

# ACTION GUIDE

Deliver the briefer to your MP



## Contents

Summary of steps to take .....	1
Background .....	2
How to use this briefer to lobby your MP .....	3
Follow up email template .....	4

## Summary of steps to take

1. If you don't already know who your MP is, or you don't know their contact details, look them up here: <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/members/member-search>
2. Contact the MP's electorate office to ask them when a suitable time is to either meet with the MP, or pop in to deliver the report.
3. Invite friends, family or neighbours to go along with you. 2-3 people is the ideal number
4. Read the briefer and familiarise yourself with the campaign context and the talking points in this document. Share this document with anyone who will be going with, too.
5. Deliver the briefer and ask the MP (or the staff) to champion this issue. **Don't forget to get a photo! This is a really important part of showing the government just how many Victorians care about this issue.**
6. Follow up with the MP by email, reiterating what you would like them to do.
7. Send us an email to let us know you've done it 😊

**Questions?** Contact Victor Komarovsky at [community@environmentvictoria.org.au](mailto:community@environmentvictoria.org.au)

## Background

### 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 and just society that protects and values nature.

### What is the big picture here? What are we trying to do?

Addressing the climate crisis and helping nature thrive requires that we cut our reliance on fossil fuels, like gas. Right now nearly two-thirds of gas burnt in Victoria is from gas appliances – like gas heaters, hot water systems and cooktops – in our homes and businesses.

This is not only a climate disaster, but it's bad for our health and bad for our hip pockets. Repowering homes with all-electric appliances will improve our health and lower energy bills.

That's why we're pushing our Parliamentarians to support bold policies to ensure *everyone* can repower their homes with electric appliances and ditch gas.

### What are we trying to achieve right now?

We're now several years into our campaign get Victoria off gas and much of what we have advocated for is now coming to fruition. First the Victorian Government banned new gas connections for a large proportion of new homes and are considering new rental standards which will phase out gas heaters and hot water systems.

And later this year we're expecting the government to consult on a proposal for new standards which will progressively phase in efficient electric appliances and end new gas connections for *all* new builds.

These proposed policies reflect a commonsense approach to the problem, and we want to see them passed through Parliament and implemented.

The problem is the gas industry has been undermining efforts to phase out gas by seeding doubt and confusion. This has meant that many politicians and members of the public simply don't know about the benefits of repowering our homes with all-electric appliances. When the consultation on the proposed policies opens, we expect the gas industry to be loudly in opposition.

**We need to drown out the gas industry's noise with loud and clear support for these policies, so that our politicians feel supported to do the right thing. To do this, we will:**

- **Mobilise as many people as we can who *already know* about the benefits of repowering our homes to make supportive submissions; AND**
- **Meet with our local MPs between now and the end of November to keep them informed and engaged on this issue. That's where you come in!**

So, your job is to build (or continue to build) a constructive relationship with your MP and let them know you care about this issue. To help with that, we've made this 2-page briefer which quickly covers the key points.

## How to use this briefer to lobby your MP

Ideally, you meet with your MP to hand over the briefer in person. That way your MP can have a positive experience associated with this briefer, and you have a chance to develop an ongoing relationship with them regarding this issue.

It's not always easy to secure a meeting with your MP, in which case:

- Take the briefer into the office and have a conversation with the staff there;
- Ask them to pass on the information to the MP; AND
- Find a time for you to meet with the MP when they're next available

Whether you speak to the MP or just the staff, the key things to remember are:

- **Be positive and friendly!** This is a chance to build a constructive relationship with them, regardless of where they currently stand on the issue;
- **Stay on topic.** You're most likely to get action out of an MP if you keep things simple;
- **Ask questions** to better understand how they think and feel about the issue. Collecting this intel is important to inform any follow up communication;
- **Ask for their commitment.** If you speak with staff, ask them if they will pass this information on to their MP (and find a time for you to meet with the MP in the near future!). If you do speak with the MP, ask them if they will champion repowering your electorate!

### ***I have a meeting booked with my MP but I'm new to this – what do I do?***

Congratulations! That's a good sign that they're open to listening. The number one thing you can do to prepare is find someone to go with you, and meet with them beforehand to work out your strategy. For a more detailed list of tips for that meeting, check out this guide:

[https://commonslibrary.org/working-with-your-elected-representatives/#5\\_Meet\\_in\\_person](https://commonslibrary.org/working-with-your-elected-representatives/#5_Meet_in_person)

## Follow up email template

*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:** [community@environmentvictoria.org.au](mailto:community@environmentvictoria.org.au)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I just wanted to say thanks for meeting with me yesterday to discuss how we can support repowering all Victorian homes with electric appliances.

It was great to learn more about your position on supporting your constituents to electrify their homes. [Be specific here – if they supported it, thank them for it; if they opposed it, go through the reasons they gave.] We will be sure to relay your position on this back to Environment Victoria 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

\_\_\_\_\_.