



C/O - MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL  
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4 November 2022

The Hon Ryan Smith MP  
Shadow Minister for Planning  
[ryan.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:ryan.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Mr Smith,

### **Re: Planning for a Safe Climate for Victorians**

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a formal collaboration of eight Councils in Melbourne's east, working together on regional programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate adaptation.

Our councils are part of the [Planning for a Safe Climate](#) advocacy campaign initiated by the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) - formal partnerships of over 70 councils and authorities across Victoria.

We commend the work that the Victorian government is doing to reduce emissions and support Victorians to adapt to climate change. However, there are flaws in the planning system that harm the ability of councils to carry out their duty to tackle climate change. Land-use changes are major contributors to the production of greenhouse gas emissions through their shaping of energy production and consumption, agriculture, industry and transport patterns. As you know, decisions made today will be seen in buildings for decades to come - more than half of Australia's 2050 building stock will be constructed during the next 30 years. Therefore, it is crucial to eliminate the disconnect between high level policy positions on climate change — both by State and local government and day-to-day planning decisions — by making our planning system fit for purpose.

Improving the planning system is expected to deliver the following benefits:

- Cost of living - efficient homes and buildings are cheaper to operate and can reduce exposure to rising energy prices
- Disaster relief - reducing physical risks to climate hazards will potentially save billions in disaster recovery costs
- Support the energy transition - achieving the State's renewable energy targets will be enabled through decreasing energy demand and supporting distributed energy resources
- Health - research demonstrates that the healthcare system can capture significant economic benefits from increasing the quality of housing stock<sup>i</sup>
- Planning application times - providing clarity to planners and applicants will eliminate ambiguity and fast track approvals

The Alliances wrote to you last month, after sending you information and requesting a meeting earlier in the year. The correspondence so far has outlined the need for change and most recently asked you to formally confirm your support of four asks as per the Report Card attached.

We are seeking your commitment to these changes to the planning system in the next term of government and urge you to update your Report Card score by letting us and the Alliances know that you support these changes.

If you require further information or would like to discuss the opportunities for changes in the planning system along with the ramifications for your community if no change occurs, please do not hesitate to contact Scott McKenry (EAGA Executive Officer) on 0431 133 592 or by email at [scott.mckenry@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:scott.mckenry@maroondah.vic.gov.au). You can also contact the Alliances via Karen Gardham, NAGA Executive Officer: [karen@naga.org.au](mailto:karen@naga.org.au)

We look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,



Cr Jude Dwight  
Executive Committee Chair  
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action  
Councillor, Knox City Council



*This letter has been approved through EAGA's formal governance structure as described in the EAGA Memorandum of Understanding 2021-25. The submission may not have been formally considered by individual member councils.*

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<sup>i</sup> [The Victorian Healthy Homes Program Research findings](#)