

VICTORIAN GREENHOUSE ALLIANCES JOINT ADVOCACY POSITIONS 2025-26

1. BACKGROUND

This document is designed to build a shared understanding and commitment amongst members of the Victorian greenhouse alliances (GAs) on the scope of joint advocacy issues and activities that may be undertaken each financial year. It sets out aims, principles, processes, and the actions the GAs will collectively undertake to:

- Respond to advocacy opportunities as they arise (e.g. consultations and inquiries)
- Proactively advocate to governments and other stakeholders
- Establish partnerships and engage with the community to support advocacy activities

Most Alliance members are local governments and as such, the advocacy positions discussed below are focused on outcomes related to local government. For clarification, however, the GAs advocacy represents all members, where relevant to these members.

This document will be reviewed by the GAs annually between May-June to ensure it remains current. Each Alliance will be responsible for reconfirming this document each year in accordance with its own advocacy processes.

2. AIMS, PRINCIPLES AND PROCESS

Aims

- Build the GAs' role and profile in the local, state and federal government sectors and beyond.
- Promote and facilitate policy and other solutions aligned with the latest climate science, including emissions reduction, climate risk mitigation and adaptation, and carbon capture and drawdown actions, particularly through initiatives led by local government.
- Work collaboratively with local government and other relevant networks and advocacy groups to align objectives, messaging and advocacy activities, particularly in areas where membership overlaps.

Principles

The GA's will advocate collectively on issues where there is consensus amongst GA members, or in sub-sets of GA members (e.g. regional, metro), rather than on issues of individual benefit/focus. In the instance where a GA submission or initiative adopts a position or makes a statement that does not accurately represent the views of all members, any member may choose to opt-out of that piece of work.

Process

The following process for joint submissions is defined to reflect nimble and streamlined decision-making. Authorisation is delegated to GA Executive Officers and/or Executive Chairs for all submissions that are consistent with GAs' agreed advocacy priorities. For formal submissions the authorisation process involves:

- VGA Executive Officers draft submissions based on GAs' agreed priorities and circulate the initial draft for input from their memberships, according to their individual advocacy processes.
- Relevant input/feedback on draft submissions is considered/incorporated creating the final draft, which is circulated to GA's Executive members for approval. The final draft may also at times be circulated to other relevant networks – especially where joint submissions occur. Minor comments only are expected at this time.

It will be assumed that each GA approve a submission unless explicitly stated to the contrary within 5 working days from receipt of final draft or as otherwise agreed. If at any time this process is problematic, discussion is encouraged amongst the GAs to find a solution. Where a party decides to opt-out of a submission, they may request for their organisation's name and/or logo to be removed from the list of participating councils or Alliances. All formal submissions will include the following disclaimer: *"This submission has been approved through the Victorian greenhouse alliances' approval processes and has not been formally adopted by individual members. The submission does not necessarily represent the views of all members."*

GAs may individually choose to support submissions made by other advocacy groups (through inclusion of their logo), acknowledging that it may not always be practical for GA members to contribute to the drafting of the content.

Issue	Level	Outcomes Sought	Government Policy / Opportunities	Activities	Partners
Climate policy, targets and multi-level governance	Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a comprehensive climate policy framework that integrates all levels of government and recognises local government contributions to Australia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ensuring that voluntary action taken by local governments is additional to Australia's international obligations. Establish a Coalition for Higher Ambition Multi-Level Partnership (CHAMP) aligned multi-level governance partnership to deliver an Accord that defines shared objectives for strengthening climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience across all tiers of government. Allocate appropriate resources to implement the Accord based on a well-defined methodology to determine region-specific adaptation and mitigation costs. Strengthen Australia's NDCs to include science-based 1.5OC budget targets and endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. Amend the national Climate Change Act 2022 to include objectives and principles to guide a fair, equitable, and inclusive transition to net zero emissions. Implement stringent emission standards on coal fired generators and prohibit use of carbon capture and storage to meet emission standards. Develop a robust framework for carbon dioxide removals including separate targets to emission reductions. Encourage a robust local offset market that prioritises drawdown of greenhouse gas emissions and maximises co-benefits for First Nations and regional communities and supports compliance schemes without compromising carbon budgets. Consider opportunities to establish a framework that can recognise and account for greenhouse gas emission drawdown which councils already undertake through Open Space and Conservation work. Develop clear guidance and tools for local governments to adequately prepare for and navigate climate-related financial reporting (e.g. updates to the Climate Active Program to consider support beyond carbon neutral certifications, and updates to guidance/tools to clarify Scope 3 boundaries and reporting requirements for local governments including supply chain emissions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Act 2022 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan Australia's bid to host COP31 Coalition for Higher Ambition Multi-Level Partnership (CHAMP) National Net Zero 2050 Plan and sectoral plans Clean Energy Innovation Fund Future Made in Australia Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) Modern Manufacturing Strategy EPA Brown coal-fired power stations licence reviews ACCU Scheme and Safeguard Mechanism Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Review Climate Active Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal submissions Direct engagement with Ministers, local MPs and other relevant people/agencies Renew Australia for All Campaigns Co-design concepts for the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) implementation Multi-level governance pilots with DCCEEW Engagement with National Adaptation Policy Office Engagement with the Net Zero Economy Authority Local Government attendance at COP30 and COP31 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALGA/MAV DCCEEW DEECA Better Futures Australia ICLEI ClimateWorks Climate Action Network Australia (CANA) Climate Emergency Australian Renew Australia for All partners
	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen and foreground commitments to justice and equity in the transition to a net zero economy within Victoria's Second Climate Change Strategy. Clarify roles, responsibilities and liabilities for adaptation across the three levels of government in key climate policies and plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Act 2017 Second Climate Change Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal submissions Coordinated engagement with DEECA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAV DEECA Infrastructure Victoria VCOSS

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the role that local governments play driving place-based adaptation for climate-resilient infrastructure, assets and communities in Victoria's Second Climate Change Strategy. • Provide practical support to local governments making Emissions Reductions Pledges and/or municipal emissions reductions targets, including provision of practical tools, training and resources for less-resourced councils to measure and report on their emissions reduction activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviews of emissions reduction targets and interim targets • Emissions Reduction Pledges 		
Climate risk mitigation, adaptation, and emergency management	Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased funding and support for climate risk mitigation. • Establish a national \$400 million (ALGA figure) climate adaptation fund for councils to deliver local, place-based solutions, including support to integrate climate change risk management into investment decisions and to demonstrate the benefits and business case for climate change adaptation action. • Improve National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and ensure states and territories adhere to the principle of betterment. • Support collaborative platforms for engaging private finance to assist in the delivery of resilient, adapted, zero carbon communities. • Appropriate funding is allocated to the delivery of the National Adaptation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework • National Adaptation Plan • National Climate Risk Assessment • National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with NEMA and National Adaptation Policy Office • Direct engagement with Ministers, Assistant Ministers and Special Envoy for Climate Adaptation • Support relevant ALGA budget and election advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALGA/MAV • DCCEEW • DEECA • Renew Australia for All partners • Race for 2030 • Universities • Property Based Finance Accelerator
	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding and support for climate risk mitigation, particularly for at-risk communities who have significant barriers to protecting themselves from climate change impacts • Attach funding to the 2026 updates of Victoria's system-wide Adaptation Action Plans, including direct financial support for councils, to enable implementation. • Support regional adaptation actions plans and programs that improve climate-adapted liveability in rural and urban areas. • Coordinate heatwave response policies across jurisdictions with a focus on low income and vulnerable households. • Support proper consideration of climate change in municipal emergency management plans and related services, including improvements to the community emergency risk assessment (CERA) tool and process. • Improve risk assessment guidance, adaptation information and GIS-based tools, particularly catchment and inland flood modelling, urban heat mapping and canopy cover. • Support local government's priorities for WSUD and commitments under catchment based Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMPs) in state-based adaptation plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sector and Regional Adaptation Actions Plans (2026 update) • Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2023-2027 • Victoria's Future Climate Tool • Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Roadmap • EM Sector Outcomes Framework • Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy • State Emergency Management Plan • Victoria's Second Climate Change Strategy • DEECAs legal review of adaptation roles and responsibilities • Water for Victoria • Biodiversity 2037 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support relevant MAV budget and election advocacy • Direct engagement with DEECA and Adaptation Action plan leads • Direct engagement with EMV, Inspector General for Emergency Management, VicSES • VGA representation on the Regional Climate Change Adaptation plan for Greater Melbourne Stakeholder reference group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAV • DEECA • Victorian Climate Resilient Councils Program (VCRC) • CMAs and Water Corporations • EMV, VicSES and Inspector General of Emergency Management • Climate and Health Alliance • DHHS and PHUs • Regional Climate and Health

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional IWMPs • Nature Repair Market • Bushbank Program 		<p>Communities of Practice Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCOSS • Centre for Just Places
Electrification, energy efficiency, and energy equity for households and SMEs	Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment in and support for council-led infrastructure upgrades (e.g. aquatic centres) and mechanisms to address the cost of local grid upgrades. • An urgent \$5bn investment to deliver immediate subsidies and finance to reduce or eliminate the upfront cost of home energy upgrades for households hit hardest by increased cost-of-living. • Invest in an all-electric and efficient future with a minimum additional \$50bn over 10 years to repower Australian homes and communities, including support for place-based outreach and facilitation programs delivered by trusted intermediaries such as councils. • Work with the states to upgrade all social housing by 2030 to ensure housing is safe, healthy, all-electric, energy efficient, and climate resilient, and to build the workforce for residential upgrades. • Secure funding to deliver the Repowering Homes with Local Government proposal • Fully fund home energy efficiency and climate resilience upgrades for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing in collaboration with First Nations people. • Harmonise EUF legislation across state jurisdictions to create scale and leverage private sector investment and increase funding and resources to establish (or re-establish) Environmental Upgrade Finance (EUF) schemes for households and businesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household Energy Upgrades Fund • Community Energy Upgrades Fund Program • Federal battery incentive scheme • National Construction Code • National Australian Built Environment Rating System • Product Emissions Standards Act 2017 • National Energy Performance Strategy (NEPS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions • Direct engagement with DEECCW, Ministers and Assistant Ministers • Engagement with building industry and unions • Engagement with institutional (and other) investors • Repowering Australian Home: Energy Bills Savings Plan campaign • Proposals to scale-up Solar Savers and related upgrade programs 	<p>ALGA/MAV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACOSS/ VCOSS Energy Efficiency Council • DCCEEW • Energy Consumers Australia • Better Futures Australia • Renew Australia for All partners • Master Builders Australia/ Victoria • Resilient Building Council • Green Building Council • Unions
	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase investment in and support for council-led infrastructure upgrades (e.g. aquatic centres) including mechanisms to address the cost of local grid upgrades. • Appropriately target and enhance the accessibility of incentive schemes and programs for residential electrification and energy efficiency for low income and vulnerable households, in partnership with local/regional providers. • Increase financial support and other targeted assistance for SMEs to electrify, reduce emissions, and plan for and mitigate climate risks. • Provide greater choice for renewable options in Victoria's Energy Compare tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Election 2026 • Victorian Renewable Energy Target • Victorian Energy Efficiency Target • Gas Substitution Roadmap and building regulation reforms • Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions • Direct engagement with DEECA, Ministers and Assistant Ministers • Participate in VEU Strategic Review consultation panel • Engagement with Solar Victoria and SEC 	<p>DEECA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEC and Solar Victoria • Sustainability Victoria • VCOSS / One Million Homes Alliance • Tenants Unions • Greater Melbourne

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage energy retailers to provide additional support to customers with low English literacy and from culturally diverse backgrounds, including energy bill information that is easier to understand, improved interpreter services and information provision in languages other than English. • Introduce minimum energy efficiency standards in rental properties, including protections for renters, assistance for landlords to work with tenants, and compliance schemes. • Introduce mandatory energy disclosure and efficiency standards for commercial and residential buildings at point of sale and lease. • Remove limitations within the Residential Tenancies Act that restrict application of EUF and the ability of landlords to voluntarily share upgrade costs with tenants. • Provide resourcing and other assistance (e.g. online platforms) for place-based special rates charge and residential EUF programs to streamline administration and minimise overheads. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) Program Strategic Review • Solar Homes package • SEC One-stop-shop pilots • Victoria's 'Big Build' social housing program • Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings • Amendments to the LG Act 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding applications for partnership projects with Victorian Government • Formal submissions to and direct engagement with LGV legislative team • Proposals to scale-up locally delivered energy upgrade programs • Support research on economic and health benefits of home upgrades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat Alliance and other community services partners • Local Affordable Housing Alliances
A just, clean energy transition	State / Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver upgrades to transmission networks to address capacity issues and support higher penetration of renewables, ensuring that major transmission and renewable energy projects are developed in the right places, in consultation with First Nations People, councils and communities, mitigating negative impacts on the environment and agriculture. • Resource and support regional communities, councils, and First Nations groups to plan for and participate meaningfully in the development and implementation of the Victorian Transmission Plan and Renewable Energy Zones. • Outline a consistent and coordinated approach for regional and rural councils and communities hosting renewable energy to realise meaningful, inter-generational benefit-sharing investments in over the next five years. • Scale-up private sector investment in renewable energy projects and initiatives to fast-track decarbonisation of the grid, applying social merit criteria and ensuring that proponents are demonstrating best-practice community engagement and benefit sharing. • Support regions and communities impacted by the transition away from coal, expanding green jobs, employment and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEMO Integrated System Plan • Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) • Victorian Renewable Energy Target • National Capacity Investment Scheme • Recommendations of the Inquiry into Renewable Energy in Victoria • Recommendations of the Dyer Community Engagement Review • First Nations Clean Energy Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing consultations with DEECA • Direct engagement with VicGrid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCCEEW • DEECA • MAV • Regional Alliances • Renew Australia for All partners • The Energy Charter • First Nations Clean Energy Councils • Victorian Federation of Traditional Owner Corporations • Traditional Owner Corporations
Energy system and market reform	AER, AEMO, AEMC, ESC, DNSPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequately embed environmental and social outcomes in changes to the National Electricity Objective (NEO) • Remove regulatory and market barriers to rapid integration of renewable and distributed energy resource. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AEMO Integrated System Plan • National Energy Productivity Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal submissions to the AER, AEMC, AEMO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEECA • SEC • Energy Consumers Australia

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove regulatory and market barriers to electrification and increase support for new and emerging business models and technologies, such as local electricity trading. Support distributed and renewable energy through appropriate tariff structures. Encourage investment in energy resilience via incentives for renewable energy storage. Adopt equitable tariffs for electricity use and empower consumers to reduce consumption through greater transparency in billing. Develop models to facilitate more integrated planning between distribution network service providers (DNSPs) and council land use planners. Require DNSPs to allocate sufficient resources to network upgrades in rural and regional areas to enable electrification and enhance energy equity and resilience. Free public access to data on network constraints and energy consumption to enable municipal emissions reporting and planning for electrification. Address regulatory barriers for small market sites in Victoria (which cannot be aggregated like they can in other states). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Energy Performance Strategy Australian Energy Market Commission rule changes Australian Energy Regulator processes and contestability reviews Victorian Essential Services Commission inquiries and price reviews GreenPower Review Guarantee of Origin (GO) scheme Technology specific regulation (e.g. geothermal) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct engagement with DNSPs and TNSPs Coordinated engagement and lobbying with VGAs and Councils Cross sector workshops with Victorian energy distributors (DNSPs) Formal representation on Ausnet Service Customer Consultative Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy Efficiency Australia Energy consumer groups (ACOSS, VCOSS, Renew etc.) Total Environment Centre DNSPs Ironbark The Energy Charter
Public lighting	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt solutions for local governments to pay lowest costs on public lighting operation, maintenance and replacement (OMR) charges in each regulatory period, and that savings from smart lighting trials/projects are realised and captured in changes to metering arrangements. Fast track approval of replacement options and upgrades of major road lighting to LED and smart lighting. Improved engagement between DNSPs and council planners. Eliminate excessive electric line clearance in non-bushfire prone zones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electricity Distribution Price Review Australian Lighting Code review Road Management Act 2004 VicRoads Guidelines for Street Lighting Design Electric line clearance regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct engagement with DEECA, VicRoads and Minister for Roads Directly engage with DNSPs, AEMC and AER Trial project with Ironbark and AEMO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEECA Ironbark Sustainability Victoria VicRoads MAV
Planning for safe, resilient, and sustainable housing and communities	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Align planning reforms with state climate policy, targets, and the most up-to-date science. Coordinate measures to increase housing supply and density with infrastructure planning and delivery to avoid enhancing exposure to climate risks and negative biodiversity impacts. Implement the ESD Roadmap and ensure that state-wide ESD standards elevate and do not dilute higher local ESD standards. Align planning reforms with Plan for Victoria's 30% canopy cover target (at minimum) and support the expansion of blue/green infrastructure including in new estates and on private land. Close loopholes in the Victorian Planning Scheme that weaken native vegetation protections and ensure that the Victorian Government's role in assessing and deciding applications to log private land is not devolved to regional councils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Victorian Planning Provisions Roadmap for ESD of Buildings and Subdivisions Plan for Victoria Infrastructure Victoria's 30 year strategy Review of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (PE Act) and Schedule 1 of the Climate Act Victorian Environment Protection Act 1970 and Regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal submissions Support MAV and CASBE advocacy Coordinated engagement with MAV, CASBE, VGAs, and Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Joint letters and direct engagement with Ministers for Planning, Local Government and Climate Change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAV CASBE Resilient Melbourne PIA DTP DEECA

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the destruction of native vegetation and protect the state's natural carbon sinks • Operationalise the mandate to address climate change in the Victorian Planning and Environment Act and require every planning scheme amendment, at all levels of government and the planning framework, to include an assessment against relevant climate change considerations. • Align Plan for Victoria action to implement a consistent state-wide planning approach to flooding, coastal inundation, and other climate risks (similar to current bushfire arrangements). • Support for the Sustainable Subdivisions Programs and local government shared services/advisors in peri-urban and regional Victoria. • Support for improved strategic planning tools and data. Resource local governments with access to improved heat mapping, flood modelling and tree canopy tools to better embed climate resilience into planning scheme amendments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria's 'Big Build' for social housing • Native vegetation clearing regulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with DTP and DEECA 	
Sustainable transport	State / Federal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and expand national fuel efficiency and emission standards to include new heavy vehicles. • Remove regulatory barriers and establish robust policy frameworks to support the rapid transition to EVs and a net zero emissions transport sector. • Regulation and standards for public charging networks to ensure a level of standardisation, up-time, operational requirements and data sharing/reporting. • Establish a comprehensive and equitable electric vehicle charging network across Victoria and remove barriers to charging points on council-managed arterial roads. • Increase state and federal investment in public transport, particularly ensuring that regional and growth areas have access to safe, affordable and convenient public transport. • Electrify all public transport and community transport fleets. • Increase investment in and support for councils to plan, provide, and facilitate active travel infrastructure and programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light and heavy vehicle emissions standards • 2026 review of the National Electric Vehicle Strategy • Transport Sector Transition Plan • Future Fuels and Vehicles Strategy • National Hydrogen Strategy • Future Fuels Fund - ARENA • Electric vehicle tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct engagement with DEECA, DTP, VicRoads and Minister for Transport • Direct engagement with ARENA • Pole mounted charger trials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEECA • DTP • ALGA/MAV • Eastern Transport Coalition • Electric Vehicle Council of Australia • G21 • Metropolitan Transport Forum • DNSPs
Waste resource and recovery emissions	State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable councils to develop a shared long-term goal for waste, thus providing investment certainty for the waste services sector to provide appropriate processing facilities and local waste management solutions. • Further funding to assist councils to enable best practice delivery of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) programs, particularly to enhance communications to maximise uptake and minimise contamination rates and stimulate the market for end-use opportunities. • Support the development of a state-wide approach to offsets from council managed landfills and alternative waste treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEECA (Regional Circular Economy Plans) • Recycling Victoria • Victorian Waste to Energy Policy • Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme funding opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions from waste discussion paper • SV/RMIT waste calculator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAV • Sustainability Victoria • Recycling Victoria • DEECA regional offices • G21

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support circular economy opportunities, particularly reuse applications for waste materials, and fully embed consideration of climate impacts into waste and circular economy programs.• Allocate landfill levy funds transparently and equitably to sustainability, climate and waste projects across the state.• Accelerate the use of low emissions materials for buildings and infrastructure•			
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