

Emission Reduction Targets MP meeting Pack

First of all, congratulations and thank you for signing up to meet your local MP!

Right now, Victoria's Labor state government is deciding its targets to cut climate pollution for the coming years. They've received recommendations for their targets that just aren't strong enough. We can be sure they're hearing from big polluting companies that own the power stations – so it's crucial that they hear from you too!

This information pack is to help you prepare for your meeting.

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1. MP meeting checklist

Here's what preparing for and having a great MP meeting involves.

Have you done these things in this order?

- Confirmed the time and place of your MP meeting and put it in your diary?
- Familiarised yourself with the campaign context in **section 2** of this pack?
- Made sure you're comfortable with the lobbying asks in **section 2** of this Pack?
- Made sure you're comfortable with the Dos and Don'ts in **section 3** of this Pack?
- Prepared your personal story as set out in **section 4** of this Pack?
- Prepared your research on your MP as set out in **section 5** of this Pack?
- Made a plan to get to your MP meeting 15 minutes early?
- Sent an email to Laura l.melville@environmentvictoria.org.au to debrief
- Send a follow-up email to the MP the next day to say thanks and summarise?

Questions? Contact Laura Melville on 0475 746 490 or l.melville@environmentvictoria.org.au.

2. Campaign Context

About Environment Victoria

Environment Victoria is an independent charity, funded by donations. Established in 1969, we've grown into a community of 40 grassroots member groups and more than 100,000 individual supporters.

Together we're campaigning to solve the climate crisis and build a thriving, sustainable society that protects and values nature.

About Victoria's emission reduction targets?

The Victorian *Climate Change Act 2017* enshrines a legislated target for the state to get to zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. It requires the Premier and the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change to set interim emission reduction targets for the years 2025 and 2030. This will set the tone for all the actions we take in the next ten years to cut emissions and transition the economy so it is vital that these targets are consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

The government must announce these targets by March next year.

1.5 vs 2 degree targets

Last year, the Government commissioned an independent panel, headed by Greg Combet, to provide advice on emissions reduction targets. This report acknowledged the dramatically different impacts between 1.5 vs 2 degrees of global warming, yet failed to recommend targets consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Consequences by 2100 ¹ (These are just some climate impacts, there are many more not considered here)	1.5C	2C
Possibility of ice-free Arctic summer	10%	80%
Number of people exposed to water scarcity	271 million	388 million
Global per capita GDP losses	-8%	-13%
Coral reef losses ²	70-90%	Completely lost

Recommended targets:

Based on analysis conducted by Environment Victoria to play our part in limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, Victoria's emissions reduction targets must be:

- 45-50% from 2005 levels by 2025, &
- 65-80% by 2030.

For context, Victoria is on track to have reduced emissions from 2005 levels by 20%. Mostly because the Hazelwood power station stopped polluting and was replaced by clean energy.

¹https://interactive.carbonbrief.org/impacts-climate-change-one-point-five-degrees-two-degrees/?utm_source=web&utm_campaign=Redirect#

² https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf

The Combet panel's own analysis indicated that a 67% reduction in emissions by 2030 would be necessary to be consistent with a 1.5 degree limit, yet their recommendations (45-60% cuts by 2030) fell well short of this.

What will higher targets mean for Victoria?

The level of ambition set in these targets will flow down to every decision the government and wider Victorian community makes on climate for the next ten years.

Next year, government Ministers will need to announce 'sector pledges,' which will determine how each sector of the economy will reduce emissions. High targets will mean more investment in renewables, more support for farmers to cut agricultural emissions, more public transport and more new clean technology coming to our state.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says every bit of warming matters. Every year matters. Every choice matters.

The Andrews government has a very important choice to make.

What We're Asking For

We will ask every MP to do *both* of the following and will tell our supporters if they gave a \sqrt or a x.

1. *To put their support behind emission reduction targets that are consistent with doing our bit to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.*

→ *If they agree to this we will ask them to take a photo with a sign that says "I'll lead the drive for less than 1.5"*

2. *Become a champion for emission reduction targets consistent with 1.5 degrees within Caucus and to your colleagues in Cabinet.*

Why We're Asking for it

Because Victoria is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. Our farmers are dealing with long, harsh droughts and changing rainfall patterns; communities across the state are at risk of ever-worsening bushfires; heatwaves are becoming more deadly. And unless we make big changes soon, it's only going to get worse.

Victoria can be a state of thriving clean industries, glorious nature and strong, resilient communities long into the future, but only if we take strong action right now, helping to create an example that other states and countries can match.

Every Victorian Labor MP can influence this decision so we need them to become champions for protecting the climate and setting strong emission reduction targets.

3. The Dos and Don'ts of Effective Lobbying

Do...

- **Do your homework.** What is their role in their party? What has the MP said about this in the past? What is their personal/professional background? What do you have in common?
- **Explain why this is important to you personally.** Is it so your kids can have safe future? Is it because you are excited about renewables? Have solar panels reduced your power bills? Nine times out of ten, this personal story is the only thing that the MP will remember from the meeting.
- **Connect it back to their electorate.** Talk about campaign work you've done in *their* electorate. Where have you campaigned? How many of their constituents have you spoken to? What impacts will your area face because of climate change?
- **Be short and succinct.** Don't talk for too long — aim for a 50-50 balance between you talking and the MP talking. Make sure you ask them questions and listen to their answer.
- **Be accurate.** Don't exaggerate or guess. Don't feel like you have to know everything, either – it's fine to not have all the answers at your fingertips.
- **Clearly ask them for support, and listen to their answer.** Ask them, short and sharp, and make sure they answer. Write down their answer and tell them you'll relay it back to their constituents.
- **If they refuse, ask them why.** Don't argue with them, but make sure you ask them to give reasons for their refusal, so we can explain their position to their constituents.
- **Follow up.** Send the MP a thankyou email the next day, with a reminder of things that both you and they committed to in the meeting. Thank them for meeting with you.

Don't

- **Lose your cool.** Don't get angry in a meeting with an MP – it only hurts our cause. Don't ever yell, swear, threaten or argue. Always be calm, measured and polite. Some MPs would love to stereotype activists who care about the environment and it's critical we don't let them.
- **Have an argument.** Arguing with your MP will only lock them further into a bad position. Instead, try asking them questions like, "why do you think that?", or "have you thought about..." or "would you consider..." to try and shift them to a new perspective.
- **Confuse your roles/purpose.** We are here as EV representatives to talk about an EV campaign. Don't stray off topic. In particular, stay totally non-partisan at all times.
- **Let them divide you.** It's vital for all of our people to maintain a united voice throughout the meeting. Don't disagree with each other. Follow each other's lead.
- **Let them divert you.** Some MPs love to divert constituents by asking them to do research, or grilling them on policy detail. Don't let them – it's not your job to be a policy expert, and it's not your job to go away and do their homework. Don't let them waste your time.
- **Let them dodge the question.** Waffling, changing the subject, answering your question with another question, saying they'll get back to you – these are all favourite MP tricks to avoid.
- **Let them swear you to secrecy.** You are representing hundreds of their constituents who will want to hear about this meeting, directly and in the media. Don't undertake to keep the meeting confidential unless you absolutely have to.

4. Your Personal Story

Who are you? Where are you from? What do you do for a living?

Why have you chosen to get involved in this campaign?

What campaigning have you and others done in your community?

What have people in your community been saying about climate and clean energy? (Quotes if possible)

5. Your MP profile

Who is your MP?

What electorate do they represent? What is that area like?

What portfolios do they hold?

What is their personal/professional background?

Do you share any common ground with them?

What have they said on environmental issues in the past?

6. The Strategy for your Meeting

Who is attending your meeting?



Person attending: _____

Time and place: _____

What is the context for this MP meeting? What did you say when you requested the meeting?

What are we trying to achieve with this MP? Turn them into a champion within parliament? Or simply communicate the depth of support in their electorate?

What special things (if any) do we need to do?

7. Checklist to bring to the meeting:

- Sign for photo
 → Download and print from [here >>](#)
- Climate target explainer for MP

→ Download and print from [here](#)>

8. MP Conversation Plan

N.B. This may have to vary for individual meetings

What	Who	How Long	Purpose
Connection <i>(try and establish a rapport with your MP)</i>			
Introduce EV the organisation		1 minute	
Introduce yourself; explain why this is important to you personally		5-10 minutes	Establish personal connection; tell them a story they will remember
Context <i>(try and build agreement around the problem – environment policy needs to be stronger)</i>			
Go through the campaign context		5 minutes	Outline the problem
Are you doing any campaigning locally they would be interested in? E.g collecting petitions.		10 minutes	Show them our power; tell them a story that they'll remember
Commitment <i>(try and build agreement around the solution(s) – our two key policy asks)</i>			
Explain what we're asking for and why		5 minutes	Outline the solution
Ask: "Will you support EV's targets in caucus?" Listen to their answer, ask questions about it		10 minutes	Get their support!
Catapult <i>(try and get them to do something right away to demonstrate their support)</i>			
Will you write to your party leader in support? (we'll email to follow up) Will you speak in Parliament in support?		5 minutes	Get them to commit to something right away, to prove it
Take a photo! With a sign that says: "I lead the drive for 1.5"		2 minutes	To show our supporters and media!
TOTAL		45 minutes	

9. Post meeting report back to EV:

- Send photo by email to Laura at Environment Victoria and include the names of the people in the photo (l.melville@environmentvictoria.org.au)
- Include a few sentences about the meeting:
 - did they commit to support EV's targets?
 - did they tell you how they feel about climate change more generally?
 - Did they commit to talk to their colleagues in caucus and cabinet?
 - Did they tell you anything interesting?
 - Did you commit to do anything else?

10. Template Follow-up Email to MP

Adapt this email with your own personal tone and to reflect what you spoke about in your meeting

SUBJECT: Thanks for meeting with us yesterday

TO: __[your MP's email address]__

CC: l.melville@environmentvictoria.org.au

"Dear _____,

I just wanted to say thanks for meeting with me yesterday to discuss our campaign to ensure Victoria's emissions reduction targets are ambitious.

It was great to meet you and to have the chance to tell you about the volunteer work we are doing in the community, and what the people we have spoken to want from their state government.

*It was also great to learn more about your position on climate change and Victoria's Emission Reduction Targets. **[Be specific here – if they supported you, thank them for it; if they opposed you, go through the reasons they gave.]** We will be sure to relay your position on this back to our supporters and others in the community.*

Thanks also for committing to:

- ***[include dot points reminding them what they committed to support/do/follow up]***

Please don't hesitate to contact me at this address, if you would like to discuss these matters further.

Kind regards

_____."