

Focus 1: Repower Victoria's economy with clean energy

Key test of success: How will the Party make Victoria a leader on clean energy by embracing opportunities to drive renewable energy and phase out fossil fuels?

Environment Victoria's policy agenda

Unleash Victoria's Renewable Future

- **Meet the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) of 5400 MW by bringing 1000 MW of new, large-scale renewable energy online every year for the next four years**
- **Repower Alcoa with renewable energy**
- **Phase out fossil fuels across Victoria**

Build a grid that benefits all Victorians

- **Set a 500 MW storage target**
- Give every Victorian access to solar by encouraging solar gardens (shared solar installation) and allowing landlords and tenants to split the cost of solar
- Make Victoria's renewable boom job rich by establishing TAFE Centres of Excellence to train renewable energy workers and ensure projects built through the VRET meet or exceed a 10% minimum apprenticeship requirement
- Supercharge the Greener Government Building's Program by increasing investment in the program

Repower Victoria's Transport

- Invest in sustainable transport such as public and active transport and reduce spending on freeways
- **Repower Melbourne's trains with 100% renewable energy**
- Encourage off-peak public transport through innovative ticketing
- Encourage uptake of electric vehicles by setting an electric vehicle target for all new cars, allowing EVs to use high occupancy lanes, reducing emission from the Government's fleet and providing rebates for public charging stations.

Focus 1 - Party Response:

Renewable energy is an important and growing part of our energy mix and the Liberal Nationals are strongly committed to cleaner forms of energy but we have to get the transition right or else Victorians will be punished with even higher electricity bills.

Labor's go-it-alone Victorian Renewable Energy Target is reckless and will continue hurt Victorians with higher energy costs. This is why we have already promised that we will abolish it.

In government, we will do renewables right, and have already announced:

- Solar in Schools – a plan to put solar panels and batteries (where viable) in 100% of Victorian Public Schools by 2025
- Community Solar – funding for solar panels and batteries at community buildings, including hospitals and other government owned facilities
- Local Content – a new 75% local content requirement for labour and materials on large scale renewable projects in Victoria to support our local industry

We support a national emissions reduction target that can be achieved without making electricity prices even more expensive and will support any realistic plan which delivers the affordable and reliable power Alcoa needs to remain viable

The Liberal Nationals maintain a technology agnostic approach to delivering affordable and reliable power for all Victorians, and have no plans to force the premature closure of existing power stations. Our technology agnostic approach will also apply to our recent proposal to use the purchasing power of government to facilitate the construction of a new 500MW power station.

As intermittent renewables make up a larger proportion of our energy mix, reliable storage solutions will be required to ensure energy is available on demand. The Liberal Nationals support innovative energy storage solutions that complement the grid and needs of our energy market.

The Liberal Nationals will install solar panels and batteries on 100% of suitable Victorian public schools by 2025.

The Liberal Nationals understand the opportunities presented by the manufacturing and development of renewables in Victoria. Our commitment to a 75% local content requirement, covering both materials and labour, for all large scale renewable projects in Victoria will ensure the benefits of renewables remain in the community and will give certainty to Victoria's growing renewables industry.

We will invest over \$19 billion in a fast regional network that connect Melbourne to the regions and encourages decentralisation of our state. We will also extend and upgrade several suburban rail lines to ensure Melbourne's growing suburbs are properly serviced by reliable public transport

The Liberal Nationals will support any plan which will deliver the affordable and reliable power our public transport network needs and will explore all options to ensure public transport remains an affordable and convenient choice for all Victorians

We will also explore policy options to support growth of electric vehicles and their uptake throughout Victoria

Focus 2: Ensure a just and fair transition to a sustainable Victorian society and economy

Key test of success: How will the party ensure that all Victorians benefit from the shift to clean energy and that communities and workers are supported as Victoria transitions to a sustainable future?

Environment Victoria's policy agenda

Repower 250,000 homes and businesses with rooftop solar and energy efficiency in the next 4 years

- **Build a virtual power plant that provides solar, battery storage and energy efficiency upgrades for 150,000 Victorians by 2022**
- **Set up a fully resourced state-wide fund for priority household efficiency and renewable energy upgrades**
- Increase and extend the Victorian Energy Upgrade Program
- Set up Home Energy Hubs
- Set energy efficiency standards for rental properties
- Improve efficiency standards for new homes
- Appoint new compliance cops to enforce building efficiency standards

Deliver a just transition across Victoria

- **Make the Latrobe Valley Authority a permanent statutory authority and expand its mandate**
- **Expand energy efficiency programs across Gippsland, starting with 14,000 most vulnerable households in the region**
- Reserve 500 MW of new renewable energy to be built through the VRET for the Latrobe Valley
- Establish a Forest Industry Transition Authority to drive the shift to sustainable plantation timber.

Focus 2 - Party Response:

Under the Liberal Nationals' Solar in Schools plan, Victorian public schools will be wired to be virtual power plant (VPP) ready – laying the foundations for our state's public schools acting as a potential VPP for the benefit of all energy consumers during summer periods.

Energy efficiency is an important part of managing maximising the power our state does generate however the Liberal Nationals believe all energy consumers should be able to share in this benefits, not just those able to participate and benefit from such programs

The Liberal Nationals will assess the impact and effectiveness of the Victorian Energy Upgrades Program if we are elected to office on 24 November.

Home energy storage and generation will play an important role in the energy mix of the future. The Liberal Nationals are supportive of households that choose to generate and consume their own power

The Liberal Nationals are supportive of improving energy efficiency of all homes and businesses and recently announced that if elected to government, we will offer low-income households a 40% and 50% discount on the cost of upgrading to new, energy-efficient fridges and televisions respectively.

We will also organise a tender for a retail electricity and gas deal to be made available to Victoria's 912,364 low-income and government concession recipients on an opt-in basis.

As part of any energy standard scheme adequate enforcement is essential, the Liberal Nationals will consider this aspect as part of the broader energy efficiency framework

The Liberal Nationals will ensure that the Latrobe Valley Authority is properly focussed on facilitating real, long term jobs and investments in line with the needs of local communities.

The Liberal Nationals are supportive of improving energy efficiency of all homes and businesses, including in Gippsland.

The location of large scale renewables are determined by individual proponents and driven by the availability of renewable resources and appropriate network capacity

Please return to Dean Rizzetti (0466 310 377) – d.rizzetti@environmentvictoria.org.au or Level 2, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, Victoria 3053

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Priority policies are indicated in **bold**

Focus 3: Strengthen the systems that drive environmental protection and sustainability in Victoria

Key test of success: How will the party strengthen, reform and enhance the laws and policies that protect Victoria's natural systems and precious flora and fauna?

Environment Victoria's policy agenda

Deliver a fair go for nature

- Establish a Commission for a Hotter and Drier Victoria to plan for warming that is already locked-in
- Improve threatened species protections under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act
- Reform the Water Act to give our rivers a fair share of water
- **Double the funding provided for successful riverbank restoration to \$60m**
- **Establish the Great Forest National Park, fill gaps in our national parks system & expand our marine parks**
- Properly fund inclusive park management
- Invest \$36M in the Trust for Nature's revolving fund to protect 60,000 ha of conservation land

Clean up our waste systems

- **Reform recycling systems to restore trust and ensure that recycling is reducing the amount of waste going to landfill**
- **Redirect organics from landfill to create compost production systems and fully implement a ban on e-waste being sent to landfill**
- Increase the landfill levy and use it to drive innovation
- Help people fix goods by supporting repair cafes
- Articulate plans to work towards a circular economy

Improve environmental transparency

- Implement mandatory disclosure of contamination on residential sites
- Make sure the EPA has the resources to clean up abandoned sites
- Establish an Environment & Lands court
- Fix the Environmental Effects Act by strengthening the approvals process and ensuring that the act is more closely adhered to

Focus 3 - Party Response:

The Liberal Nationals will undertake a review of environmental legislation to ensure that there are appropriate protections in place to deal with contemporary and emerging issues impacting Victoria's biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Liberal Nationals support ongoing protections of our threatened and endangered flora and fauna, and will introduce measures to further protect native species against introduced pests.

The Liberal Nationals will carefully consider any proposal to increase funding for riverbank restoration as part of the normal budgetary processes.

The Liberal Nationals do not currently have any plans to create new or expand any existing national or marine parks, and will carefully consider any proposals that arrive through VEAC processes.

Improving accessibility to our parks and forests is important to opening our great natural assets for the enjoyment of all visitors and users.

The Liberal Nationals will carefully consider any request for funding and policy proposals presented to government as part of the normal budgetary planning process.

The Liberal Nationals will make the necessary investments to support and improve our local kerbside collection systems and infrastructure, including our waste and recycling management and reprocessing systems.

The Liberal Nationals will investigate new systems and technologies that may be integrated into existing municipal waste collection systems to allow organic waste to be collected and reprocessed, diverting it from landfill.

The Liberal Nationals support plans to ban e-waste being sent to landfill, and encourages greater industry, government and consumer support for product stewardship measures.

Strengthen systems to reduce climate pollution

- **Support and embed 2025 and 2030 emissions targets that are consistent with keeping warming below 2 degrees**
- **Set limits on carbon pollution from power stations through EPA licences**
- **Use the Climate Change Act to drive ambitious reductions across Victoria's economy and set ambitious targets to reduce emissions from the Victorian government's own operations.**
- Climate proof Victoria's budget by tracking the costs of climate change and integrating environmental accounting into the budget
- Set up a task force to investigate negative emissions and develop a roadmap for Victoria

Proposals to increase the landfill levy above ordinary annual increases would need to be carefully considered as part of the normal budgetary planning processes.

The Liberal Nationals will continue to draw on funding derived from the municipal and industrial landfill levy to drive innovation in the waste and resource recovery sector through targeted investments via the Sustainability Fund and in accordance with Fund's guidelines.

The Liberal Nationals will support small business by creating the right economic conditions that make Victoria a great place to do business, invest, and employ.

There are improvements that can be made to Victoria's waste collection and recycling networks to improve our capabilities in this this area.

In light of China's import ban on certain types of recyclable goods originating from Australia, the Liberal Nationals will invest in technologies and infrastructure, domestically, to support our local recycling industries.

Under recently introduced legislation, individuals are now required to notify the EPA as soon as reasonably practicable once they have become aware of contamination. Duties to manage or control contaminated land to minimise harm (or the risk) to human health and the environment have also been introduced.

The Liberal Nationals will ensure the EPA has the necessary powers and resources to enforce environmental protections and ensure landholders in breach of the law and their responsibilities are held accountable for their actions.

There are no plans to introduce legislation establishing a separate environment and land court in Victoria. The existing judicial framework is suitably placed to deal with matters of law relating to environment and land.

The Liberal Nationals will carefully consider any proposal to amend legislation that seek to improve the assessment of the potential environmental impacts, or effects, of a proposed development and the observance of an effects statement once it has been produced.

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