Victorian Government Action on Climate Change

EIANZ Victorian Climate Change Forum
Wednesday 31 May 2017
The Victorian Government’s ambitious climate change policy agenda:

• Is consistent with the Paris Agreement to keep global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius.

• Seizes the opportunities of the transition to a clean energy future.

• Lays the foundations to deliver strong and long-lasting climate change action to reduce emissions.

• Showcases the great work being done at all levels across Victoria through the TAKE2 pledge program.

• Plans for and strengthens our ability to manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change.
Victoria’s Climate Change Framework sets out our vision for Victoria in 2050 and our approach to achieving it.

**Now**
- +1°C warming above pre-industrial levels
- 119 Mt greenhouse gas emissions

**2050**
- Resilient to +1.5°C or more warming above pre-industrial levels
- Net zero greenhouse gas emissions

**Laying the foundations - Now to 2020**
- Updating the Climate Change Act
- Set Victoria’s 2020 target of 15-20% below 2005 levels
- TAKE2 Victoria’s climate change pledge program
- Renewable Energy Roadmap including 25% renewable energy by 2020
- Energy Efficiency and Productivity Statement and strengthened VEET scheme
- New Energy Technologies Sector Strategy
- Victoria’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020
- Mainstreaming climate change into government policy

**Accelerating the transition to a net zero emissions and climate-resilient Victoria**
- Increase energy efficiency and productivity
- Move to a clean electricity supply including 40% renewable energy by 2025
- Electrify our economy and switch to clean fuels
- Reduce non-energy emissions and increase carbon storage
- Build our resilience to climate change

**Implementing the new Climate Change Act 2017**
- Long term target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050
- Five-yearly:
  - Interim targets
  - Pledges
  - Climate Change Strategies
  - Adaptation Action Plans
- Embedding climate change (emissions reduction and adaptation) in government decision-making
- Monitoring and reporting progress
The Act provides Victoria with a world-leading, comprehensive legislative foundation for climate change action that:

• Gives effect to the majority of the commitments set out in the Victorian Government Response to the 2015 Independent Review of the *Climate Change Act 2010*.

• Ensures government manages the risks climate change presents, and maximises the opportunities that arise from decisive action.

• Drives Victoria’s transition to a climate resilient community and economy with net zero emissions by 2050.
Climate Change Act 2017 - Key features

Net zero by 2050

Policy Objectives

Guiding Principles

Better decision making
Policy objectives and guiding principles to be applied:
- Across all relevant government decision making
- In all significant elements of the Bill

Better strategic responses at state level
Five-yearly Climate Change Strategy

Adaptation
Adaptation Action Plans

Emissions reduction
Five-yearly interim targets
Pledges

Monitoring and reporting - Annual GHG Reports and Climate Science Reports
Community engagement and participation

Currently under review
Decision-making framework and Schedule 1
• Sets the direction of adaptation policy in Victoria for the next 4 years
• Whole-of-Victorian-Government plan led by DELWP

Victoria’s Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020

Vision
Victoria will meet the challenges and act on the opportunities of climate change. Our state will sustain a thriving natural environment, and will be a healthy, prosperous, safe and vibrant place to work and live for all Victorians.

GOALS
- A healthy environment
- A new partnership with local government (pp. 29)
- Priority support for vulnerable communities
- A flexible & prosperous economy
- Leadership
- Collaboration & shared responsibility
- Pilot Adaptation Action Plans for systems – health and human services, water and agriculture (pp. 34, 47, 45)
- Embedding climate change in government operations, policies and plans (p. 25)
- A regional approach to adaptation planning and action (p. 30)

Embedding climate change in emergency management (p. 36)
• Managing risks to the Government’s own assets and services
  – Audit of government operations

• Helping the community to understand and manage the risks and impacts of climate change
  – Climate change information
  – Working with local government
  – Regional adaptation planning

• Embedding adaptation in core policy areas and sectors of the economy
  – Health, emergency management, natural environment, agriculture, water, built environment
  – Sector-based Adaptation Action Plans
Sector-based adaptation planning

- Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs) will be required under the proposed new Climate Change Act for core sectors from 2020.

- The Adaptation Plan 2017-2020 includes three pilot AAPs:
  - Water cycle sector
  - Health sector
  - Agriculture sector

- The Government will also hold annual sector summits (2018, 2019, 2020) to prepare all sectors designated by the new Climate Change Act 2017 to develop AAPs.

- AAPs will bring business, industry, community groups and government together to meet shared challenges.

- Evaluation of pilot AAPs will inform mandatory AAPs from 2020.
• $25.4 million over four years for action on climate change
  – $17 million to drive action under the Adaptation Plan, including support for regions to adapt, dynamically downscaled data, vulnerability assessments, support for sector-based planning, improving adaptation in land-use planning, a local coastal hazard assessment for Port Phillip Bay and a monitoring and evaluation framework for adaptation
  – Setting interim targets for GHG emissions reduction, and establishing a GHG inventory
  – Support for local governments to reduce emissions
  – Developing sub-national, national and international partnerships