

Environment Victoria Survey

Victorian Greens policy response

Environment Victoria Focus 1:

Repower Victoria's economy with clean energy

Greens policy:

100% Renewable Victoria

The Greens have a comprehensive plan to repower Victoria with 100% Renewable Energy by 2030. A summary of our renewables plan is provided below and more detailed information can be found at www.greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic.

Large scale renewable energy

- Build over \$9 billion worth of publicly-owned large-scale renewable energy - to undo the past damage of power privatisation and begin returning power to public hands.
 - Upgrade the transmission network in north and west Victoria to unlock a renewables boom (more detail on our website)
 - Support extra private build of energy generation build through expanding the Victorian Renewable Energy Target, with three further reverse auctions over the forward estimates (see Table below), and require a component of the VRET to be community energy.
- <https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

Table 1: Summary of renewable energy to 2025

| Type | Timing | MW |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| Announced government reverse auction | 2018 | 929 |
| Greens 2019 reverse auction 'booster' | Jan 2019 | 371 |
| Greens 2020 reverse auction | July 2020 | 2088 |
| Greens 2022 reverse auction | Jan 2022 | 2088 |
| Public build | By 2025 | 4500 |
| TOTAL | BY 2025 | 9976 |
| Further public and private build 2026-2030 - depending on market at the time | BY 2030 | 8500 |

Community energy

- Create 10 Community Energy Hubs, through grants of \$1 million each, so our communities can create their own clean energy.
 - Require a component of VRET auctions to include community energy.
- <https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

Big battery storage

- Build \$500 million worth of publicly-owned storage, centered in the Latrobe Valley, including an initial public injection of \$300 million for big batteries and \$200 million for pumped hydro storage over the forward estimates. <https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

Solar for renters, apartments, schools and public housing

- Establish Solar Gardens for people who rent their homes and apartment owners, costed at \$820 million over eight years. You can buy a solar panel on a nearby building and the energy it creates is credited to your bill. If you move, you still own the panel and the credit moves with you. \$1000 grants per renter or apartment owner to help people buy into the scheme. <https://greens.org.au/vic/solar>
- Put solar panels and batteries on the portion of Victoria's 1531 public schools that don't already have solar, costing approximately \$100 million. The solar and batteries will be connected through a Virtual Power Plant, increasing efficiency across the whole energy network and bringing down prices for everyone. See more at <https://greens.org.au/vic/solarforschools>
- Put solar panels on 24,000 free-standing public homes in Victoria, with battery storage for 10,000 public homes, operating as a virtual power plant owned and operated by Power Victoria. <https://greens.org.au/vic/solarforpublichousing>
- Change building regulations to require all new homes to have solar panels on the roof or solar hot water if the roof does not allow for solar panels. <https://greens.org.au/vic/solar>

Transition beyond fossil fuels

The Greens know we must phase out all fossil fuels, and quickly, to guarantee a safe climate. The Greens have a plan to do this, in a way which supports people, communities and the environment. A summary of our fossil fuel transition plan is provided below.

More detail is available at <https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

Transition out of coal by 2030

- Introduce new pollution standards for coal plants, so they can't continue to put toxic chemicals like mercury and sulphur into our air and damage our health. <https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>
- Transition out of all coal mining and power generation in Victoria, with a timeline to remove the license to operate for all of Victoria's dirty coal plants by 2030, as follows:

Table 2: Timetable of Victorian coal power station closures to 2030

| Power Station | Year | Phase-out |
|---------------|------|-----------------------------|
| Loy Yang A | 2022 | First unit closed |
| | 2027 | Second & third units closed |
| | 2029 | Full decommissioning |
| Yallourn | 2020 | First unit closed |
| | 2025 | Second unit closed |
| | 2028 | Full decommissioning |
| Loy Yang B | 2023 | First unit closed |
| | 2030 | Full decommissioning |

Support a just transition for the Latrobe Valley:

- Make the Latrobe Valley the battery test-bed for the world, supported by an initial public investment of \$300 million of government money (over the forward estimates) in a battery 3 times the size of the Tesla battery in South Australia
- Develop the Latrobe Valley as a global centre for innovation in energy storage (the 'battery test bed of the world'), supported by an initial \$200 million public investment in pumped hydro storage over the forward estimates.
- Support new offshore wind projects in Gippsland through our publicly-owned energy build, bringing new jobs and industry to the region
- Upgrade public housing with energy efficiency measures to meet minimum standards, put solar panels on all stand-alone public housing homes, and install solar panels and batteries in all public schools. These programs will be managed by Solar Victoria, located in the Latrobe Valley, creating hundreds more jobs. <https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

Support for TAFE and renewable energy education

- The Greens will guarantee a minimum of 70% of government vocational education and training funding for TAFE institutions. This will give TAFE institutions the support they need to provide quality training and apprenticeships.
- Our ambitious plan for 100% renewable energy by 2030 will create the need for a significant growth in people skilled to manufacture, install and manage renewable energy. To achieve this, TAFE Centres of Excellence will be required to train renewable energy workers now and into the future.

Phase out gas

- Revoke Labor's decision to allow offshore gas exploration within Victoria's jurisdiction.
- Legislate to permanently ban any new gas exploration or extraction, including conventional and unconventional gas, on Victorian land or in Victorian waters.
- Stop AGL's Westernport gas facility and pipeline.
- \$22 million to provide \$1000 grants to support households to transition from gas to electric heating and a \$3 million campaign to educate Victorians on the benefits of switching off gas.
- Develop recommendations for planning reform to stop new gas pipelines to new towns/suburbs, which lock homes into expensive and polluting gas.
- Mandate non-gas heating in building regulations for all new builds.
- Identify options for industry transition beyond gas, including use of biogas.
<https://greens.org.au/vic/beyondgas>

Further information is available at:

<https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

<https://greens.org.au/vic/beyondgas>

Repowering Victoria's public transport

The Greens strongly support further investment in public and active transport and a transition away from polluting freeways.

The Greens plan to transform public transport:

- Stop the West Gate toll road and North East toll roads.
- Build alternatives to the west gate toll road - our plans can be seen at <https://stopthewgt.org/>
- Transform our ageing, unreliable public transport into a reliable, frequent, high-capacity network – by investing in clean, fast and efficient public transport instead of dirty, polluting toll roads.

- Boost public transport services to allow people to get to their destination at any time and day of the week and will invest in infrastructure to encourage both walking and cycling as means of commuting or recreation.
- Power Melbourne’s trains with renewable energy as part of a transition to a 100% Renewable Victoria by 2030 through our public renewables build.
- Encourage off-peak travel by increasing frequency of off-peak day time and weekend train, tram and bus services. We are aiming for a 10 minutes frequency, where possible.
- Advocate for freight to rail and other sustainable transport solutions rather than the continued obsession with giant toll roads that only further congest and pollute our suburbs and city and entrench car and truck dependency.

In addition, we will shortly be announcing a range of initiatives to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles and transition our state away from the use of fossil fuels in the transport industry.

More detail on our comprehensive transport plans are available at:

https://victoria.greens.org.au/transforming_transport

<https://greens.org.au/vic/news/speech/vic-greens-plan-transform-melbourne-metro>

<https://greens.org.au/node/22386>

<https://greens.org.au/vic/news/greens-smartbus-solution>

Environment Victoria Focus 2:

Ensure a just and fair transition to a sustainable Victorian society and economy

Greens policy:

Household energy

Privatisation of our electricity system has failed. When Kennett handed over our electricity system to private corporations to make a profit, it made electricity more expensive, less reliable and kept it dirty.

The Greens plan will hand the power back to people, by supporting everyone to get solar, whether you’re on a low-income, a renter, live in an apartment or own your own home. Our plan will also save on energy bills with improvements to home energy efficiency and by creating a new, at-cost, public electricity retailer.

Details of our comprehensive plan to provide cheap, clean and reliable energy to every Victorian home are outlined below.

Solar for renters, apartments, schools and public housing

- Support Labor’s announcement to put solar panels on 650,000 Victorian homes.
- Establish Solar Gardens for people who rent their homes and apartment owners. You can buy a solar panel on a nearby building and the energy it creates is credited to your bill. If you move, you still own the panel and the credit moves with you. \$1000 grants per renter to help you buy into the scheme. <https://greens.org.au/vic/solar>
- Put solar panels and batteries on Victoria's 1531 public schools (that don’t already have them). The solar and batteries will be connected through a Virtual Power Plant, increasing

efficiency across the whole energy network and bringing down prices for everyone.

<https://greens.org.au/vic/solarforschools>

- Put solar panels on 24,000 free-standing public homes in Victoria, with battery storage for 10,000 public home, operating as a virtual power plant.
<https://greens.org.au/vic/solarforpublichousing>
- Changing building regulations to require all new homes to have solar panels on the roof or solar hot water if the roof does not allow for solar panels. <https://greens.org.au/vic/solar>

Energy efficiency and energy savings

- Create a public electricity retailer, Power Victoria, to provide cheap, clean and reliable power and stop price-gouging by corporate energy companies.
- Mandate strong minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties that landlords must meet by 2020.
- Upgrade all public homes to meet strong energy efficiency standards by 2020, and allocate \$73 million over the forward estimates to do these upgrades.
- Include insulation in the VEET scheme, and continue to support the VEET. We will be making more announcements about this soon.
- \$25 million to provide \$1000 grants to support households to transition from gas to electric heating and to educate Victorians on the benefits of switching off gas.
- Develop recommendations for planning reform to stop new gas pipelines to new towns/suburbs, which lock homes into expensive and polluting gas.
- Mandate non-gas heating in building regulations for all new builds and mandate inclusion of solar.

Further information is available at:

<https://greens.org.au/vic/powervictoria>

<https://greens.org.au/vic/solar>

<https://greens.org.au/vic/solarforschools>

<https://greens.org.au/vic/solarforpublichousing>

<https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

<https://greens.org.au/vic/beyondgas>

A just transition for the Latrobe Valley

The Greens have a comprehensive plan to repower Victoria by 100% Renewable Energy includes a detailed plan to support transition to new jobs and industries in the Latrobe Valley.

- Make the Latrobe Valley the battery test-bed for the world, supported by \$300 million of government investment in a battery 3 times the size of the Tesla battery in South Australia
- Develop the Latrobe Valley as a global centre for innovation in energy storage, supported by \$200 million public investment in pumped hydro storage
- Support new offshore wind projects through our publicly-owned energy build, bringing new jobs and industry to the region
- Upgrade public housing with energy efficiency measures, put solar panels on all stand-alone public housing homes, and install solar panels and batteries in all public schools. These programs will be managed by Solar Victoria, located in the Latrobe Valley, creating hundreds more jobs.

Further detail available at: <https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

Forest industry transition

The Victorian Greens have a plan to transition the state's timber and paper products industries to 100% sustainable plantations within two years. Details of this plan are outlined below:

- Repeal the Forests (Wood Pulp Agreement) Act 1996 to end the guaranteed supply of our native forests to make copy paper, and assist the Maryvale Pulp Mill transition 100% of its supply chain to post-consumer material and sustainable plantation pulp-logs.
- Provide financial assistance for small, family-owned mills to retool so they can use plantation logs instead of logs from native forests.
- Retool the State-owned Heyfield Mill such that it can operate efficiently and sustainably levels. Sell the mill to the private sector, as it is anti-competitive for the State Government to be in competition with other mill operators.
- Work with the industry to transition jobs out of native forest into sustainable plantations and other relevant sectors.
- Reverse government policy, established in 2009, of asserting that the discredited Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) is equivalent in sustainability to the internationally-approved Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.
- Work with the Commonwealth Government and other States to strengthen the timber plantation sector across Australia.
- Create the Great Forest National Park and Emerald Link

Further information is available at:

<https://protectourforests.org.au/>

Environment Victoria Focus 3:

Strengthen the systems that drive environmental protection and sustainability in Victoria

Greens policy:

Safeguard Victoria from Climate Change

We are in a climate emergency. Climate change is already affecting our communities and the environment.

In addition to our plan to limit future climate damage with a 100% Renewable Victoria, the Greens have a set of policies to help protect us from the changes we are already seeing. A summary is provided below:

Climate change protection:

- A Climate Commissioner, for coordinated government information and action on climate change. Like the Auditor General.
- A bi-yearly State of the Climate Report, so the public knows how climate change is affecting our communities and the environment.
- A Climate Budget, to hold Governments to account in addressing the climate emergency.
- A Local Climate Impact Inquiry, to identify local impacts and develop local solutions to unavoidable climate change impacts.
- Investment in Carbon Drawdown in Victoria, to do our share in removing dangerous carbon from the atmosphere. <https://greens.org.au/vic/climatecommissioner>

Strong climate targets

- 100% renewable energy by 2030 <https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>
- Phase out coal and gas by 2030

- Net zero or negative emissions as soon as possible
- Build \$9 billion in publicly-owned large-scale renewable energy by 2030 and support private and community projects through an expanded VRET.

Further detail is available at:

<https://greens.org.au/vic/climatecommissioner>

<https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

The Great Forest National Park

The Greens support the creation of the Great Forest National Park and the Emerald Link. The Greens have committed:

- \$26 million to establish the Great Forest National Park (GFNP).
- \$11.3 million per year for management of the GFNP.
- \$20 million to establish the Emerald Link.
- \$10 million per year for management of the Emerald Link.

Further detail available at:

<https://greens.org.au/vic/renewablevic>

Waste and recycling

The Greens have a comprehensive plan to address the waste and recycling crisis, that will protect our environment, reduce landfill and saves money for Victorian homes. Details of our plan are outlined below:

- \$100 million over four years to expand the local sorting and recycling industry and boost demand for locally recycled content through state & local government procurement.
- \$78 million to end plastic pollution by introducing a Container Deposit Scheme, phasing out single-use plastics and microbeads, and mandating 70% recycled content in packaging.
- Redirect food and green organics from landfill by strengthening kerbside collection & expanding processing infrastructure and fully implement a ban on e-waste being sent to landfill, with \$260 million to help council and industry close the loop on food waste.
- Create an additional \$70 million in revenue, by increase the landfill levy to encourage recycling waste recovery and use it to expand the recycling industry and drive innovation.
- Articulate plans to work towards a circular economy by investing \$10 million in creating the Circular Economy Centre, expanding research on recycling, industry engagement and create a Victorian roadmap to the circular economy.
- Maintain waste-to-energy as a last resort for managing health, safety and environmental impacts of waste treatment, disposal and storage.

Further detail is available at:

compostnotlandfill.org/

plasticfreesea.com.au/

greens.org.au/vic/policies/waste-policy

Nature, National Parks and Environmental Law

Details of our plan to protect nature are outlined below.

Save Our National Parks (\$340 million over the forward estimates)

- Fix the Parks Victoria funding crisis with an immediate ongoing increase of \$50 million per year, so we can invest in more rangers, science, and conservation management.
- \$100 million to create new National Parks, starting with the Great Forest National Park, Emerald Link, New parks in central west Victoria, recommended by VEAC, A Strathbogie Ranges National Park and A Murray River Park.

- End corporate development in our National Parks.
- Reopen visitor centres to improve access to nature for all Victorians
- Allocate \$40 million to buy, restore and protect rare and important habitat on private land, through the existing Trust for Nature revolving fund.
- Invest in research and control of invasive species, especially in our national parks.

Stop Invasive Species (\$320 million over forward estimates)

- \$5 million per year for four years for administration of the new Invasive Species Management Authority (in addition to the rolling in of existing resources from DELWP and DEDJTR).
- \$10 million per year for four years for deer control
- \$8 million per year over four years to implement the Weedy Plants White List
- \$10 million a year for four years to eradicate new incursions
- \$15 million a year for four years for containment of priority incursions in the early stages of invasion
- \$2 million a year for four years for monitoring
- \$10 million a year for four years for research into biological controls for invasive species

Waterway protection

- Enshrine environmental flows in legislation.
- Double the funding for the riverbank restoration initiative, crucial to improving water quality and protecting delicate riparian ecosystems.

Marine and coastal protection

- \$20 million to create a new Marine and Coastal Authority
- \$30 million to create a series of connected coastal reserves along Victoria's coast to form a coastal park
- Create the Moolap coastal park, to protect the area's unique ecology and provide much needed environmental space for Geelong's growing population. (again need specific map)
- Create the Belfast coastal park, and ban commercial horse race training in this park.
- Provide \$3 million in funding to rebuild coastal habitat by creating oyster reefs
- Create new marine reserves in threatened marine ecosystems
- Ban canal estates.

Wildlife protection

- Ban cruel duck hunting.
- \$1 million over the forward estimates to support wildlife carers in Victoria.

Environmental Law Reform

- Reform and strengthen the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, beyond Labor's poor and unsuccessful effort in this term of Parliament.
- Develop proper regulations for the EPA.
- Legislate that Sustainability Fund is spent on the environment.
- Reform the Marine and Coastal Act 2018.
- Reform the Environment Assessment Process.