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VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION

Clean Energy For All Policy Tracker

Analysing the Labor, Coalition and Greens election policy commitments against Environment Victoria's Clean Energy For All policy platform.



ANALYSIS OF LABOR CLIMATE & ENERGY ELECTION COMMITMENTS

The following analysis compares Labor's election policy commitments with Environment Victoria's [Clean Energy For All policy platform](#). You will find the Labor election policy platform [here](#) and you can find a recording of Minister for Environment and Climate Action, Minister for Energy, and Minister for Solar Homes Lily D'Ambrosio discussing the platform with Environment Victoria supporters in a webinar held on 14 November [here](#).

Summary

Over the past eight years the Andrews government has continually raised the bar for climate ambition among the big mainland states and they are promising to keep doing so if re-elected. Their election promises amount to the most ambitious and comprehensive plan in the country, to transition an emissions-intensive economy to one powered by clean, renewable energy. Labor's 2035 emissions targets will shift the national conversation beyond low-hanging fruit to the challenges of deep decarbonisation. This is a profound contribution to climate action.

That said, and noting that the Commonwealth also has a significant role to play alongside the state government, Labor's targets still fall short of what is required for Victoria to play its part in helping Australia deliver on its commitment to the Paris Agreement. It does not reflect what the International Energy Agency and the United Nations have advised is needed to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees, which includes phasing out coal power in advanced economies by 2030.

Whilst a revised State Electricity Commission is a welcome move, the Latrobe Valley community also deserves a comprehensive rehabilitation strategy for the three enormous coal mines. It's not acceptable for the community to be left with enormous fenced off parcels of land that no-one can utilise, or rivers and the Gippsland lakes deprived of precious water for decades to come. For decades the Latrobe Valley has paid the price for powering Victoria with its health and with its environment. A re-elected Labor government should tackle mine rehabilitation and environmental justice in Latrobe Valley with the same boldness it has taken in bringing back the SEC.

Top 3 best and worst Labor policies on Clean Energy For All, according to Environment Victoria:

THE BEST

1. 95% renewables by 2035.

Labor's plan means the end of polluting coal power generation in Victoria. Importantly it's backed by plans to build enough wind, solar and batteries to keep the lights on and power prices down.

2. 75-80% emissions cuts by 2035.

These targets are among the best in the world and shift the conversation beyond low-hanging fruit to the challenges of deep decarbonisation – a profound development.

3. Revitalised SEC.

A revived State Electricity Commission could be a powerful tool to reshape Victoria's energy system and ensure that, from here on, the energy transition is both fast and fair.

THE WORST

1. A lot of work needed to improve community engagement on transmission.

There is significant community confusion, tension and anxiety regarding the route of transmission lines in Victoria. The Victorian Transmission Infrastructure Framework coordinated by VicGrid is a welcome step towards community engagement. We note, however, that VTIF only applies to Renewable Energy Zones and does not apply retrospectively to transmission proposals that have either commenced or concluded relevant regulatory processes.

2. No commitments to environmental justice in Latrobe Valley regarding mine rehabilitation.

The original SEC helped dig the mines, and we'd like to see the same kind of bold commit to environmental justice in Latrobe Valley as there is for a revitalised SEC.

3. No renewable energy industrial precincts.

We'd love for Labor to make an announcement on renewable energy industrial precincts – solar and storage opportunities to connect industrial areas to renewables – to round-out their commitment to making renewable energy and storage available for homes.

EMISSIONS REDUCTION

What we need	Labor	Comments
Emissions reduction targets (ERT) of 65-80% by 2030 and 100% by 2035	New ERT of 75-80% by 2035; new net zero ERT brought forward to 2045.	Labor’s targets represent some of the most ambitious in the world, raising the bar and putting pressure on other jurisdictions here and overseas to lift their game. They shift the conversation beyond low-hanging fruit to the challenges of deep decarbonisation. Not only is this a significant contribution to the global climate fight, it positions Victoria as a great place to invest in a rapidly decarbonising global economy.

POWER VICTORIA WITH 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2030

What we need	Labor	Comments
100% renewables by 2030	<p>Increase renewable energy targets to 65% by 2030, and 95% by 2035.</p> <p>\$75 million for offshore wind development including establishing new government body Offshore Wind Energy Victoria.</p> <p>Revive State Electricity Commission (SEC) by investing an initial \$1billion to deliver 4.5GW renewable generated power. SEC will become ‘an energy market proponent’ under a 10 year plan to deliver cleaner, cheaper energy with all profits invested back into the network.</p> <p>Existing policy includes a target to build 2GW offshore wind power generation by 2032, and 9GW by 2040.</p>	<p>Labor’s revised renewable energy targets mean the end of coal power generation in Victoria. Importantly, the targets are not merely aspirational – they are supported by plans to build sufficient renewable generation (including the government’s commitment to develop Australia’s first an offshore wind farms), transmission and the nation’s biggest storage target. This is a massive step forward for a state that currently relies on coal for around two thirds of our power.</p> <p>A revived SEC could be a powerful tool to reshape Victoria’s energy system and ensure that from here on, the energy transition is both fast and fair. The corporations that own Victoria’s coal power stations have made enormous profits whilst actively delaying our transition to renewables and making energy increasingly unaffordable for Victorians. They have been able to get away with this because of their enormous market power in the delivery of an essential service we all depend on. Whether the SEC can effectively challenge this power will depend on the scope and functions it is given – details which Labor says they will consult stakeholders on after the election.</p> <p>Whilst Labor’s plan is ambitious, it is not in line with what International Energy Agency and the UN advise is needed to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees – that is, ending coal in advanced economies by 2030. However, as noted above, responsibility for achieving this goal does not sit with the state government alone.</p>

What we need	Labor	Comments
<p>No new gas</p>	<p>In government, Labor banned fracking and Coal Seam Gas in the Victorian Constitution but lifted the moratorium on all other methods of gas extraction in 2020 subsequent to Victorian Gas Program research. Since then, Labor has not ruled out issuing permits for new gas exploration or extraction nor has it explicitly ruled out to coal-to-hydrogen development. They have, however, unequivocally stated that gas (and coal) fired electricity would not be used in any Victorian adopted capacity mechanism.</p> <p>Existing policy includes the Gas Substitution Roadmap (more on this below), the first of its kind on Australia, which sets out their commitment to decarbonise the gas sector by either substituting gas for electrification across all sectors, or, using alternative gas where electrification is not possible.</p>	<p>Whilst Labor's is not aggressively spruiking new gas developments, a Labor government hasn't ruled out new exploration, extraction or import terminals, all of which are potentially damaging to the local environment and our climate. This is disappointing. The time for new fossil fuel developments is well and truly over.</p> <p>Even if Labor isn't willing to ban new gas developments, it could do more to reduce the market demand by including targets and timelines for electrifying the state in its promised update of the Roadmap in 2023. Setting targets and timelines for electrifying the state would send a powerful market signal to gas companies that investment in new gas extraction is financially risky.</p> <p>Finally, whilst it is pleasing that Labor's preference is to see a renewable hydrogen industry developed, the fact is that coal-to-hydrogen will remain on the table unless it is unequivocally ruled out. This is making planning for economic transition and mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley harder. The Latrobe Valley doesn't need anymore companies and investors championing the use of coal to develop hydrogen. An unequivocal ban on coal-to-hydrogen would enable people and businesses to get on with building the post-coal economy.</p>
<p>Accelerate transmission and distribution infrastructure</p>	<p>Existing policy includes development of VicGrid to oversee electricity connectivity in Renewable Energy Zones. Prior to the government going into caretaker mode, the Victorian and Federal governments announced agreements under the national Rewiring the Nation initiative which would fast track the construction the VNI interconnector between NSW and Victoria, and for to Victoria contribute 20% of project equity (with the federal and Tasmanian governments) for the Marinus Link interconnector between Victoria and Tasmania.</p>	<p>State contribution of funding for VNI and Marinus interconnectors will be crucial to making important transmission connections across state lines. This will provide certainty and instil confidence for renewable energy generation and storage investors that they can connect their proposals to the national grid. This is great news for developers and investors who want to build large-scale renewable energy generation facilities or grid-scale batteries.</p>
<p>Increase Victoria's energy storage capacity</p>	<p>Labor will legislate a Victorian energy storage target of at least 2.6GW of storage capacity by 2030, and at least 6.3GW of storage capacity by 2035.</p> <p>Also see below regarding community battery announcement.</p>	<p>Storage is one of the key planks in a renewable electricity grid and a storage target is a great way to ensure enough of it will be built in time for the closure of Victoria's coal power stations. If implemented, Labor's promised storage target would give Victoria the most ambitious storage plan in the country.</p>

What we need	Labor	Comments
<p>Develop community engagement framework for energy infrastructure planning</p>	<p>Existing engagement frameworks includes the Victorian Transmission Investment Framework (VTIF) with respect to developments in Renewable Energy Zones, coordinated by VicGrid.</p>	<p>To date, transmission line planning and community engagement has been poor, especially in western Victoria, resulting in significant community backlash that threatens to delay Victoria’s energy transition. And there is significant community confusion about which companies are proposing what projects, what role government agencies have, and how all the proposals and development applications are being coordinated to achieve benefits for the community.</p> <p>The VTIF coordinated by VicGrid is a welcome step towards community engagement. We note, however, that VTIF only applies to Renewable Energy Zones and does not apply retrospectively to transmission proposals that have either commenced or concluded relevant regulatory processes. These include major transmission projects such as the Western Renewable Link, Marinus Link, and Victoria-NSW Interconnector which have been flagged by the Australian Electricity Market Operator as essential to the energy transition, and for which the Victorian government made commitments to financially support (see above). Additionally, the VTIF only appears to apply to transmission infrastructure. It doesn’t include coordination of community engagement on energy infrastructure planning, including generation and storage.</p> <p>Environment Victoria’s view is that we need a comprehensive, overarching community engagement strategy for energy infrastructure planning that includes both private and public projects, companies, agencies, and investors. The community division regarding the Western Renewables Link, for example, was facilitated by private actors not being subject to comprehensive community engagement obligations.</p> <p>We see a very clear role for the next government to develop a community engagement framework and lead on community engagement in areas where transmission, energy generation and storage is proposed regardless of where and who is proposing it. This engagement must prioritise free prior and informed consent processes with First Nations communities, and must treat the community generally as a legitimate stakeholder in the energy transition rollout.</p>

What we need	Labor	Comments
Expand virtual power plants	Solar Homes included a pilot program for virtual power plants .	Virtual power plants are an important part of the energy transition to ensure the benefits of household and neighbourhood batteries is maximised. It will be important that a returned Labor government monitor the success of their pilot and take additional steps to drive the take-up of VPPs if required.

SUPPORT FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS – WHETHER YOU RENT, OWN, OR LIVE IN SOCIAL HOUSING – TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND GO ALL ELECTRIC

What we need	Labor	Comments
Get houses and small businesses off gas, including a comprehensive package of support for renters and low-income households to replace gas appliances with efficient electric appliances	<p>The Gas Substitution Roadmap outlines how Victoria will increasingly electrify homes and businesses. It's in its infancy, but for the moment it says it will expand on the Victorian Energy Upgrades scheme with rebates and new incentives for electric appliances (e.g. heat pumps); phase out incentives for fossil gas residential appliances by the end of 2023; retire the 6-star new home construction and introduce 7-star efficiency standards (already done); and emphasises facilitating significant private investment in hydrogen and 'renewable gasses' as a transition fuel to assist industry that can't readily electrify.</p> <p>The government also has a Heating and Cooling Upgrades program that offers owner-occupiers, landlords and community housing organisations rebates for replacing gas, electric and wood heaters with energy efficient reverse-cycle air conditioners.</p>	<p>With the development of the Gas Substitution Roadmap, Labor has initiated what will be a very significant transition for Victoria, breaking our addiction to fossil gas. With the exception of the ACT, no Australian state or territory has yet bitten off this challenge.</p> <p>We note that the Roadmap got under the skin of the fossil gas industry, a sign that some of Australia's biggest climate blockers know their days are numbered under a Victorian Labor government.</p> <p>Whilst the roadmap provides a systematic analysis of the challenge, it lacks clear targets and timelines. Nor has it been accompanied by the scale of investment we need to tackle the mammoth task of electrifying Victoria's 2 million gas-connected homes. Labor has promised to update the roadmap early in its term if re-elected but we don't know if and when they will commit to a clear timeline for getting off gas.</p>
Increase Solar Homes remit and incentives to include solar and storage packages for household electrification for all	<p>Current Solar Homes policy is: \$1.3B over 2018-2028 for approximately 780,000 installations solar installations; rebates up to \$1.4K for solar and up to \$3K for battery; Households only eligible for one rebate so must choose solar or batteries; and an allocation 100K installations for rental properties.</p> <p>Otherwise, no specific announcement regarding Solar Homes at 15 November.</p>	<p>The Solar Homes program is a great initiative. We would love to see the program expanded, the amount of solar and battery packages increased, and additional incentives made available to help people who don't own their homes, live in apartments, or rely on community and social housing, to have access to solar and storage.</p>

What we need	Labor	Comments
<p>Expand community storage solutions to bring low income households and renters into the renewables roll-out</p>	<p>\$42 million commitment for 100 neighbourhood batteries to be installed with the location of the first 28 already identified.</p> <p>See also Labor's introduction of a Victorian energy storage target.</p> <p>Former policy includes the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative.</p>	<p>An additional 100 neighbourhood batteries will assist those who cannot readily install batteries in their homes to take advantage of electricity generated by renewables.</p> <p>Our understanding from Labor is that the initial 28 locations identified to receive neighbourhood batteries were chosen for their high penetration of solar PV, and those that hadn't received a battery under the previous Neighbourhood Battery Initiative. This will significantly contribute to ensuring that the batteries will soak up excess solar generated in those neighbourhoods during the day, and contribute to the availability of electricity for the whole grid (if properly connected) – including everyone who doesn't have solar and batteries connected to their home – during the evening.</p>
<p>Incentivise uptake of zero emissions vehicles by increasing public, private and home charging stations</p>	<p>Existing policy includes Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap which includes \$19 million to increase installation of charging infrastructure and grants to 14 organisations to install charging infrastructure at their premises.</p>	<p>An important factor in growing community appetite for electric vehicles is to make sure that there is enough charging capacity in metropolitan, regional and rural parts of the state. We want to see Labor commit to supporting installation of charging infrastructure in all commercial premises, inner-city parking buildings, in petrol stations, and of course in our homes.</p> <p>The question regarding the necessity for increasing availability of charging infrastructure creates a chicken-and-egg situation. What comes first: uptake in demand for electric vehicles because people feel comfortable that they can charge anywhere at anytime, or, wait until there's more electric vehicles on the road? Environment Victoria's view is that 'if you build it they will come', so helping people feel secure in their purchase is a good way to incentivise uptake especially if Labor wants to achieve its 50% electric vehicles by 2030 ambition.</p> <p>Labor's premature electric vehicle tax is a handbrake on the rollout of electric vehicles in Victoria and should be delayed.</p>

URGENTLY SCALE UP TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR CAREERS IN TRANSITION AND CLEAN ENERGY

What we need	Labor	Comments
<p>Develop TAFE and university courses to train our new cohort of career power workers</p>	<p>Establish Wind Worker Training Centre: \$6 million for purpose-built training centre for on and offshore wind workers (Melbourne and Ballarat).</p> <p>Invest up to \$170 million TAFE campuses, which includes \$50 million Clean Energy Fund to support Gippsland, South West and Federation TAFEs with 'range of initiatives focused on renewables energy jobs' including \$6 million for the Asia Pacific Renewable Energy Training Centre at Federation TAFE to deliver specialised courses such as wind turbine maintenance and blade repair.</p> <p>Ensure the 59000 jobs Labor says will be created by revamped SEC includes 6000 apprentice and trainee positions. The SEC would also deliver training and work experience opportunities for high-school students.</p> <p>Existing policy includes the Growing Victoria clean energy workforce initiative which will support free training for electricity workers to transition their skills.</p>	<p>It is well known that we have a skills shortage to deliver on Victoria's renewable energy targets. These announcements, in addition to existing initiatives, should help to close the gap.</p> <p>In addition to training opportunities the Labor party implemented in government, we note that courses in electrotechnology at TAFE, some of which include renewable energy components, are included in the Free TAFE initiative.</p>
<p>Encourage manufacturing of low emissions products in Victoria</p>	<p>Existing initiatives include the \$120 million Victorian Industry Fund which includes \$19 million funding to support manufacturers to invest in renewables energy and zero emissions manufacturing, and help workers transition to advanced manufacturing jobs, and \$7 million for Low-Carbon Manufacturing Grant Program.</p> <p>Labor would apply a 'local content requirement' to state-supported renewable energy projects with a target using at least \$5 billion worth of local context by 2035.</p> <p>See below regarding partnership between Latrobe Valley Authority and Solar Victoria.</p>	<p>Whilst there are other initiatives to help revive Victoria's manufacturing industry, we are concerned that \$120 million isn't enough to give business and investors confidence that Victoria will be a good place to manufacture low emissions technology.</p> <p>Additionally, we'll have to wait for the next update on Offshore Wind Implementation to see what, if any, plans Labor has for supply chain and industry development in this energy space.</p>

What we need	Labor	Comments
<p>Make the Latrobe Valley Authority a statutory body and invest in environmental justice for the Latrobe Valley</p>	<p>In partnership with Latrobe Valley Authority and Solar Victoria, create 130 jobs in Gippsland and Melbourne's south-east. Includes working in hot water manufacturing, solar farm assembly and manufacturing renewable energy batteries.</p> <p>\$20 million to prepare SEC for new role including setting up office in Morwell.</p>	<p>Environment Victoria has been calling for the Latrobe Valley Authority to be made a statutory authority since it was announced, to provide certainty for the community and businesses considering investing in the transition.</p> <p>There is still a lot of general confusion in the Latrobe Valley about how they will be supported in the transition. Although the LVA has been charged with developing a transition plan, this won't be available until 2023 at the earliest.</p> <p>Further, there is significant community concern about what they will be left with after mine rehabilitation is completed. This is a huge and complex problem and we are not convinced that current plans, including turning the mine voids into fenced off, unusable 'lakes' is the environmentally just solution to the problem. We would love to see Labor announce a policy on water availability for mine rehabilitation as a start, and work in partnership with the Latrobe Valley community to ensure that the environmental scars left by coal mining are healed and as accessible to the community as possible. The SEC helped dig the mines; and we'd like to see the same kind of bold commit to environmental justice in Latrobe Valley as there is for a revised SEC.</p>
<p>Establish renewable energy industrial precincts to facilitate renewable manufacturing and build supply chains for goods we need to make the transition to zero emissions</p>	<p>See above regarding the Low-Carbon Manufacturing Grant, and current initiatives for businesses to switch to energy efficient appliances.</p> <p>Otherwise, no announcement at 15 November.</p>	<p>It seems to us that there are two initial places we could create renewable energy industrial precincts: in renewable energy zones, and in local government areas that are zoned for industrial use.</p> <p>In addition to the announcements Labor has made already this election and current government policy on manufacturing and skills development, we'd love for Labor to make an announcement on renewable energy industrial precincts.</p>

ANALYSIS OF COALITION CLIMATE & ENERGY ELECTION COMMITMENTS

The following analysis compares the Coalition's election policy commitments with Environment Victoria's [Clean Energy For All policy platform](#). You can view the Coalition's entire policy platform [here](#) and you can find a recording of Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and shadow Minister for Energy and Renewables David Southwick and Shadow Minister for Environment and Climate Change James Newbury discussing the platform with Environment Victoria supporters in a webinar held on 7 November [here](#).

Summary

Overall the Coalition has come a very long way from its days of attempting to block action on climate change and energy transition in Victoria. We applaud their efforts in making this shift and note that the Coalition has developed its policy without the significant analytical resources of government departments.

But if Victoria is to play its part in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement and position itself to thrive in the global post-carbon economy, further ambition will be required. The Coalition has come a long way, but they've still got a way to go. They have demonstrated no appetite for dealing with Victoria's massive emissions from burning gas and our fleet of petrol and diesel vehicles, and have failed to map out a clear transition off coal. Time is running out to avoid dangerous levels of global warming and we cannot keep kicking the can down the road when it comes to ending Victoria's climate pollution.

Perhaps the most disappointing thing of all is that at the exact moment Australia is suffering catastrophic flooding fuelled by climate change, the Coalition has chosen to stoke a culture war on gas, in full knowledge that their promise to turbocharge gas production will be impossible to implement. This is a deeply cynical move that would only serve to delay Victoria's transition to a clean energy future whilst failing to address the very real cost of living pressures faced by many Victorians.

Top 3 best and worst Coalition policies on Clean Energy For All, according to Environment Victoria:

THE BEST

1. Supporting 1 million households to install solar and batteries.

This is a massive boost for batteries and includes an excellent incentive for landlords to assist renters who right now are being left behind in the transition to renewable energy.

2. Legislating 50% Emissions Reduction Target by 2030.

Massive step forward for a party that fought action on climate for nearly a decade.

3. Up to \$1 million for 100 community solar and batteries.

We love community projects!

THE WORST

1. Their commitment to 'turbocharge' gas.

Despite the Coalition coming incredibly far on climate and energy policy, a key plank of their transition plan is ramping up gas supply for Victoria and treating it as a 'transition' fuel. This is a deeply cynical move that will only serve to delay Victoria's transition to a clean energy future whilst failing to address the very real cost of living pressures faced by many Victorians.

2. Silence on Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET).

The Coalition has not made an announcement on a renewable energy target for Victoria if it forms government, which creates unnecessary uncertainty for renewables investment.

3. The Coalition's failure to make any kind of commitment to the Latrobe Valley.

Mine rehabilitation, the Latrobe Valley Authority, coal closure and transition planning is an enormous gap in their policy platform. The Coalition do not appear to have a transition plan to help Latrobe Valley community transition from coal to a clean, renewable future with comprehensively rehabilitated mines.

EMISSIONS REDUCTION

What we need	Liberal	Comments
Emissions reduction targets of 65-80% by 2030 and 100% by 2035	Supports net zero by 2050 and will legislate emissions reduction targets of 50% by 2030 .	<p>This is a huge step forward for a party that sought to block the passage of the Climate Change Act 2017.</p> <p>Whilst falling short of what is required to play Victoria's part under the Paris Agreement, the Coalition's 2030 target is at least comparable with other major parties and jurisdictions. The question now is, what will their target for 2035 be?</p>

POWER VICTORIA WITH 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2030

What we need	Liberal	Comments
100% renewables by 2030	<p>No commitment to renewable energy targets as at 15 November.</p> <p>However, significant commitment to increasing home solar & batteries as part of the Power to the People Plan (see below).</p>	<p>The Coalition presently has no renewable energy target for Victoria.</p> <p>We need a clear plan to ramp up the roll-out of renewables and storage to phase out coal and gas as soon as possible. We have no assurances, if elected, that the Coalition would retain the Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Act and set ambitious renewable energy targets for 2035</p>
No new gas	<p>'Unlock Vic's Natural Gas Potential' policy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support gas exploration and development, conventional onshore gas exploration and production on a case-by-case basis; • land owners will have right of veto over conventional gas extraction and production; production licence may only be granted with consent of owners; • royalties shared with landowners; • maintain fracking ban, and other 'unconventional' gas extraction; • Victorian Gas for Victorians pledge: new gas reserved for domestic use. <p>Under their Real Solutions Plan the Coalition will legislate for 100% domestic reserve supply of new conventional onshore gas extraction in Victoria within the first 6-months of government.</p>	<p>It is disappointing that the Victorian Coalition is proposing to support new gas extraction and supply instead of supporting homes and businesses to save money, improve their health and cut emissions through electrification.</p> <p>It is also unclear how the Coalition propose to address Victoria's medium term gas supply shortfall whilst keeping prices low and without lifting the fracking ban. The reality is that Victoria doesn't have enough gas within its borders to have any impact on what are essentially globally determined prices.</p>

What we need	Liberal	Comments
<p>Accelerate transmission and distribution infrastructure</p>	<p>The Coalition is promising an alternative route for the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project, which it claims will unlock 1,800MW of renewables in Western Vic.</p> <p>It will also immediately establish a Fixing Victoria's Grid taskforce that partners with industry to develop a plan to modernise our transmission system to make renewables work with a timeline to getting their work done.</p>	<p>In order to take advantage of Victoria's vast renewable resources, our electricity grid must evolve to get power to where it needs to go. To date, transmission line planning and community engagement has been poor, resulting in significant community backlash that threatens to delay Victoria's energy transition.</p> <p>The Coalition hasn't released the figures to support their claim that 1,800 megawatts of renewables will be unlocked by their rerouted western transmission line. However this directions paper states that the western renewable link could enable up to 1200 megawatts of renewable projects above existing amounts, and according to AEMO there is currently 600 megawatts of renewables currently proposed for the region. So 1,800 megawatts is possible based on the information we have available. There are still questions regarding the Coalition's proposed timeframe for construction and connectivity, and how to navigate extra costs caused by delays and social licence issues.</p> <p>We also don't know if the Coalition will maintain the co-funding agreement with the Federal government under Rewiring the Nation for the VNI link and 20% of Marinus link with the Federal government if its elected. Or, whether a Victorian Coalition government will commit to funding the Renewable Energy Zones by at least \$540 million, and maintain VicGrid.</p>

What we need	Liberal	Comments
<p>Increase Victoria's energy storage capacity</p>	<p>The Power to the People Plan (see below) promises rebates for up to 1 million household batteries which would, if achieved, massively increase the state's storage capacity.</p> <p>The Coalition has also announced \$100 million for community organisations to access grants of up to \$1 million as part of a Net Zero Renewables Community Projects Fund to install solar panels, big batteries and 'other supporting infrastructure'.</p>	<p>The Coalition's support for household batteries will make a significant contribution to increasing storage in the state. We'd love to see any estimates and modelling, and/or targets from the Coalition on the total capacity of storage both the Power to the People Plan and Net Zero Renewables Community Projects Fund will contribute.</p> <p>We'd love to see the Coalition commit to community storage incentives to support neighborhood batteries. These would help people who can't install solar and batteries in their homes to access renewable energy generated from surrounding solar.</p> <p>We would also urge the Coalition to announce a comprehensive storage policy.</p> <p>Matthew Guy has said that the Labor promise of a storage target was "not a bad suggestion" but the Coalition has otherwise been silent on whether it will introduce a renewable energy storage target let alone what that might be.</p>
<p>Develop community engagement framework for energy infrastructure planning</p>	<p>No policy announcement at 15 November.</p>	<p>Although the Coalition has not yet announced a community engagement framework for energy infrastructure planning, one would hope the Fixing Victoria's Grid taskforce addresses this critical gap and we urge the Coalition to do so.</p>
<p>Expand virtual power plants</p>	<p>No policy announcement at 15 November.</p>	<p>Virtual power plants are an important part of the storage mix to ensure the benefits of household batteries is maximised. The Coalition's huge commitment to subsidising up to 1 million home batteries will be a missed opportunity if it isn't coupled with support for virtual power plants.</p>

SUPPORT FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS – WHETHER YOU RENT, OWN, OR LIVE IN SOCIAL HOUSING – TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND GO ALL ELECTRIC

What we need	Liberal	Comments
<p>Get houses and small businesses off gas, including a comprehensive package of support for renters and low-income households to replace gas appliances with efficient electric appliances</p>	<p>No policy announcement at 15 November.</p>	<p>It is disappointing that the Coalition seems determined to prolong gas use in Victoria, exposing households and businesses to increasing costs, ongoing health risks and missing a huge opportunity to cut Victoria’s emissions and seize our place in the global post-carbon economy.</p> <p>Though it seems unlikely given the Coalition’s strong position on gas, we’d love them to commit to maintaining the Gas Substitution Roadmap, including completing the update scheduled for 2023 if they form government.</p>
<p>Increase Solar Homes remit and incentives to include solar and storage packages to support household electrification for all</p>	<p>Power to the People Plan commits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 million homes with rebates of up to \$1.4K for solar installation and up to \$3K for battery installation; • Households eligible for both rebates, which equals up to \$4.4k combined package; • Double rebate for rental properties to incentivise landlords (up to \$8.8k), supporting 100K rental households; • Add solar panels across public infrastructure, leading with schools and social housing. <p>The Power to the People Plan also includes a Coalition commitment to batteries and solar for community organisations throughout Victoria of up to \$1 million (see above).</p>	<p>The Coalition’s Power to the People Plan builds on Victoria’s existing strength as a rooftop solar powerhouse, promising to turn us into the home battery capital of the nation. Importantly, it seeks to address a huge weak spot in current policy, where landlords have little incentive to install solar and batteries, leaving Victoria’s growing community of renters locked out of the benefits of cheap clean energy. Installing solar on social housing is also an important step in ensuring everyone is brought along in the energy transition.</p> <p>We’d love to know if a Coalition government would maintain and/or enhancing incentives to help Victorians upgrade to energy efficient appliances under programs similar to the Victorian Energy Upgrade program, and programs for upgrading heating and cooling for owner-occupiers, renters, and community housing organisations.</p>
<p>Expand community storage solutions to bring low income households and renters into the renewables roll-out</p>	<p>See above regarding Net Zero Renewables Community Projects Fund for community organisations to install solar panels, big batteries and ‘other supporting infrastructure’.</p>	<p>We welcome the Coalition’s commitment regarding Net Zero Renewables Community Projects Fund. We appreciate that if implemented, the Fund will support charities, sporting clubs, senior centres and scout halls to get off gas and coal-generated power. We also urge the Coalition to expand their Power to the People plan to include community storage incentives to ensure low-income households and renters benefit from the renewables revolution.</p>

<p>Incentivise uptake of zero emissions vehicles by increasing public, private and home charging stations</p>	<p>Announced \$50M Community Charging Fund to co-fund 600 electric vehicle charging stations. The Coalition would also 'pause' the electric vehicle tax introduced by the Labor government.</p>	<p>The Coalition's commitments regarding electric vehicles clearly indicates its commitment to incentivising uptake of electric vehicles by ensuring necessary charging infrastructure is in place. An additional 600 charging stations is a good step.</p>
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URGENTLY SCALE UP TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR CAREERS IN TRANSITION AND CLEAN ENERGY

What we need	Liberal	Comments
<p>Develop TAFE and university courses to train our new cohort of career power workers</p>	<p>No policy announcement at 15 November.</p>	<p>At present the Coalition has no plan to ensure we have the experts and technicians to support an ambitious renewable energy transition. If anything, their current policies aren't ambitious enough to warrant significant investment in skills and training. Although they've come far in their commitment to addressing the climate crisis they are still well behind on the scale and ambition needed.</p>
<p>Encourage manufacturing of low emissions products in Victoria</p>	<p>\$2.5 billion for Rebuilding Jobs, Bringing Manufacturing Home program to 'return Victoria's status as the engine room of Australian manufacturing by focussing on priority areas of strategic importance for the future, including ... clean energy, zero emissions and recycling'.</p> <p>This includes an industry-lead 'Manufacturing Excellence Taskforce' and \$1 billion to be invested in Regional Victoria, to include clean energy, zero emissions and recycling.</p>	<p>We love to see commitments to Victorian manufacturing, especially when such commitments refer to clean energy, zero emissions and recycling as being a priority area of strategic importance. We look forward to more detail on what opportunities the Coalition sees in developing clean energy and zero emissions manufacturing in Victoria, and what regional Victorian communities might expect in their areas.</p>
<p>Make the Latrobe Valley Authority a statutory body and invest in environmental justice for the Latrobe Valley</p>	<p>No policy announcement at 15 November.</p>	<p>Despite MP Melina Bath's strong advocacy for Latrobe Valley workers including initiating an Inquiry into the Closure of Hazelwood and Yallourn, the Coalition is yet to release policy commitments explicit to the Latrobe Valley energy transition, worker transition, or mine rehabilitation. This is a big policy gap, especially given that two of the three remaining power stations have announced closure dates within the next 12 years.</p> <p>At our Morwell candidate's forum on 2 November (which neither Liberal or National candidates attended), most questions from the audience started with 'we feel ignored and left behind'. The Coalition's silence on its plans for the Latrobe Valley must be taken in this context. For a seat as marginal as this one, with all the potential opportunities and developments the Coalition could support for the community, they have opted to say nothing.</p>

What we need	Liberal	Comments
<p>Establish renewable energy industrial precincts to facilitate renewable manufacturing and build supply chains for goods we need to make the transition to zero emissions</p>	<p>See above regarding the Coalition's 'Rebuilding Jobs Bringing Manufacturing Home' commitment.</p>	<p>It seems to us that there are two initial places we could create renewable energy industrial precincts: in renewable energy zones, and in local government areas that are zoned for industrial use.</p> <p>The Coalition is currently silent specifically on any intention it has to facilitate renewable energy industrial precincts, noting that some detail may emerge on this in their 'Rebuilding Jobs and Brining Manufacturing Home' commitment.</p> <p>We look forward to more detail on what opportunities the Coalition sees in developing renewable energy industrial precincts.</p>

ANALYSIS OF GREENS CLIMATE & ENERGY ELECTION COMMITMENTS

The following analysis compares the Greens' election policy commitments with Environment Victoria's [Clean Energy For All policy platform](#).

You will find the Greens' election climate policy platform [in this document](#) and their entire election policy platform [here](#) and you can find a recording of Greens spokesperson for Climate and Energy Ellen Sandell discussing the platform with Environment Victoria supporters in a webinar held on 8 November [here](#).

Summary

The Greens' policy platform mostly addresses what Environment Victoria thinks is necessary to achieve Clean Energy For All. We acknowledge that this work has been done without the resources of large Ministerial advisory offices and government Departments, and applaud the Greens for having the policy costed by the Parliamentary Budget Office. In fact, their policy platform was clearly informed by climate science and the requirements of social justice, reflecting the urgency required for Victoria to play its part in helping Australia achieve its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

They are the only major party to have a plan to phase out coal and gas in line with Paris Agreement target. The Victorian Greens have consistently championed climate ambition in our state, and have used their position to consistently push all parties to increase their ambition.

There are gaps in their platform though. We want more detail on how they'll engage with communities who'll have electricity infrastructure – be it transmission, large generation and / or storage – built in their area. We'd love to see them announce a specific storage target for the state, and how they will facilitate the training and skills required to make the energy transition happen in our education system.

And although the Greens have called for preventing water allocation for mine rehabilitation purposes in Parliament, their election policies are largely silent on environmental justice for the Latrobe Valley. The community deserves a comprehensive rehabilitation strategy for the three enormous coal mines. The next term of government must be pushed to work with the Latrobe Valley community to develop a holistic mine rehabilitation strategy that delivers environmental justice to repair the damage done to the land and to people after nearly 100 years of digging up and burning coal.

Top 3 best and worst Greens policies on Clean Energy For All, according to Environment Victoria:

THE BEST

1. Get off gas.

The Greens have laid out a plan to get homes and businesses off gas, ban new gas connections by 2025, stop new gas extraction (onshore and offshore), and rule out construction of new gas import terminals.

2. Revamped and legislated Latrobe Valley Authority.

The Greens have committed to turning the Latrobe Valley Authority into a statutory Authority, guarantee jobs for workers, and set closure dates for the remaining coal power stations. This lays a strong foundation for a just transition in the Latrobe Valley.

3. 100% renewables by 2030.

The Greens plan for achieving 100% renewables by 2030 is in line with the International Energy Agency and the UN's advice on what is needed to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees.

THE WORST

1. No clear plan for mine rehabilitation in the Latrobe Valley.

We'd love to see the Greens develop a plan to push the next government to develop a holistic mine rehabilitation strategy that delivers environmental justice to repair the damage done to the land and to people after nearly 100 years of digging up and burning coal.

2. No engagement plan for transmission.

We urge the Greens to step up in what is going to be a challenging issue to get right, ensuring that we can decarbonise without jeopardising biodiversity and cultural heritage.

3. No training and skills program for careers in the energy sector.

We haven't seen any detail from the Greens yet about their plan to educate and train the workers, technicians and engineers we need to help build and maintain the renewable energy transition.

EMISSIONS REDUCTION

What we need	Greens	Comments
Emissions reduction targets of 65-80% by 2030 and 100% by 2035	80% by 2030 and net zero by 2035 or sooner.	The Greens are the only major party to promise emissions cuts in line with the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to as close to 1.5 degrees as possible.

POWER VICTORIA WITH 100% CLEAN ENERGY BY 2030

What we need	Greens	Comments
100% renewables by 2030	<p>\$10B investment to get to 100% renewables by 2030 including large offshore wind developments, solar and wind farms across the state, new big-battery and pumped hydro storage projects, and purchasing and retrofitting of large grid energy users like Portland aluminium smelter.</p> <p>Legislate a 3 gigawatt offshore wind target by 2030.</p> <p>An immediate ban on new oil and gas drilling in Victorian oceans and end burning coal by 2030.</p> <p>Legislate a staged closure of Victorian coal-burning power stations by 2030: 2024 for Yallourn; 2027 for Loy Yang A; and 2030 for Loy Yang B.</p>	The Greens plan for achieving 100% renewables by 2030 is in line with what the International Energy Agency and the UN advise is needed to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees. This is the kind of climate action we need.
No new gas	<p>Reinstate moratorium on onshore gas drilling, ban offshore gas drilling, and rule out construction of gas import terminal proposals such as Viva Energy's plan for Corio Bay.</p> <p>No new gas connections to Victorian homes by 2025.</p> <p>\$190 million grant scheme for businesses, including large industrial users of gas, switch to renewables.</p>	<p>The Greens commitment to stopping new gas projects is vitally important. The time for new fossil fuel developments is well and truly over.</p> <p>Their range of policies on helping Victoria to get off gas is broad, touching on banning new extraction, preventing construction of import terminals, phasing gas connections out of homes and business.</p>

What we need	Greens	Comments
<p>Accelerate transmission and distribution infrastructure</p>	<p>Part of their \$10 billion package includes upgrades and expansions of transmission and distribution networks to create a stable energy system.</p> <p>There's not a lot more detail on this as of 15 November, noting that connectivity of power is contained in various other policy announcements. These include installation for microgrids and connected distributed community solar (see below).</p>	<p>In order to take advantage of Victoria's vast renewable resources, our electricity grid must evolve to get power to where it needs to go. To date, transmission line planning and community engagement has been poor, resulting in significant community backlash that threatens to delay Victoria's energy transition.</p> <p>Whilst Greens policies do touch on the necessity for increasing transmission and distribution infrastructure there is precious little detail. We urge them to step up on this challenging issue.</p>
<p>Increase Victoria's energy storage capacity</p>	<p>Facilitate more large-scale storage of renewable energy, including pumped-hydro and big batteries and expanding neighbourhood batteries and local micro-grids.</p> <p>In addition to purchasing and retrofitting the Portland aluminium smelter and retrofitting it to be powered with renewables, the Greens would make the smelter a 'reverse battery'.</p>	<p>We would love to see a storage target figure (in megawatts and megawatt hours). That said, the need to increase Victoria's energy storage capacity is reflected in the Greens policy platform.</p> <p>We'd also love some additional detail on how much energy the Portland aluminium smelter could provide to the grid as a 'reverse battery'.</p>
<p>Develop community engagement framework for energy infrastructure planning</p>	<p>A grants program for First Nations groups to build renewable energy enterprises.</p> <p>Otherwise no policy announcement as of 15 November, noting that one of the Greens 4 pillars is grassroots democracy.</p>	<p>There is significant community confusion, tension and anxiety regarding the route of transmission lines in Victoria. We see a very clear role for the next government to develop a community engagement framework and lead on community engagement in areas where transmission, energy generation and storage is proposed.</p> <p>Although the Greens haven't explicitly announced policy on community engagement for energy infrastructure planning, they do explicitly state that grants programs will be available for First Nations groups to build renewable energy enterprises.</p>
<p>Expand virtual power plants</p>	<p>The Greens Clean Manufacturing Revival plan includes a commitment of \$190 million in grants to help business switch onto renewables and help balance the grid as a network of virtual power plants.</p>	<p>Virtual power plants are an important part of the storage mix to ensure the benefits of household batteries is maximised. The Greens' ambitious commitments for a fast and fair energy transition would be strengthened by support for virtual power plants.</p>

SUPPORT FOR ALL HOUSEHOLDS – WHETHER YOU RENT, OWN, OR LIVE IN SOCIAL HOUSING – TO BECOME MORE EFFICIENT AND GO ALL ELECTRIC

What we need	Greens	Comments
<p>Get houses and small businesses off gas, including a comprehensive package of support for renters and low-income households to replace gas appliances with efficient electric appliances</p>	<p>\$6 billion commitment to ‘Get Off Gas’ rebates of up to \$3000, and/or interest free loans of \$3000, to get 1 million homes off gas over next 6 years, including rental properties.</p> <p>No new gas connections to Victorian homes by 2025.</p> <p>\$190 million grant scheme for businesses to upgrade energy systems; includes support for energy assessments and applications for partial funding to enable electrification.</p>	<p>The Greens are the only party to date that has committed to end fossil gas use entirely, including a comprehensive, funded policy to help homes and businesses transition away from gas. They have promised to stop the unsustainable growth in new gas connections, and significant rebates that will assist people to replace gas appliance with efficient electric appliances.</p>
<p>Increase Solar Homes remit and incentives to include solar and storage packages to support household electrification for all</p>	<p>Solar and batteries for public housing, and ensuring renters and people in apartments can access solar through ‘solar gardens’.</p> <p>In addition to their \$10 billion power plan, the Greens would introduce a publicly-owned energy retailer to deliver cheaper energy bills for households.</p> <p>Also see above for their ‘Get Off Gas’ rebates to support households to switch out their gas appliances for electric appliances.</p>	<p>The Greens announcements on home and public housing solar and batteries, and commitment to develop ‘solar gardens’ for renters, certainly increases the ‘fair’ part of the fast and fair transition that Environment Victoria is calling for.</p> <p>We note that the Get off Gas rebate does the heavy lifting for electrifying homes, and as stated above, demonstrates the Greens commitment to phasing out fossil gas in our homes.</p>
<p>Expand community storage solutions to bring low income households and renters into the renewables roll-out</p>	<p>Household batteries, microgrids and neighbourhood batteries to store more locally-generated energy close to where it is made and used (part of \$10B package to achieve 100% renewables by 2030)</p>	<p>The Greens policies on energy transition centres the importance of ensuring that clean energy is available for all. We encourage them to provide more detail.</p>
<p>Incentivise uptake of zero emissions vehicles by increasing public, private and home charging stations</p>	<p>Installing over 1,000 more EV charging stations across Victoria including in carparks, shopping strips, train station carparks and residential apartment blocks. The Greens would also scrap the electric vehicle tax introduced by the Labor government.</p>	<p>An important factor in growing community appetite for electric vehicles is to make sure that there is enough charging capacity in metropolitan, regional and rural parts of the state.</p> <p>The Greens policy to install an additional 1000 charging stations will help people feel confident to purchase an electric vehicle knowing that they will have a lot more places to charge it. We want to see the next term of government commit to installation of charging stations wherever people park or refuel a car. 1000 new charging stations contributes to achieving this.</p>

URGENTLY SCALE UP TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR CAREERS IN TRANSITION AND CLEAN ENERGY

What we need	Greens	Comments
<p>Develop TAFE and university courses to train our new cohort of career power workers</p>	<p>See below regarding the Greens' commitments to the Latrobe Valley Authority.</p> <p>Otherwise no announcements as of 15 November.</p>	<p>It's one thing to make announcements about renewable energy and quite another to have the skilled workforce to make it happen. It is well known that we have a skills shortage to deliver on these targets.</p> <p>Although the Greens have policies to transition coal workers in Latrobe Valley and workplace training under a revamped LVA (see below), we haven't seen any detail from them yet about their plan to educate and train the workers, technicians and engineers we need to help build and maintain the renewable energy transition.</p>
<p>Encourage manufacturing of low emissions products in Victoria</p>	<p>Establish a Jobs, Industry and Innovation Fund to support the development of new clean transport technology and develop our local manufacturing, repair and technology capabilities.</p> <p>\$12.5 million to build three publicly-owned solar panel manufacturing and recycling facilities in Victoria.</p> <p>Manufacturing 3,000 electric buses to create a network of high frequency electric bus routes across Melbourne and regional cities.</p> <p>Commit \$902 million to buy back the Portland aluminium smelter and retrofit it to be powered with renewable energy, to produce clean aluminium.</p> <p>Also, see below regarding Latrobe Valley Authority.</p>	<p>The Greens have some clear commitments on how to encourage local manufacturing of low emissions products. Their commitment to return the Portland smelter to public hands, and establish public-owner solar manufacturing and recycling facilities could be a signal that they intend to revamp Victoria's proud manufacturing history.</p>

What we need	Greens	Comments
<p>Make the Latrobe Valley Authority a statutory body and invest in environmental justice for the Latrobe Valley</p>	<p>Job-for-job guarantee for coal workers (new job pays equal to former job).</p> <p>'Revamped' and legislated Latrobe Valley Authority with new and guaranteed funding of \$48 million per annum to 2035, including develop an Offshore Wind Centre of Excellence, establish workplace training to build Victoria's renewable and electrification workforce, work on mine rehabilitation and attract clean manufacturing jobs to the region. And revive local manufacturing of renewable appliances such as heat pumps and hot water heaters.</p> <p>Legislated coal closure plan – see above.</p> <p>Require power stations to install 'clean technologies' for rest of operating life.</p>	<p>Part of a just transition is providing certainty to the community about the longevity of government initiatives and the closure dates for coal power stations. The Greens commitment to legislating the Latrobe Valley Authority, guarantee jobs for workers, and set closure dates for the remaining operational power stations lays a strong foundation for a just transition in the Latrobe Valley. And they go further than the other parties by committing to require coal-burning power stations – the single largest source of deadly fine particle pollution and huge source of other toxic air pollutants – install pollution reduction technologies. This will help protect the health of the Latrobe Valley community.</p> <p>We'd love to see more on mine rehabilitation though. Environmental justice is an important part of transition in the Latrobe Valley. We note that a Greens revamped LVA includes workplace training for work on mine rehabilitation, and that the Greens have advocated for the scoping requirements for the Hazelwood mine rehabilitation Environmental Effects Statement to be broadened to include all three brown coal mines. But we would love to see the Greens announce specific commitments to developing policy on water availability for mine rehabilitation, and to work in partnership with the Latrobe Valley community to ensure that the environmental scars left by mining are healed and as accessible to the community as possible.</p>
<p>Establish renewable energy industrial precincts to facilitate renewable manufacturing and build supply chains for goods we need to make the transition to zero emissions</p>	<p>See above regarding the Job, Industry and Innovation Fund for manufacturing electric vehicles, commitments made regarding the Latrobe Valley Authority, and commitment to establish three publicly-owned solar panel manufacturing and recycling facilities.</p>	<p>Aspects of the Greens policy platform, including grants available to businesses to get off gas, a revamped LVA, and a retrofitted Portland smelter could act as the type of precincts we imagine if implemented. But we'd love to see the Greens outline a specific commitment to develop renewable energy industrial precincts, right across the state.</p>