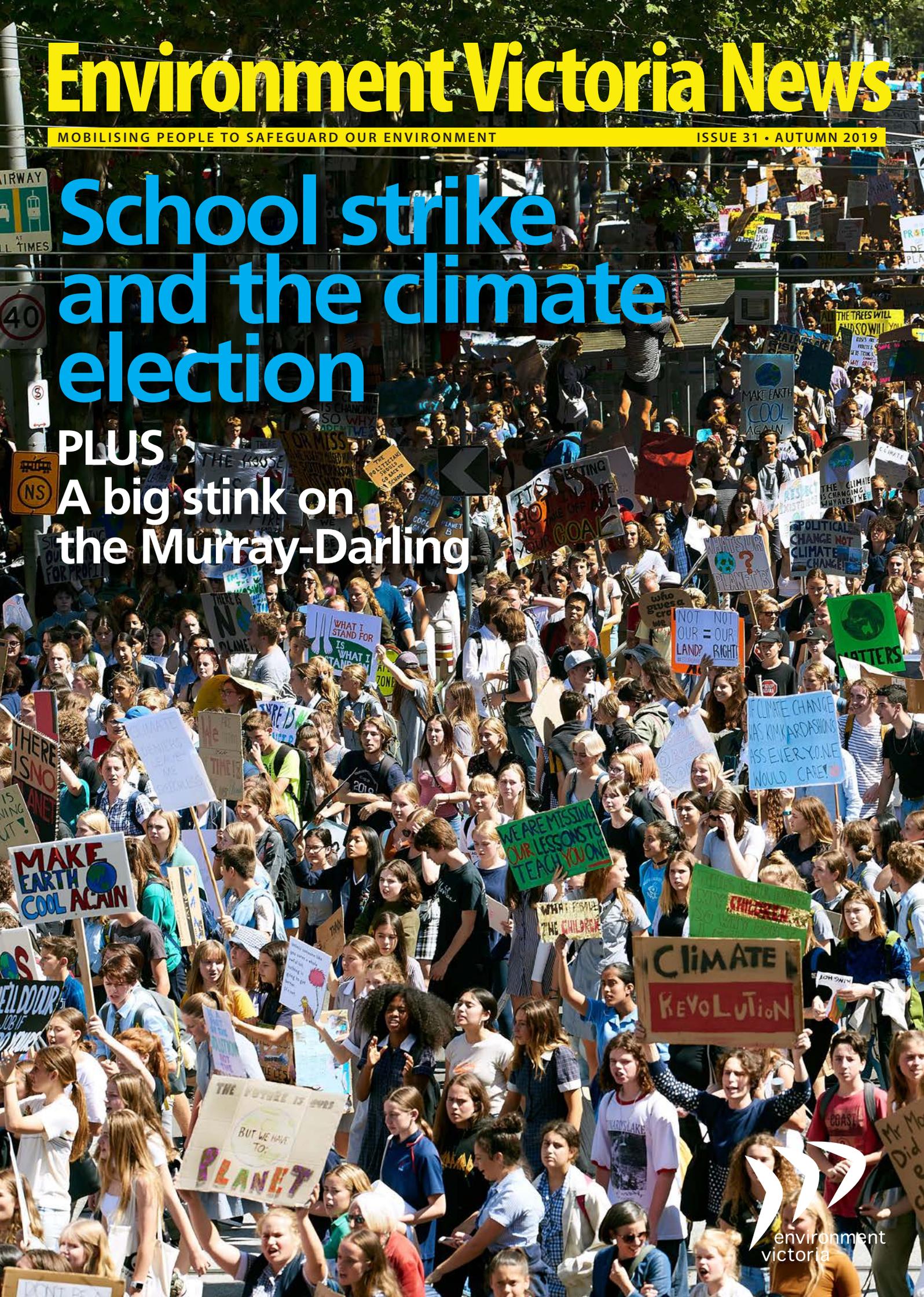
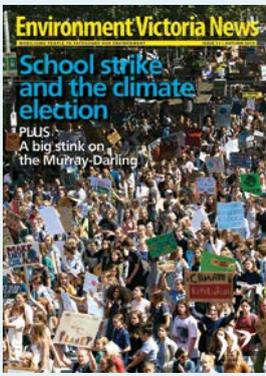


School strike and the climate election

PLUS
A big stink on
the Murray-Darling





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Editorial

Jono La Nauze, Chief Executive Officer

**Victoria can be a leader for our climate and environment,
if we only have the courage to step up.**

IN OCTOBER 2018, THE

International Panel on Climate Change told us we have twelve years to avoid global warming passing 1.5 degrees. The report was alarming and showed us the choices we have to make right now. It mapped out four pathways for cutting climate pollution rapidly enough to avert ecological and human catastrophe – at giddy speed, but technically feasible if we apply ourselves.

A month later, Labor was re-elected in Victoria with such a huge swing that it is likely to be governing Australia's second-largest economy – and its third most polluting – for at least eight of those twelve years. What happens over that time will be crucial to the liveability of our state.

To succeed, we are going to have

to discard the myths that hold us back – the bogus ideas that we must choose between jobs and a liveable environment, or that government should leave everything to the market. We must also recognise that these are far from failed ideas – they are highly successful when deployed for their true purpose of protecting privilege and profit.

Our movement has often stepped into this booby-trap. We're not always as good at fighting for a fair outcome for this generation as we are at fighting for the future. If we form the right alliances and advocate just solutions, the future we fight for will be fairer and far healthier than the one we now face. By 2026, we could have a world-leading clean energy export industry. Our manufacturers

could have entered a new golden age powered by abundant cheap clean energy. We could be the first state in Australia, if not the world, to eradicate energy inequality.

Daniel Andrews made some big climate promises last year and even plastered one of them – half price solar – on the side of the campaign bus. That wasn't by accident. It was because people stood up and spoke out. It was because organisations like Environment Victoria equipped them with tools to mobilise their friends and neighbours. We've got plenty more to do together over the next eight years to keep the momentum going and push for serious action on climate change, and I'm super excited to be part of the team.

School strike for climate



Jono La Nauze
Chief Executive Officer

On Friday 15 March about 150,000 students and adult supporters took to the streets across Australia to demand urgent leadership from our politicians to tackle climate change. Students in over 100 countries took action. Our CEO Jono La Nauze was at the Melbourne rally with many Environment Victoria staff, supporters and tens of thousands of inspiring young students.

I WAS HOLDING A LARGE SLAB OF chipboard steady while a bloke from Trades Hall screwed on milk crates to erect a makeshift stage. Dozens of us were milling around the steps of Melbourne's grand Old Treasury Building, preparing to shepherd crowds of protesters safely through the streets. We'd come at the request of the student leaders who organised the strike. And suddenly I had to cry.

I've been to more rallies than I can remember. Helped organise them, spoken at them, played music at more than a few. There's always too much



THANK YOU
to all the young people and supporters standing up for their future. Learn more at schoolstrike4climate.com

JULIAN MEEHAN



standing around and long speeches you can't quite hear, but still I like them. The feeling of power and unity that comes from marching in agreement with perfect strangers. But it's not often I cry.

I would like to say it was a feeling of elation, of relief and excitement for the young people around the world rising up to shake the tree of global climate leadership. But that came later. First came a wave of fear and anguish for the brutal truth they are challenging. A world diminished and unsafe because previous generations delayed acting.

Then I heard them roar and hope rushed in. Upwards of 40,000 voices bouncing off Collins street skyscrapers. Hundreds upon

hundreds of witty and poignant hand-painted banners. Passers-by asked "What are they protesting?" When I explained, they said, "Oh, good."

We are living through an extraordinary moment. The human and ecological toll of climate pollution is racking up and it is horrifying. But the pillars of privilege and denial are being torn down. Politicians once cowed by coal and oil barons now beat a steady retreat. Some even rush to be photographed with students skipping school to demand climate action. Momentum is building. A wave of change is coming. The future generations are not waiting for the future. They're here to claim it back.



JULIAN MEEHAN

Our Frankston community hub.



Local volunteers outside former opposition leader Matthew Guy's office.

State election powered by you!



Jane Stabb,
Community Organising
Program Manager

Clean energy and climate action came out on top at the Victorian state election and it was all thanks to you!

WHAT A DIFFERENCETEN MONTHS CAN make! When we started our state election campaign, no major political party wanted to talk about climate change and clean energy. Like their federal colleagues, the Victorian Coalition was running scare campaigns on power prices and reliability. But we'd done the research and we knew Victorians support clean energy and want more of it. And we were determined to make sure that whoever won had a strong platform for protecting our climate and environment.

By the end of our people-powered campaign, Labor and the Greens had made major commitments on clean energy and the Labor party put their promise to provide half-price solar for Victorian homes on the side of their campaign bus. Even the Coalition made small clean energy commitments.

Nearly 500 volunteers called and texted voters in key areas to talk about clean energy and climate change, and they also letterboxed and handed out 80,000 clean energy scorecards at pre-poll stations and train stations before election day. Our billboard, radio, television and online advertising was seen more than 5 million times. We also worked closely with many other climate action and environment groups to amplify our collective impact.

Labor won the election with clean energy at the centre of their campaign, and the party now has a strong mandate to drive the transition from dirty coal to



Our amazing volunteers made over 100,000 calls and texts to voters in key areas to have powerful conversations about clean energy and climate.



THOMAS BROADHURST

One of our clean energy billboards in Mordialloc on the busy Nepean Highway.

clean energy and cut climate pollution. Unfortunately both Labor and the Coalition had disappointing platforms on nature protection.

As important as the result in the election was the story of what decided the outcome. Most of the post-election commentary acknowledged that the contrast between the two major parties on clean energy and a strong climate policy were key deciding factors in Labor's victory. And to drive the

message home we raised money for an ad to go in the Age with the message: "The climate is changing, when will the Liberal Party?"

Our job now is to ensure the Andrews government delivers on its promises with ambitious action to tackle climate change. And it's high time the Coalition finally listens to the community and ends its war on climate action. We'll also be pushing both parties to get serious about protecting our natural world.

THANK YOU! This people-powered campaign made Victoria a leader for our climate and it couldn't have happened without you. To everyone who generously gave their time and money to make this campaign happen, thank you! Together we've made a real difference.

Federal election 2019

This year's federal election is shaping up to be a crucial moment for action on climate change in Australia.



Jane Stabb,
Community Organising
Program Manager



Our giant billboard that we want to put up in the heart of Frankston for the month before the federal election.

THE COMING FEDERAL ELECTION

follows a record-breaking hot summer, 2 degrees hotter than average, with heatwaves, floods, and terrible bushfires. As I write this, Victoria's beautiful Bunyip State Park is on fire.

Australia's greenhouse pollution has been rising steadily ever since Tony Abbott scrapped the carbon price in 2014. We are polluting more than ever, and at this rate we won't meet our international obligations under the Paris Agreement.

Scott Morrison and his ministers have relentlessly attacked clean energy, fondling lumps of coal in Parliament and labelling clean energy targets "reckless".

It's been notoriously difficult to tackle climate change as a political issue – it's torn down just about every prime minister since John Howard. But the tide is turning.

From the Wentworth by-election in October to the Victorian state election in November, we have seen some pretty incredible changes that are reshaping politics. Australian voters are looking for leaders who will do the right thing by our communities and our planet.

From where I sit, it's pretty simple. Australians want action on climate change, and parties that don't offer it will be voted out.

This election, we are working closely with other environment groups to tell our politicians it's time to shape up or ship out. They need to support policies that will cut pollution, build more clean energy, and stop burning fossil fuels. And we know the best way to change politics is to get organised.

Thousands of volunteers across Victoria and the nation will be discussing climate change with their neighbours, co-workers and friends. They will be doorknocking their streets, collecting petition signatures, chatting with people at train stations and on main streets across the country.

If you'd like to contribute, we've got everything you need to get involved, from how-to guides to conversation scripts, posters and flyers to social media kits. You can help whenever and however you want – you can work online or on the phone, or download a kit and head out to canvass your main street or the street where you live.

This election, thousands of people just like you will be standing up and saying enough is enough. So if you're thinking of getting involved, now is a great time to do it.



Our ad appeared in the Age after the Victorian state election

JOIN IN!

Head to environmentvictoria.org.au/election2019 and sign up. We'll make sure you get the inside word on federal politics and provide you with everything you need to take action this election.

A big stink on the Murray-Darling



Juliet Le Feuvre, Healthy Rivers Campaigner

THE SITUATION ON THE DARLING

River this summer was heartbreaking and devastating – we’ve seen millions of dead fish and the river literally dying in front of our eyes. It’s been not just one massive fish kill but repeated events, each bigger than the last and more dreadful for the Darling and the people who depend on the river. Ancient Murray cod that have survived through drought and flood for 50 years or more, lie dead in putrid green water. Fish large and small, native and introduced, float belly-up in stagnant ponds. Water too stinky to drink.

It’s been enough to make men weep tears of grief for the incredible loss and frustration over a situation that didn’t need to happen. The Barkandji people are losing their “mother”, their irreplaceable Barka, the Darling.

It wasn’t supposed to be this way. In 1991 there was a massive algal bloom on the Darling with 1000km of river stinky green and unfit for use. This disaster brought about the recognition that over-extraction of water is damaging for rivers

and ushered in a period of national water reform. On Australia Day 2007, at the height of the Millennium drought, Prime Minister John Howard announced a \$10 billion National Plan for Water Security to stop over-extraction in the Murray-Darling Basin “once and for all”. He said, “The old way of managing the Murray-Darling Basin has reached its use-by date. The tyranny of incrementalism and the lowest common denominator must end.”

This ultimately led to the development of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, which was adopted in 2012 with bipartisan support. It was intended to provide a blueprint for restoring Australia’s iconic rivers to health, but it has been mired in controversy ever since.

Successive governments have yielded to pressure from vested interests. Water targets were set too low, the amount of water bought back was capped, and unproven measures were introduced to save water rather than just returning it to the river. In 2012 the NSW government changed water-sharing rules in the

Barwon-Darling to allow upstream irrigators to pump out more water. Ever since, irrigators have used clever accounting and dodgy deals to divert ever more water that should have been flowing down the river.

Between 2000 and 2018, the Darling stopped flowing for an unprecedented 499 days. The Australian Academy of Science report into the fish kills points the finger squarely at lack of flows and over-extraction upstream, rather than just “drought” as governments would have us believe.

Now more fish kills are on the cards, and they could happen anywhere in the Murray-Darling Basin. Outbreaks of blue-green algae, which suck oxygen out of the water and kill the fish, are increasingly common as temperatures rise and flows decline. The outbreaks can – and do – occur in Victoria, anywhere from Mildura to Geelong.

All of this is preventable. The Four Corners report “Pumped” which aired in 2017 exposed a culture of rotting

Flickr CC, Debbie Newitt.



Sheep grazing on the Darling River



JOIN THE ACTION!

- 1 Sign our petition at envict.org/act-murray-darling
- 2 Donate to our campaign at envict.org/give2rivers
- 3 Come to our rivers and climate public forum on May 2 at Melbourne Bowls Club. Find out more at envict.org/events.

and water theft amongst irrigators and the politicians who are supposed to be in charge. Since then hardly a day has gone by without further revelations of mismanagement. But for all the talk, real change is yet to happen, and our rivers are still under threat.

In January 2019, South Australia's Royal Commission into the Murray-Darling Basin produced a devastating critique of the Basin Plan, accusing the officials responsible of mismanagement and calling their failures **"not just indefensible, but incomprehensible"**.

The report revealed that environmental water targets meant to keep our rivers flowing have been set far lower than scientists recommend, have been subject to political meddling, fail to take climate change into account and do nothing to satisfy traditional owners' water rights.

The plan isn't even meeting its own targets. The Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists has concluded that river flows haven't improved or have even declined since the implementation of the

THANK YOU!

Thanks to everyone who has already taken action and generously donated to protect our precious rivers, our lifeblood.

Basin Plan. It seems \$8.6 billion of public money may have been wasted.

It's high time for our politicians to own up to their epic failure of leadership and give our rivers and communities what they need – before more fish die or towns run out of water. We are calling on Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Opposition

Leader Bill Shorten to take urgent action on three fronts:

1. Give our rivers what they need

Re-start water buybacks and revise the Basin Plan based on science, not back-room deals, to ensure there is enough water for wildlife and communities to survive in the face of climate change.

2. Restore trust and confidence in the process

Conduct an audit of water savings to date so we know where we stand. Root out maladministration in the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and establish an independent watchdog to monitor it.

3. Recognise Aboriginal water rights

Sit down with traditional owners to negotiate the restoration of their water rights and representation on the Board of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Together with our allies across the Basin, we're ramping up the pressure in the lead-up to the federal election. It's time to get real about protecting our rivers before it's too late.



In Victoria, the closure of Hazelwood power station alone will be responsible for 75 percent of the state's climate emission pollution reductions between 2005 and 2020.

Victoria beyond coal



Cat Nadel,
Climate Campaigner

AUSTRALIA HAS JUST LIVED

through our hottest summer yet. We've seen extreme bushfires and floods and mass fish killings triggered by drought. As the evidence of climate change becomes undeniable, it's clear we urgently need to act and electricity generation is the logical place to start.

According to the most recent recorded data, electricity generation was responsible for around one third of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Victoria produces about 80 per cent of its electricity from brown coal, which is what makes our energy the dirtiest in the country. In our country and in our state, getting real about climate change means planning to phase out coal power.

The campaign to move Victoria beyond coal

To do everything we can to tackle global warming, we must phase out

Victoria's three big coal-burning power stations as soon as possible, and certainly no later than 2030. We have the technology to replace coal and the uptake of renewable energy in Australia and around the world is growing rapidly.

In Victoria we have a target of 50 percent renewable energy by 2030. But building renewable energy is only part of the equation. This transition won't happen fast enough without an active plan to phase out all coal.

This doesn't just mean closing the power stations and hoping for the best. The transition must be staggered so that the gaps left by the closures can be filled by our quickly growing renewable energy industry. Plans must also be made to support the Latrobe Valley to transition their local economy.

There are steps the Andrews government can take straight away to move towards a smooth transition. First

they need to put limits on how much climate pollution these coal-burning clunkers can spew out. And they need to set ambitious regular targets for reducing emissions under the Climate Change Act.

They must support communities on the coal-face to diversify and transition their local economies. When Hazelwood closed, government stepped in with significant funding and positive commitments to support the workers and bring new businesses to the Latrobe Valley. The response, including the establishment of the Latrobe Valley Authority, has actually led to employment increasing in the Valley over the past two years. But that was the closure of one power station. Transition work needs to continue and grow.

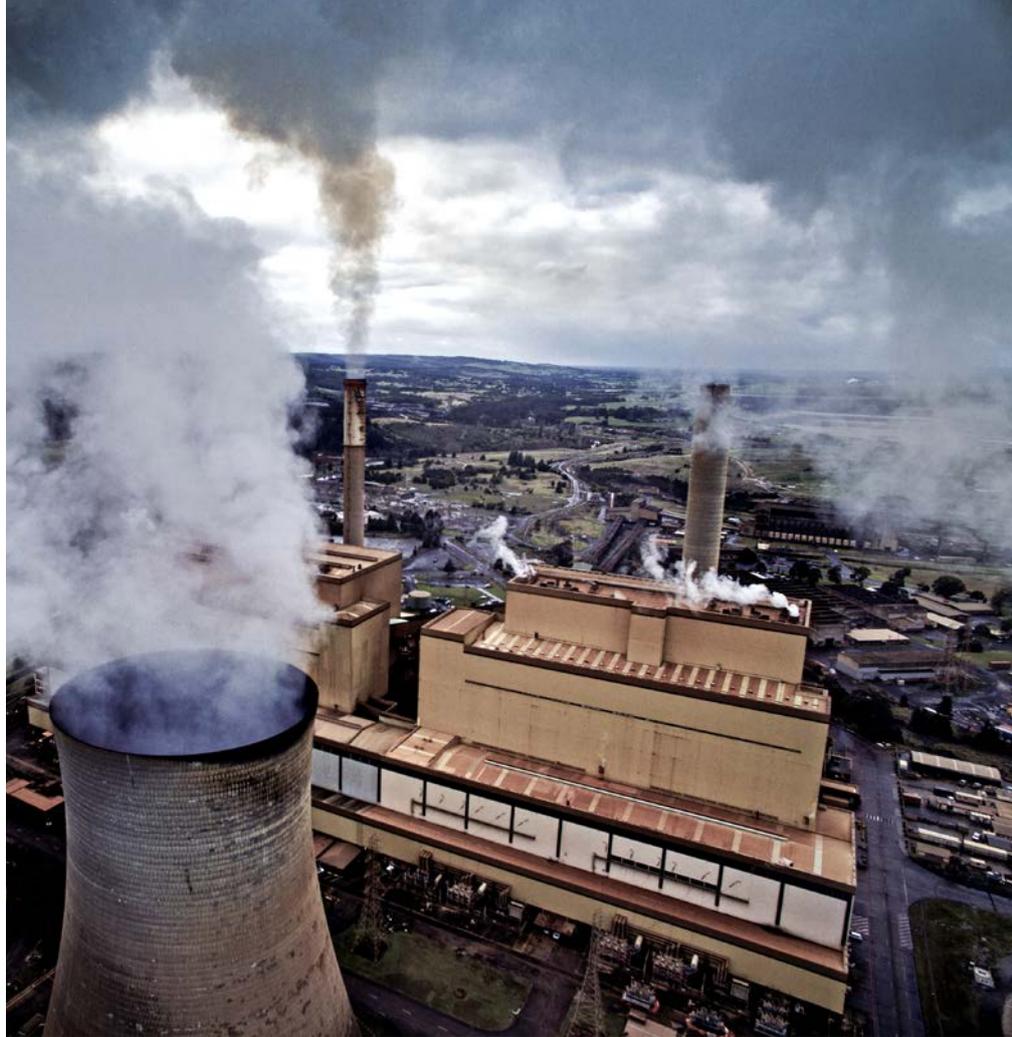
This means listening to and learning from local leaders in the Latrobe Valley, who have been dealing with economic



flux in the region since the power stations were first privatised in the 1990s. It means ensuring that the Latrobe Valley Authority has ongoing funding and a clearer long-term focus. It means the rest of Victoria rallying behind the Valley to ensure that they stand to benefit from the energy transition, for example by ensuring new energy projects like battery, storage and wind turbine manufacturing opportunities are set up there.

Phasing out coal and facilitating a just and fair transition for working people in affected areas will not be easy tasks. It requires real climate leadership. Governments and companies won't make these kinds of decisions fast enough unless they are forced to by people-powered movements. Which is exactly what we're building.

We're working with a national coalition of organisations and people who want to see Australia take on the coal industry once and for all, to save our climate and to support communities to not just to survive, but to thrive through the changes that are coming our way. We'll be leading big bold creative action to move beyond coal and we hope you'll join us. Stay tuned!



Yallourn power station – producing the dirtiest energy in the country.

Victoria's next oldest power station, Yallourn, located in the Latrobe Valley, is now the most climate pollution intensive power station in the country.

Besides being our biggest climate clunker, Yallourn power station is also a disaster for community health. And as it ages Yallourn becomes a less reliable energy supplier and a less safe place to work.

CLIMATE CLUNKER:

- Yallourn is the most carbon emissions intensive power station in Australia.
- It is responsible for 13 percent of Victoria's climate pollution on its own.

BAD FOR HUMAN HEALTH:

- Yallourn is Australia's biggest emitter of a toxic particulate matter called PM2.5. These are fine airborne particles that can easily become lodged in the lungs and brain and have been linked to cardiopulmonary disease and lung cancer.

- The World Health Organisation says that there is no safe level of exposure to PM2.5.

DAMAGING LOCAL WATERWAYS:

- The Morwell River has been relocated six times to allow access to new coal deposits and accommodate the Yallourn mine.
- The last artificial river bed failed spectacularly in 2012 when it flooded the mine. It followed a previous collapse of the Latrobe River into the mine in 2007.
- In 2015 a ruptured ash disposal pipeline at Yallourn caused 8.6 megalitres of toxic liquid ash to be dumped into the Morwell River.

A DANGER TO WORKERS

- In November last year a high voltage circuit breaker exploded and killed an employee who had been working at the plant for 33 years. There is an ongoing Worksafe investigation.
- In 2007, the wall of the Yallourn mine collapsed and the Latrobe River flooded billions of litres of water into the mine. A union spokesperson said the only reason no workers were killed was because it occurred at 2am and no one was working.

What's next for Victoria

The state government started the year with some unfinished business and a strong mandate for climate action and environmental protection. Campaigns Manager Nicholas Aberle gets us up to speed on what comes next.



Nicholas Aberle,
Campaigns Manager

THE NOVEMBER 2018 VICTORIAN election was a landslide. Labor claimed a whopping 57.3 percent of the two-party preferred vote, giving them 55 of the seats in the lower house. The Greens retained three seats, and with three regional independents, the Coalition has just 27 seats. The scale of the swing meant the Coalition lost seats previously thought to be "safe", like Hawthorn, Nepean and Box Hill.

Independent polling conducted by Roy Morgan found that a key concern about the Liberal party amongst those who intended to vote Labor was the Liberals' poor positions on climate change, clean energy and the environment. Exit polling by Channel Nine on election day found renewable energy to be a pivotal issue for 23 percent of voters. The public is now demonstrably voting for climate action and environmental protection.

So now we expect the Andrews government to deliver on these issues.

The Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will decide by June whether to put limits on how much

carbon dioxide our three coal power stations can pump into the atmosphere each year. This is a crucial step in cutting our climate pollution. In recent months thousands of you have signed petitions and handed out flyers, calling on the EPA and the state government to put pollution limits on power stations.

Around the same time an independent panel chaired by former federal Climate Change Minister Greg Combet, is due to provide advice to the government about what emissions targets the Andrews government should set for 2025 and 2030 under the *Climate Change Act*. The panel's advice will be made public by June, and the government needs to make a final decision by next March.

The government also needs to reintroduce a Bill to Parliament to establish the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Authority. This would create an independent body to oversee and coordinate mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley coal mines, as well as pass a much-needed update to the rules that establish what good rehabilitation looks

like and make sure mining companies don't leave behind a mess.

Amendments to the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* failed to pass in 2018. The Andrews government needs to improve its track record on protecting nature, and the proposed amendments last term fell far short of what was needed. Victoria's Regional Forest Agreements are also under review. We hope a new term and an easier path through Parliament will embolden the government to improve threatened species protection.

Finally the Andrews government has committed to developing a Circular Economy Policy. This could be an antidote to the waste crisis we are in and to the broader epidemic of the environmental impact of our high-consumption lifestyles. We expect public consultation later this year.

Together these issues will be a test of whether the Andrews government makes the most of its strong position to make Victoria a leader for our climate and environment. We'll be there every step of the way to make sure they do!

Endangered mountain pygmy possum, Healesville Sanctuary.
ZOOS VICTORIA



The pressure's on AGL's dirty gas plan for Westernport Bay



Taegen Edwards,
Senior Campaigner

Does it make sense for Australia, the world's biggest gas exporter, to start importing the stuff? What if it damages a unique marine ecosystem and Ramsar-listed wetlands? And aren't we supposed to be transitioning away from fossil fuels anyway?

THESE ARE AWKWARD QUESTIONS for AGL, Australia's biggest climate polluter. They want to build a huge gas terminal at Crib Point in Westernport Bay, about 80 kilometres from Melbourne.

The terminal would receive shipments of liquefied gas from interstate or overseas, store it, convert it and send it through a 60-kilometre pipeline across some of Victoria's most productive farmland to Pakenham on Melbourne's outskirts.

It's a disastrous idea. It would compromise farmland, threaten the marine ecosystem of Westernport Bay, ramp up climate pollution and prolong Victoria's dependence on dirty gas. Macquarie Bank reports it wouldn't even reduce prices, because importing and processing gas is expensive. It seems the only beneficiaries would be AGL.

Australia already produces more gas than it uses. Energy analysts and politicians, including federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg and Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, agree AGL's project is a sign Australia's gas market is broken. Though whether they oppose the project is another matter.

Community action is having a big impact

Together with a coalition of environment and local groups we have already managed to delay AGL's plans. Last year, you sent emails, signed petitions, called talkback radio and attended a huge rally outside AGL's Annual General Meeting to make sure our message was heard. In October 2018, Planning Minister Richard Wynne announced that AGL must complete a full Environmental Effects Statement (EES) – the strictest requirement we have. AGL had wanted to start construction this year, but in February



Environment groups and local community outside AGL's AGM in October 2018.

the *Australian Financial Review* reported that the EES has delayed AGL's decision to go ahead until 2020.

Local opposition to the project has been gaining momentum. Community groups have been pressuring AGL, meeting politicians and coordinating local moves to fight back. For example in January Save Westernport hosted the Peninsula's Biggest Paddle Out, a peaceful protest against the terminal, with hundreds of locals paddling from Shoreham into the bay. The Westernport Festival also turned down AGL sponsorship over concerns about the project.

Where to next?

Together we're pushing AGL to cancel this disastrous project by showing them that it will damage their brand and turn off shareholders and customers.

We're supporting communities in Westernport Bay and along the pipeline to fight back.

And we'll tell the Andrews government Victorians won't accept polluting gas imports. The government needs to help Victorians reduce gas use and plan for a gas-free clean economy.

How you can help:

1. Sign the petition to AGL's CEO Brett Redman envict.org/stopAGL and stay tuned for more action.
2. If you're a local, connect with Save Westernport at savewesternport.org
3. Donate to the campaign at envict.org/stop-agl-donate



Westernport Bay locals organised a protest paddle out that had hundreds of participants and garnered wide media coverage.

THANKS to everyone who has signed on, volunteered and donated to this campaign. Together we'll stop this polluting project!

What inspires you

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and ideas in our recent supporter survey. It's always inspiring to hear from the thoughtful and engaged people that make up the Environment Victoria community.



Cameron Wheatley,
Communications Officer

We'll be using your feedback to guide and inform our campaigns this year. Here is a small snippet of the results ...

The three achievements you were most proud of:

1. Hazelwood campaign



From 2006 to 2017, campaigning to close Hazelwood, Australia's dirtiest coal-burning power station, while promoting a 'just transition' to new industries in the Latrobe Valley.

2. Land and water laws



In the 1970s, lobbying the government to create the Land Conservation Council to protect public land and waterways. And later in 1975 working to create the Water Resources Bill, which was one of the first pieces of legislation in the world to recognise that water should be set aside to conserve flora and fauna.

3. Clean energy



In 2018, helping to secure some of the biggest clean energy announcements in Australia's history through our state election campaign.

What inspires you most as part of the Environment Victoria community?

The responses to this question were overwhelming and diverse. Here are just a few of the many amazing messages we received.

CHARLIE

We need organisations such as EV to keep us informed and present a united voice with some clout to politicians and corporations.

ANNE-LAURE

Communities need organisations like you to help protect what is dearest to all of us, the nature that lets us breathe and live.

IAN

Environment Victoria have always had a strong community presence, being prepared to mobilise / help community groups achieve outcomes by uniting and organising.

MARY

Victoria is a beautiful State. It has beaches lakes & rivers, mountains & forests – I want these protected so my grandchildren & their children can enjoy them.

JOHN

It's great having a passionate organisation out there fighting for the environment that also shares my values.

EDWARD

I love nature, the planet and being alive. Environment Victoria has been a focused, strategic and effective organisation in the pursuit of protecting and improving the world we live in.

PETER

The energy and enthusiasm which good, forward-thinking people spend on respecting humanity's only home inspires me no end.

Celebrating our 50th birthday

Fifty years. It goes surprisingly quickly.



Greg Foyster,
Communications Manager

ENVIRONMENT VICTORIA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1969 after the successful campaign to save the Little Desert in Western Victoria from agricultural development. This was a watershed moment for conservation in our state, sparking a new awareness of our impact on the planet, and also new protections for Victoria's natural places.

In the five decades since, a lot has changed, including the organisation's name (from the Conservation Council of Victoria). But what's been constant is a determination to tackle the challenges threatening Victoria's environment, a commitment to equality and social justice, and the enormous generosity of the volunteers who keep the organisation thriving.

This year Environment Victoria is documenting its history in a book and short film, launched at an event in October, and we'd love to hear your own stories of campaigns past and present.

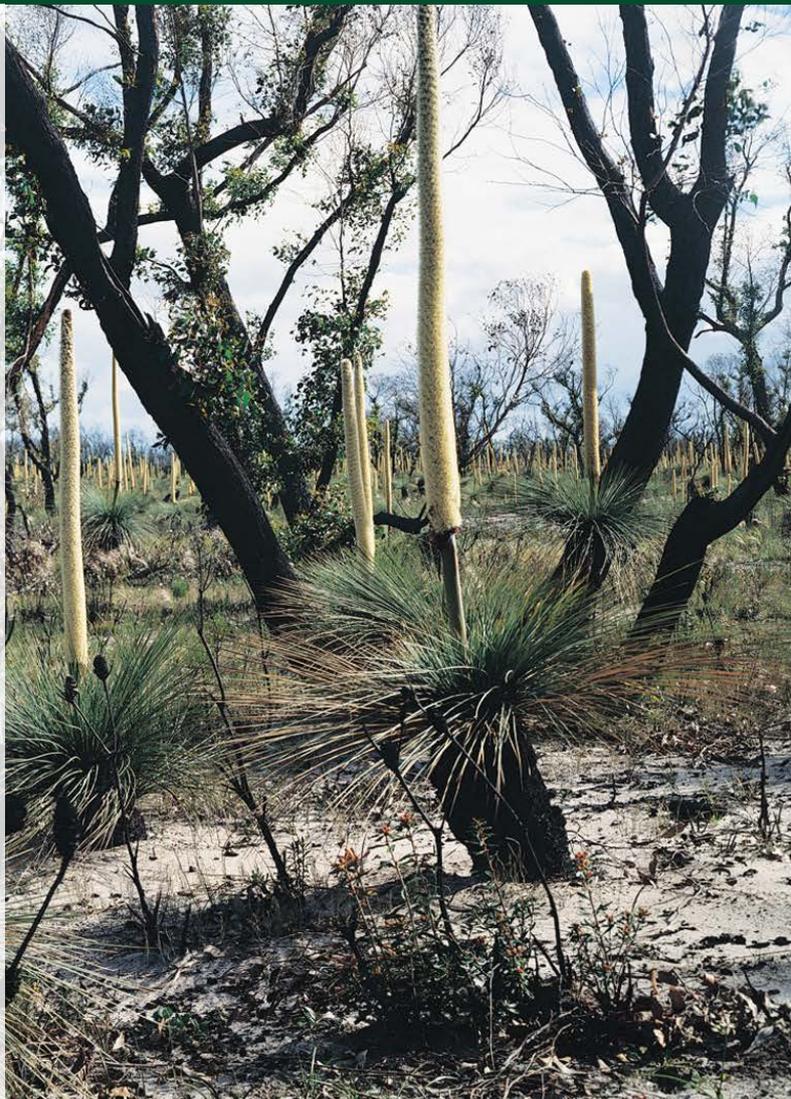
We're looking for:

- Great historical photos of campaigns, particular in the 1960s and 1970s (protests, forest blockades, meetings with MPs ... any photos you have!)
- Archives of materials from 1969 to 1982 (before we started producing a regular printed newsletter)

We know many of you have a story to tell about your contribution to Environment Victoria over the decades, and writing a history is always a collaboration. We're working with a journalist to pull these stories together, so if you have any suggestions please get in touch.

Send an email to comms@environmentvictoria.org.au with the subject line 'History', and we'll pass on your ideas to the researcher.

By telling these stories of the past, we hope to inspire even more support for the future to protect this beautiful place we call home.



We would like to acknowledge the passing of Les Smith, one of Victoria's most committed environmentalists.

Les Smith, one of Environment Victoria's longest-serving members, was involved in conservation for more than 50 years. He worked tirelessly to preserve bush remnants in the City of Whitehorse, and in 2017 he received a Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to our environment.

Les passed away in late 2018 and will be deeply missed by staff and volunteers at Environment Victoria. We would like to thank him for his passion and dedication to protecting nature over many decades.

While Les is no longer with us, the natural places he saved and trees he planted with friends and family will continue to delight, inspire and nourish future generations for years to come. Thank you, Les, for this lasting gift to us all.

FOREVER GREEN

Environment Victoria is grateful to Val Crohn (1925–2018) for her extraordinary gift in her Will to help build a sustainable society that protects and values nature. Lena Herrera Piekarski talked to Val's daughter Margaret about her mother's life and legacy.

VAL CROHN WAS PASSIONATE

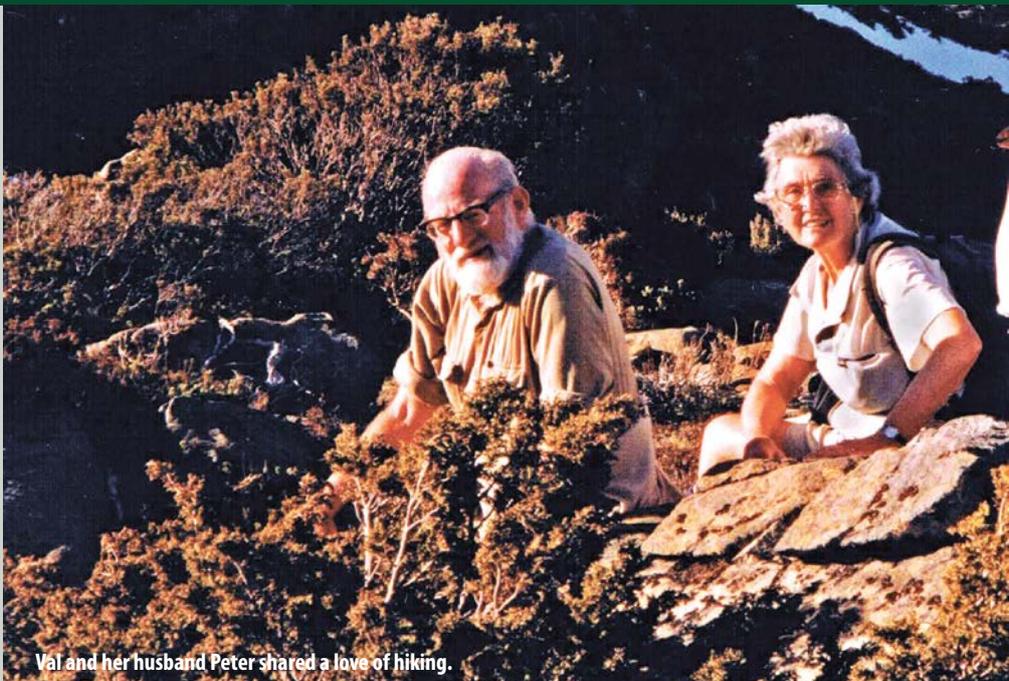
about educating young people in how to live sustainably and protect the nature around us. As a teacher and a member of the Girl Guides, she took countless groups bushwalking, sharing with them her love for being outside. In 1981 she received the British Empire Medal "for service to youth, particularly the Girl Guide Movement and the community".

Val was interested in how our daily behaviour affects the bigger picture of protecting our world. She understood that everything is connected, so looking after one part helps to protect the whole.

Her way of life was simple and sustainable. She had solar panels and water tanks on her house long before anyone around her. When moving around Australia as part of her husband's work, she would set up a productive veggie garden wherever she lived and soon began planting native flora to support the local bees and birds.

Val discovered her love for the outdoors while studying science at Melbourne University, where she joined the mountaineering club. There she also met her future husband, Peter Crohn (1925–2000), who shared her lifelong love for bushwalking and camping, a passion she passed on to their children, her grandchildren and countless Girl Guides.

As part of her lifelong legacy of educating the next generations to live sustainably and protect our environment for others to come, Val decided to leave a gift to Environment Victoria in her Will. Her gift will help build a thriving, sustainable society that protects and values nature.



Val and her husband Peter shared a love of hiking.

BECOME FOREVER GREEN

Leaving a future gift to Environment Victoria in your Will is an exceptional legacy for future Victorians who will inherit this beautiful state from us.

It's a simple change when you next review your Will.

The wording below is a guide for your solicitor or trustee:

"I give to Environment Victoria Inc. (ABN: 84 495 053 605) of Level 2, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, Vic, 3053 for the purpose of safeguarding Victoria's environment [the residue [or...%] of the residue of my estate] or [...% of my estate] or [the sum of \$....] or [specified property....] free of all debts, duties or taxes and declare that the receipt of an authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge for my executor(s)."

To find out more, contact our Key Relationships Manager, Lena Herrera Piekarski, on 9341 8108 or l.herrera@environmentvictoria.org.au

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THIS IS THE CLIMATE CHANGE ELECTION

Image Credit: Flickr CC Quarrie Photography

Dear Jono, this federal election I'm standing with our kids and fighting for their future.

Please make this a donation by credit card:

(All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.)

\$50 \$100 \$250 \$1000 Your choice \$ _____

Please find enclosed: Cheque or Money Order (payable to Environment Victoria Inc.)

Or please debit my credit card: Visa MasterCard Amex

Cardholder's name: _____ Expiry date: ____ / ____ Signature: _____

Card number:

Please send me info about how I can make a gift to Environment Victoria in my Will.

Please send me info about how I can support Environment Victoria with a monthly gift.

Are your personal details correct on your letter? Or are you moving soon? Please update your personal information here if necessary.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title: _____ First name: _____ Last name: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____ Home: _____

Please complete this form, cut off this page and return it to **Reply Paid 12575, A'Beckett Street, Melbourne, VIC 8006** or visit **www.environmentvictoria.org.au** and make your donation online. **Thank you for your generosity!**

Personal information is collected to process donations, issue tax receipts and keep you updated about our work. Please contact us at the address below if you wish to limit the use of your personal information or stop receiving direct marketing material from Environment Victoria. Our privacy policy is available at environmentvictoria.org.au/privacy and outlines how you can access or correct your personal information, who we disclose your personal information to (including overseas recipients) and how you can lodge a complaint. Please tick if you do NOT want to receive communications from other organisations. Occasionally we allow like-minded organisations to contact you with information that may be of interest to you, including organisations outside Australia. Those organisations allow us to do the same and this way we can reach more people with vital information.



Sugar glider and Tess, Otways

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Chief Executive Officer
Jono La Nauze

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Nicholas Aberle

Healthy Rivers and Nature Campaign
Manager
Juliet Le Feuvre

Safe Climate Campaigner
Cat Nadel

Senior Campaigner
Taegen Edwards

Campaigner
Rai Miralles

Community Organising Program
Manager **Jane Stabb**

Community Organiser
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Alex Merory, Greg Foyster

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REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

Environment Victoria would like to thank our amazing crew of regular volunteers, who are now too numerous to mention.

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