

ACTION GUIDE

Deliver the briefer to your MP

Summary of steps

1. Make a plan to deliver the briefer to your MP during the week of action (Dec 2-8)
2. [Read the briefing document](#) and prepare what you'd like to say
3. Deliver the briefing document (and take a photo of you doing it!)
4. Send a photo to community@environmentvictoria.org.au – this is really important so that we can make your work visible and encourage others to join in
5. *Extra for experts:* Deliver a copy of the briefing document to your *federal MP* as well

More information

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 in rental homes.

And any minute we're expecting the government to consult on proposed new standards which would ensure that, from a certain date, all new heaters and hot water units sold will be electric, not gas. That means that when your gas heater or water heater reaches the end of its life, it can *only* be replaced with efficient electric appliances.

This is a commonsense approach which will ensure the problem doesn't get worse, and over time, mean that all households are benefitting from healthy, affordable electric appliances. We support this approach and encourage the government to forge ahead.

The problem is the gas industry has been undermining efforts to phase out gas by seeding doubt and confusion. 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 opens this December, 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 short briefer which quickly covers the key points.

Who is the briefing document for?

This briefer may be helpful to both Victorian state AND federal MPs. Our priority is to meet with state MPs, so that the Victorian government can see public support for home electrification, and forges ahead with these policies. But there's a role to play for the federal government as well. If the federal government commits to a financial support package for home electrification before the federal election then the Victorian government will be better placed financially to forge ahead with these policies.

So, take the briefer to your state MP in the first instance. But if you have the time, please take a copy to your federal MP as well.

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.

The most important thing to ask your MP to do is make a representation to Premier Jacinta Allan, stating that their constituents support measure to electrify all Victorian homes.

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
- Take a photo! This is really important so that we can amplify your work

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 the MP. **If you speak with the MP, ask them to contact Premier Jacinta Allan advising her that you support government policies to electrify all Victorian homes.**

If you have a meeting booked with your MP and want advice for how to prepare, contact us at community@environmentvictoria.org.au