between July 2022 and June 2023. It also defines the VGAs' external engagement agenda on policy and strategic issues and sets out aims, principles, mechanisms and authorisation processes.

The plan also defines the actions the VGAs will collectively undertake to deliver this objective:

- Proactively advocate to governments and other stakeholders
- Establish partnerships and engage with the community to support advocacy activities
- Promote advocacy activities through media and web channels.

2. AIMS, PRINCIPLES AND PROCESS

2.1 Aims

- Build VGAs' role and profile in the local government sector
- Promote and facilitate policy solutions and effective greenhouse action, including the delivery of council initiatives
- Work collaboratively with other council networks (e.g. MAV, Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment, Eastern Regional Group of Councils) and advocacy groups to align objectives, key messaging and coordinate advocacy activities, particularly in areas where membership overlaps

2.2 Principles

VGAs will advocate collectively on issues on which there is consensus amongst VGA members, rather than on issues of individual benefit/focus. In the instance where a VGA submission adopts a position or makes a statement that does not accurately represent the views of all members, this distinction will be explicitly stated.

2.3 Process

The following authorisation process for VGA's collective submissions is defined to reflect nimbleness and streamlined decision making:

- Authorisation is delegated to VGA Executive Officers and VGA Executive Chairs for all submissions that are consistent with VGAs' agreed advocacy priorities
- For formal submissions, the authorisation process involves:
 - the VGA Executive Officers draft submissions based on VGAs' agreed priorities with input from their memberships, according to their individual advocacy processes.
 - draft submissions are then circulated to VGA members (and other relevant networks) for comment.
 - It will be assumed that VGA members approve unless explicitly stated to the contrary, with response required within 5 working days from receipt of draft (for

proactive submissions) and within 3 working days for reactive submissions to external consultation processes.

- VGAs may individually choose to formally support submissions made by other advocacy groups (through inclusion of their logo), acknowledging in some instances it may not be practical for VGA members to contribute to the drafting of the content
- All formal submission will include the following disclaimer:

“The submission has been approved through the greenhouse alliances’ formal governance structures but has not been formally adopted by individual members. The submission does not necessarily represent the views of all councils. In the event that individual councils have positions that go beyond this submission, they may provide additional feedback.”

3. PROCESS FOR REVIEW

Each Greenhouse Alliance will be responsible for reviewing this document each year in according with its own advocacy policy.