

Climate Change Act 2017: Emissions Reduction Pledges

Fact Sheet

Pledges will drive emissions reduction to meet the interim targets and help Victoria transition to a net zero emissions community and economy.

On 23 February 2017, the Climate Change Bill 2016 was passed by the Victorian Parliament to create a new Climate Change Act.

Overview of pledges

Emissions reduction pledges are the primary mechanism used in the *Climate Change Act 2017* to help meet the interim targets.

The pledge model was recommended by the 2015 Independent Review of the *Climate Change Act 2010*.

Pledges will contain a description of actions to reduce emissions and a reasonable estimate of the total level of emissions reductions expected from those actions.

Types of pledges contained in the Act

Whole-of-government operational pledge

The whole-of-government operational pledge will be prepared by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

It will relate to emissions arising from government operations and activities, for example building energy use, waste and vehicle fleet.

It will contain emissions reduction activities from:

- all government departments; and
- public entities with significant emissions profiles that are listed in regulations made under the Act.

Sector pledges

Sector pledges will be produced by relevant Ministers for the following sectors:

- Energy, including stationary energy, transport and fugitive emissions;
- Industrial Processes and Product Use;
- Agriculture;
- Waste; and
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry.

These sectors will be set out in regulations made under the Act.

Sector pledges will include policy measures the government will implement to drive emissions reductions in those sectors.

Local government pledges

The Act will allow local governments to produce a pledge to reduce emissions they have caused or otherwise influenced, should they choose to.

If local governments do decide to provide pledges, the Act imposes certain minimum requirements, for example relating to how they will work.

Who is responsible for sector pledges?

The Act will devolve responsibility for the preparation of sector pledges to relevant portfolio Ministers.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, in consultation with the Premier, will nominate the most appropriate Ministers to prepare pledges for each of the sectors.

This nomination process will be flexible to allow the Minister to nominate Ministers to prepare pledges in relation to a whole sector, part of a sector or a combination of sectors.

Timing

Pledges will be made for five yearly periods, coinciding with the interim target periods (beginning 2021-2025) set out in the Act.

Pledges will be published as part of the Climate Change Strategy covering that interim target period.

Reporting requirements

The end of interim target period report will assess the implementation and effectiveness of the pledges.

More information

The *Climate Change Act 2017* is available on the Victorian Legislation website:

<http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/>