

## **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 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 1 - Party Response:**

Sustainable Australia supports Environment Victoria's agenda to make Victoria a leader on clean energy by embracing opportunities to drive renewable energy and phase out fossil fuels.

Our environment policy states that:

"Australia should prioritise ecological sustainability and better protect, manage and restore its fragile and unique natural environment, not only for the health and wellbeing of the humans and biodiversity within it, but for its own intrinsic worth."

In particular you will find the following in our Environment, Energy and Transport policies:

Contribute to staying below 1.5 degrees global temperature rise compared to pre-industrial levels (3), by lowering Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80 per cent and up to 100 per cent below 2000 levels by 2050. This should include:

- Funding and subsidising research and development into renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency initiatives.
- Adopting a renewable energy target (RET) of at least 50 per cent by 2030, and up to 100 per cent by 2050.
- Imposing a moratorium on all new export-based coal mines in Australia.
- Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies

More information here: [www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/environment](http://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/environment)

Australia should develop an energy supply that is smart, affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally sustainable, including:

- Empowering Australian consumers to manage and reduce their energy use through the provision of consumer-friendly smart meters providing real time energy usage information.
- Progressing towards using a predominantly renewable energy supply
- Empowering Australian consumers to choose and use distributed (non-centralised) energy systems including solar photovoltaic (PV), micro wind and ground source heat pumps, supported by battery storage.
- Fully assessing pumped hydroelectric energy storage opportunities.

More information here: [www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/energy](http://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/energy)

Australian governments should prioritise the most ecologically sustainable and congestion-free public and private transport systems.

More information here: [www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/transport](http://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/transport)

## **Focus 2 - Party Response:**

Sustainable Australia supports Environment Victoria's agenda ensure that Victorians benefit from the shift to clean energy and that communities and workers are supported as Victoria transitions to a sustainable future, including through our education policy, which states that "Australia should provide an affordable, world class education system that gives all Australians the skills and attributes they need to secure jobs and flourish in society." To help achieve this Australia should:

- Better link education outcomes to contemporary secure job opportunities and employer needs.
- Maintain, and where needed increase, funding for public schools.
- Prioritise needs-based education funding as well as teacher and principal quality across the primary and secondary education system.
- Maintain and enhance comprehensive sustainability and environmental education programs in school curricula.
- Better invest in university and institutional science and technology research and development to enhance Australia's creativity, innovation and productivity.

More information here: [www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/education](http://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/education)

You will also find more information in our Jobs & Economy policy:

[www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/jobs](http://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/jobs)

### 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

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##### *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

##### *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

### Focus 3 - Party Response:

Sustainable Australia supports Environment Victoria's agenda to strengthen, reform and enhance the laws and policies that protect Victoria's natural systems and precious flora and fauna.

Please refer to previously highlighted environment policy here: [www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/environment](http://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/environment)

Our Animals & Biodiversity policy outlines key policies to better protect Australia's animal welfare and biodiversity including:

- Adopting a properly enforced national biodiversity and native species program. This should include:
  - Widespread urban, rural and marine animal habitat protection;
  - Stronger laws to [prevent inappropriate tree-clearing](#);
  - Stronger laws to prevent the depopulation and eventual extinction of threatened, vulnerable and endangered native species, including through the proposed [Koala Protection Act](#);
  - North-South and East-West wildlife corridors; and
  - Humane reduction and eradication programs for high-risk feral species.
- Better protecting animal habitats, including through a relatively stable and sustainable human population (and related land-clearing) in Australia.

More information here: [www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/animals\\_biodiversity](http://www.sustainableaustralia.org.au/animals_biodiversity)

Priority policies are indicated in **bold**