



Targeted support essential to assist communities tackle climate change

A range of targeted support measures would boost the efforts of Victorian communities in tackling climate change, a parliamentary committee [report](#) has concluded.

In the comprehensive report tabled in Parliament today, the Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee has made 38 findings and 72 recommendations.

“When we work together as a community, we can meet the greatest of challenges. Climate change may be the greatest collective challenge we will face in our lifetimes,” said Committee Chair Darren Cheeseman.

“I am convinced that Victoria is well placed to continue leading the nation in this fight. That is in no small measure due to the passion and commitment of so many individuals, businesses, community organisations and local governments within our urban, rural and regional communities,” he said.

In its detailed report, the Committee has addressed many areas for action, including leadership, strategy and advocacy. Key recommendations include:

- collaboration to produce local emissions inventories for all regions across Victoria
- implementation plans for regional renewable energy roadmaps
- support for local government to strengthen Greenhouse Alliances.

“While action to tackle climate change already makes economic sense for many of our local governments, many others have a greater need for support from the Victorian Government, both in the form of finance and expertise,” Mr Cheeseman said. “I am particularly pleased that this report contains a wide range of recommendations aimed at delivering this support.”

The Committee has recommended a long-term infrastructure fund to support local organisations, as well as funding of staff across Victoria to support community action groups.

Community energy is an important focus of the report, with recommendations that include:

- reforms to better enable the development of community-owned batteries and local energy trading
- a dedicated Community Energy Target component within the Victorian Renewable Energy Target
- a pilot microgrid in a bushfire-prone area of Victoria capable of operating while disconnected from the main electricity grid during an emergency
- assistance to organisations to form renewable energy buyers’ groups and enter into power purchase agreements

- sourcing 100% renewable electricity to cover the consumption of the Victorian public sector and state-owned infrastructure.

The report also has recommendations relating to agriculture and urban forestry, local government, water, transport, waste management, energy efficiency and disaster resilience.

In addition, the Committee has emphasised education and knowledge sharing to help improve the understanding of climate science and drive emissions reduction action by individuals and households.

“Despite the immense opportunities associated with the emergence of the net zero emissions economy, it is incumbent on all levels of government to pursue a ‘just transition’. That is, a transition that is managed in a way that minimises the impact on communities and individuals who might otherwise have to bear an unfair share of the costs of transition,” Mr Cheeseman said. “The Committee’s awareness of this imperative has also informed a number of the findings and recommendations in this report.”

The Committee received 162 submissions and held 15 days of public hearings in Melbourne and regional Victoria. It also undertook site visits across the state to see local initiatives.

The report is available from the Committee’s [website](#).

Media queries

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