

# Victoria's Climate Change Strategy

A large white wind turbine stands prominently in the foreground on a grassy hill. In the background, several other wind turbines are visible across a rolling green landscape under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The image is framed by dark blue geometric shapes on the right and bottom right, and a yellow-green shape on the bottom left.

**2026–30**

**VICTORIA**  
Australia

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# Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Government acknowledges Traditional Owners as the original custodians of the lands, waters and sea across Victoria.

For tens of thousands of years, Traditional Owners in Victoria have practised lore, customs and languages – these practices offer knowledge systems and the foundation of a culture designed to sustainably care for Country and respond to the challenges of climate change.

In the face of colonisation and dispossession, Traditional Owner communities remain diverse and resilient, with deep and ongoing connections to Country.

We know climate change disproportionately impacts Traditional Owner communities by compounding the loss of connections to Country and by posing a risk to cultural heritage, including traditional lores, customs and practices.

The Victorian Government recognises that only Traditional Owners can speak for Country and the knowledge, know-how, skills and practices of traditional knowledge systems. Victoria is also on a pathway to Treaty, which aims to ensure Traditional Owners always have the freedom and power to make decisions that affect their communities, culture and Country.

The Victorian Government is committed to self-determination, as outlined in the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework and Self-Determination Reform Framework. Traditional Owners' legal and cultural rights in Victoria are recognised through both state and federal legislation, including the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic), *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic), and *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic), and the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth).

Through this strategy, the Victorian Government continues its commitment to self-determination and forming genuine partnerships with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities.

# Foreword

## Victoria has come a long way since releasing our last Climate Change Strategy in 2021.



**Hon. Jacinta Allan MP**  
Premier of Victoria



**Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
Minister for Climate Action  
Minister for Energy and Resources  
Minister for the State Electricity Commission

We've built for the future – by bringing back the SEC, to put power back in the hands of the people, with an initial \$1 billion investment in renewable energy.

We've delivered cost of living help for households – by passing nation-leading energy standards for renters and homes, and expanding bill-saving programs like the VEU.

We've put Victorian jobs and workers first – with Australia's first Gas Substitution Roadmap, to reserve gas for local industry, and help households slash their energy bills.

We've secured a better future for our kids – by bringing forward our net zero target to 2045, and enshrining this in legislation.

We're proud of our achievements and record – but we know there is still more to do.

This Climate Change Strategy 2026–30 sets a course for the next five years of our state's transition, with a firm focus on what matters most to Victorians: helping with the cost of living; building for the future; putting jobs and workers first; and protecting kids, families and communities.

It's not an exhaustive list of everything we'll do in that time – we've always made policy continuously, and we'll continue doing that. Victoria has led the nation on climate action, and we'll continue to do so.

# Net zero: A prosperous, fair and strong Victoria



## Climate action and prosperity go hand in hand

We're building a net zero economy that keeps Victoria growing – creating new jobs, attracting investment and supporting industries to stay competitive and resilient.

## A fair and people-first transition will benefit all Victorians

We're prioritising equity and inclusion on the path to net zero emissions, to ensure all workers and communities can benefit from new opportunities.

## Preparing for climate impacts protects our future

We're acting now to safeguard our communities, environment and livelihoods from climate impacts – building a stronger future for generations to come.

**Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2026–30 is focused on what matters. It is backed by over \$8.5 billion announced since the last Climate Change Strategy in 2021, building on the \$2 billion that backed it then.**

# Victoria is leading the nation



**Earliest** net zero emissions target of any major jurisdiction in Australia



Reduced emissions intensity **50% faster** than the national average since 2014



**First** jurisdiction in Australia to set a 2035 target



**First** Gas Substitution Roadmap in the nation



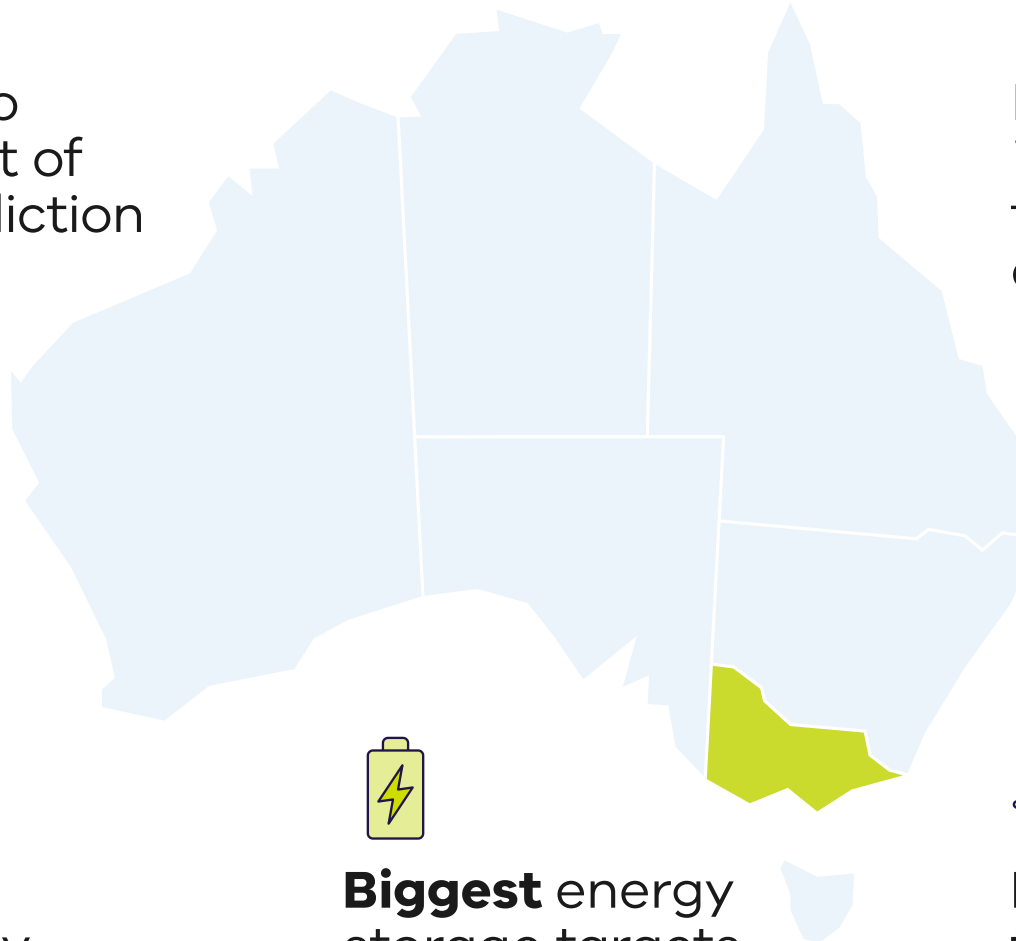
**Nation-leading** minimum energy standards for renters (one-third of Victorians)



**Biggest** energy storage targets in the nation by 2035



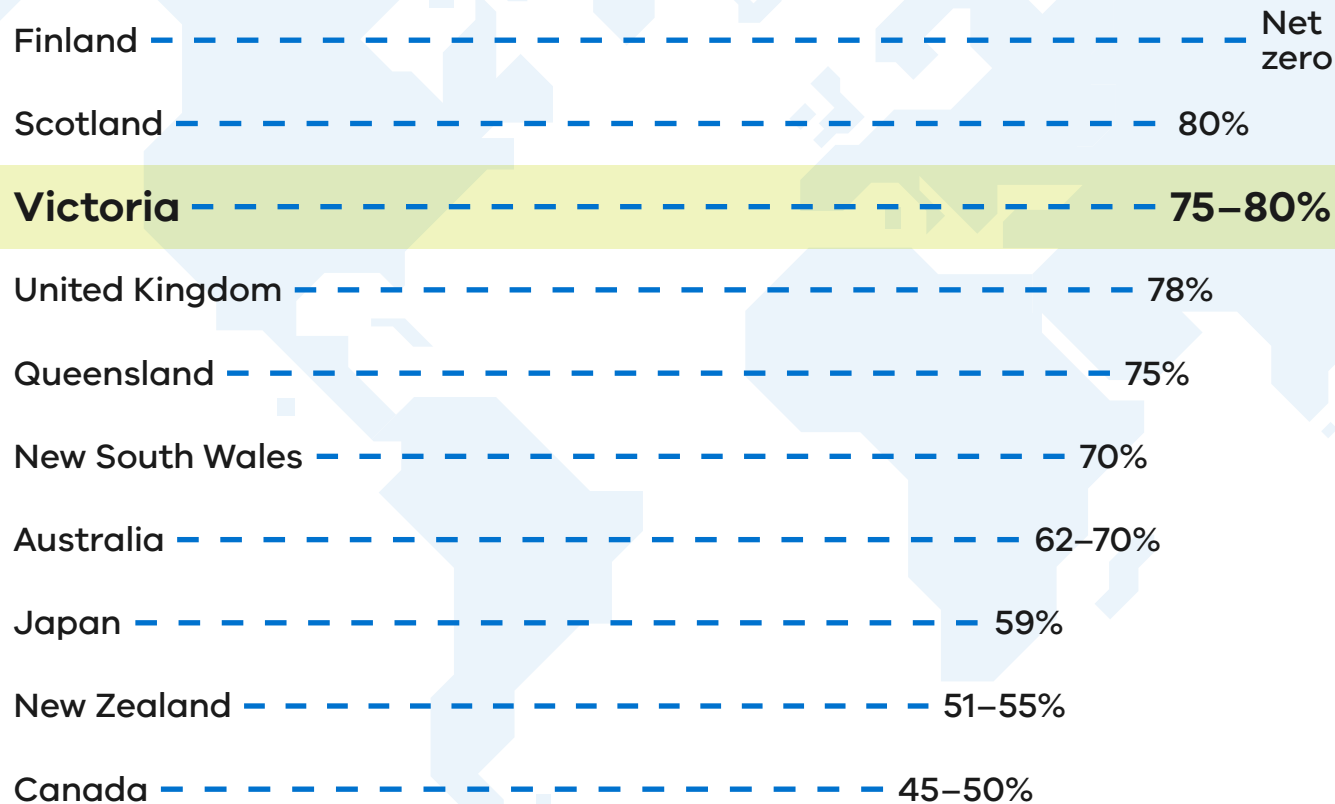
**Brought back the SEC** with a \$1 billion initial investment



# Victoria is a global leader

## Victoria is playing its part in limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C

### 2035 targets



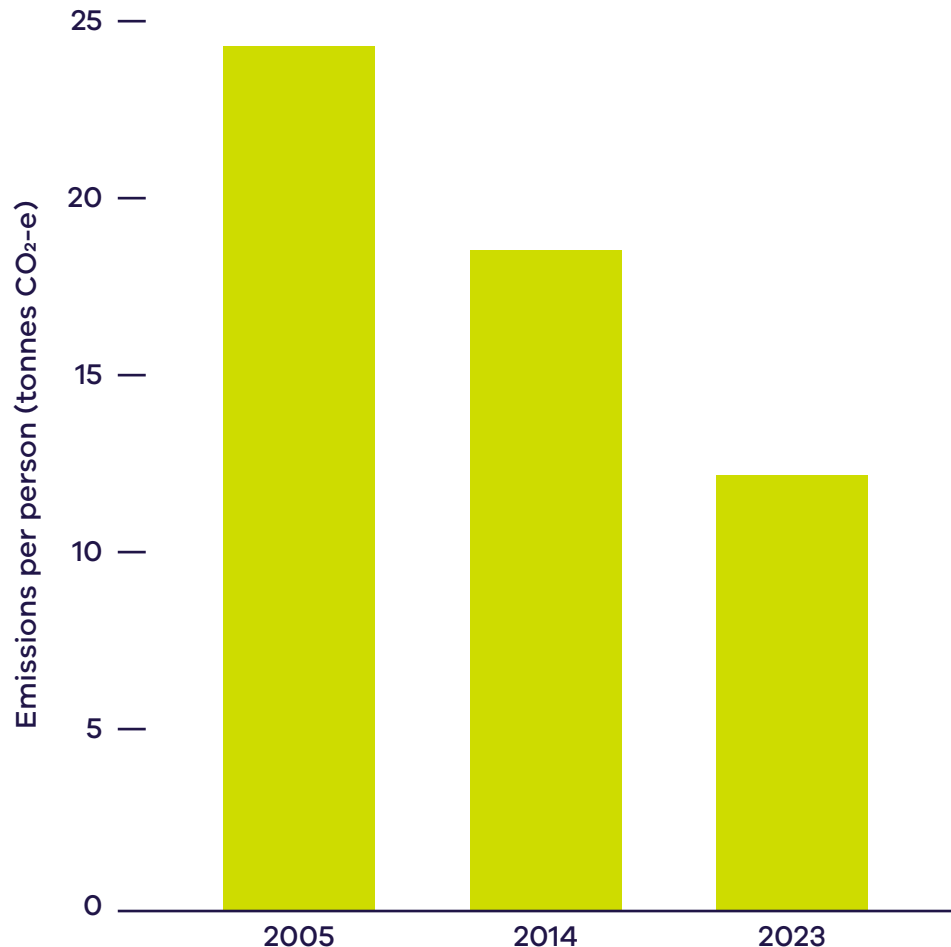
Countries producing over 80% of global greenhouse gas emissions have pledged to reach net zero

All targets have been converted to common 2005 baseline for comparison

# We're delivering results

## Halved emissions

per person since 2005



### 42%

of electricity produced by renewable energy in 2024–25, and Victorian wholesale power prices were consistently the lowest in the country



### 30%

of Victorian homes have solar installed



### 100%

of electricity supplied by the SEC for Victoria's public schools, hospitals, trains and other government operations is from renewable sources



### 8x more

zero emission vehicle sales compared to 2021

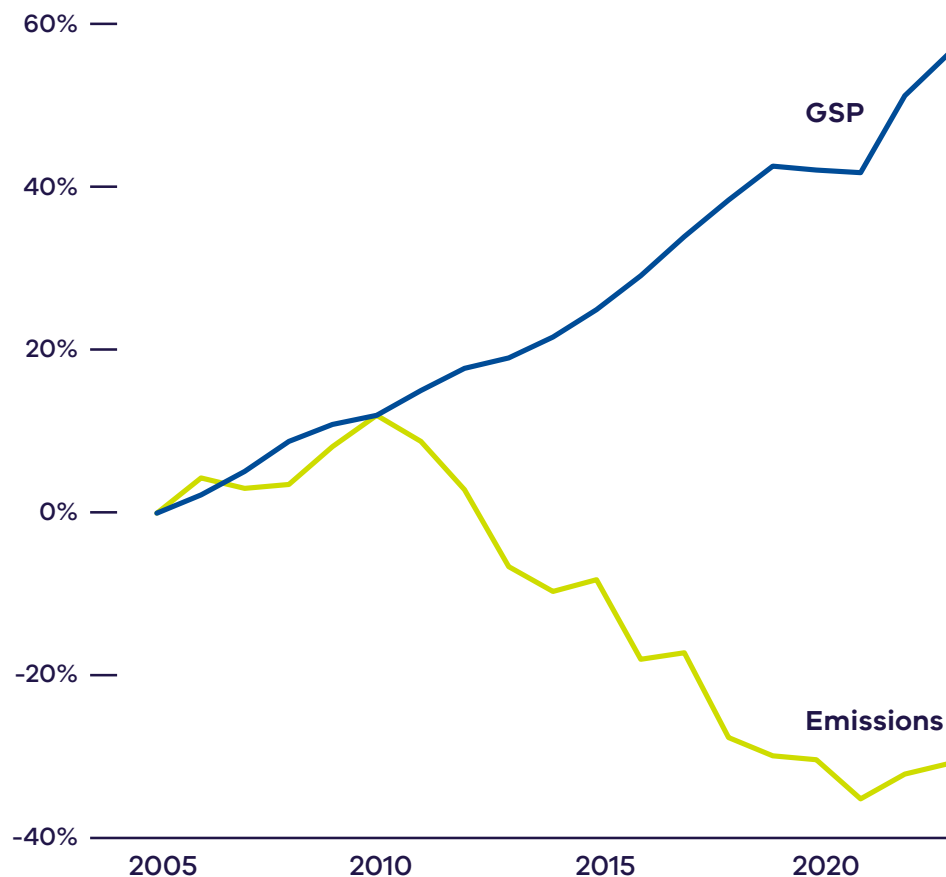


### 1.8 million

hectares of state forest protected by ending native timber harvesting six years early

# Supporting a thriving economy

## Our economy has grown while we've cut emissions



## Creating future jobs and growth

### Driving economic growth

Victoria's gross state product is projected to be **\$63 billion higher** between 2022 and 2070 if Victoria meets its targets and there is strong global action.

### Delivering positive returns

Every \$1 invested to improve resilience to climate change impacts could **deliver a \$9.60 return on investment.\***

### Creating new jobs

Victoria's energy workforce is projected to grow by **more than 60% by 2040 to 67,000 workers.**

\*Insurance Council of Australia, 2022

# Climate change is impacting Victoria now

## As of 2024:



Average temperature has **increased 1.2 °C** since 1910



The number of **very hot days per decade has more than doubled** since 1986–2005



More **intense, frequent and longer heatwaves** since the 1950s



Average annual **rainfall has decreased**, but extreme rainfall events have almost doubled since 1958–1985



**Snow depth and cover have decreased** in alpine regions since the late 1950s

## If global emissions continue to increase, by the 2050s\* Victoria can expect:



Average temperature to **increase by around 1.5 °C** (1.1–1.9 °C)



Hot days **warmer by around 2 °C**



Around **40 heatwave days** each year



Increasingly **intense extreme rainfall events**, including **thunderstorms**

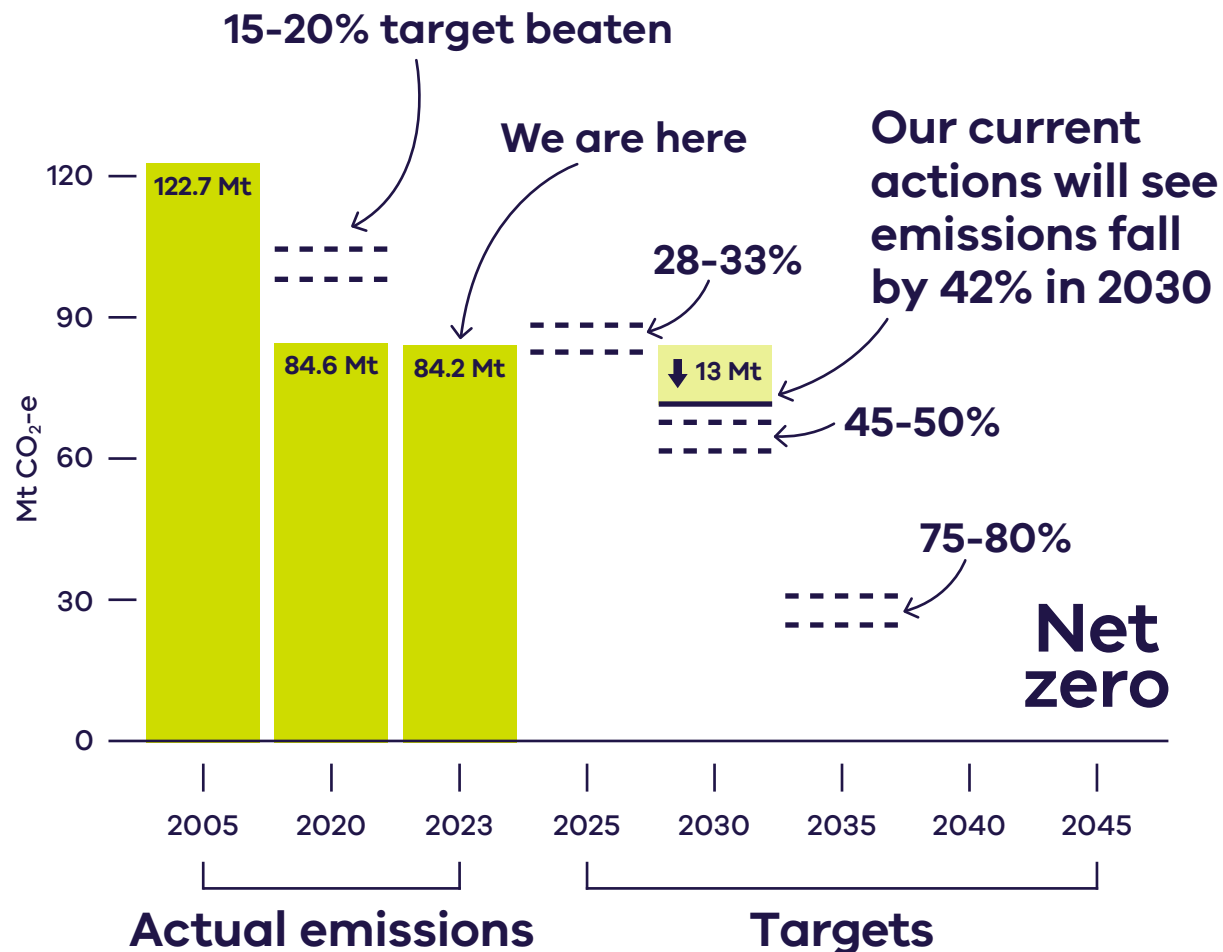


Sea level rise between **0.13 m and 0.32 m**

Find out more about **Victoria's Climate Science Reports** and **Victoria's Future Climate Tool**: [climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-changing-climate](https://climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-changing-climate)

\* CMIP6-based projections, under high emissions scenario (SSP3-7.0), compared to 1986–2005 baseline for temperature statistics and 1995–2014 baseline for sea level rise

# Achieving our ambitious targets



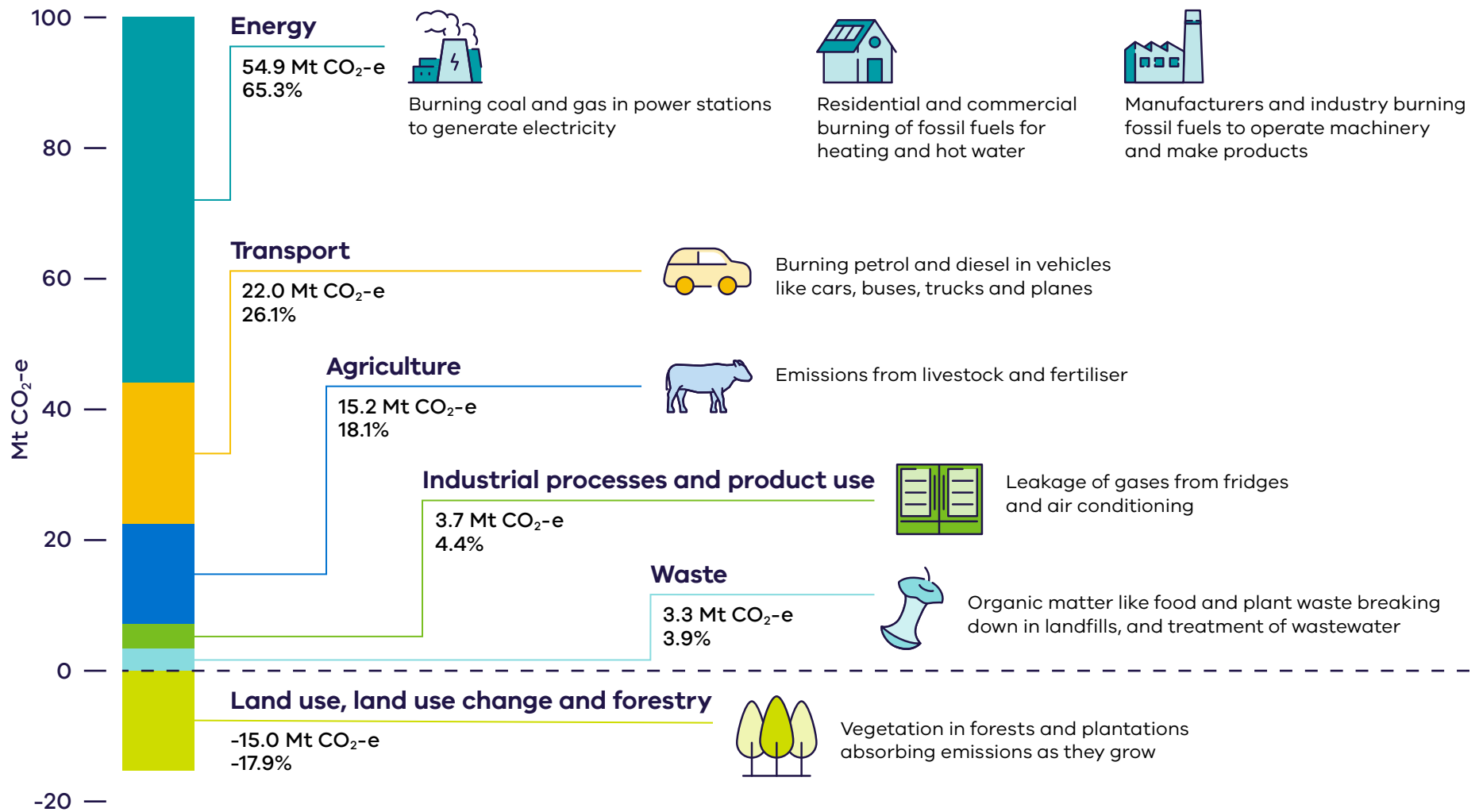
**We've reduced emissions by 31.4% and are within range of our 2025 target**

Our new emissions reduction pledges continue our strong progress – helping to meet our future targets.

Additional action by governments, communities and businesses will help us achieve our ambitious targets.

Targets refer to % below Victoria's 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels

# Where Victoria's emissions come from



Victoria publishes its latest emissions at: [climatechange.vic.gov.au/greenhouse-gas-emissions](https://climatechange.vic.gov.au/greenhouse-gas-emissions)

Figures represent latest emissions data from 2023

# Our pledges will cut emissions across sectors

## Energy

Securing affordable and reliable renewable energy for Victorian households and businesses to create jobs and lower household bills.

## Transport

Providing Victorians with greater sustainable transport options, and helping them lower their cost of living.

## Agriculture

Partnering with industry to support a profitable and productive sector that takes ambitious action on climate change.

## Waste

Building a thriving circular economy and reducing methane released from landfills.

## Industrial processes and product use

Acting locally to improve how refrigeration, air-conditioning equipment and refrigerant gases are managed, while pushing for stronger national policies for cleaner alternatives.

## Land use, land use change and forestry

Continuing to plant millions of trees across private and public land, boosting our agricultural sector and restoring our great outdoors – including through the BushBank Program.

## Victorian Government operations

Leading by example and cutting emissions from government operations while driving action across the economy.

## 3x more emissions reductions

from our combined pledges 2026–30, than our pledges 2021–25



# Focusing on what matters to Victorians

**Helping households with the cost of living and lowering costs for business**



**Putting jobs and workers first in the transition**



**Building for the future**



**Protecting kids, families and communities**



# Helping households with the cost of living and lowering costs for business

We're helping Victorians benefit from our renewable energy future.

From efficient electric homes and appliances to solar panels and zero emission vehicles, our programs are making it easier to upgrade, electrify and save.



**Solar Victoria  
has supported  
the installation  
of more than  
324,000 rooftop  
solar systems  
and 70,000 hot  
water systems**

## Empowering Victorians to be part of the energy transition

### Helping households shift to solar

Victorians are embracing rooftop solar on their offices, warehouses and homes. Rooftop solar contributed almost 11% of Victoria's energy in 2024–25.

The **Solar Homes Program** is supporting Victorian households to reduce their energy bills and emissions with rebates and interest-free loans for rooftop solar and efficient hot water systems.

The **Solar for Community Housing Program** is also supporting a clean energy transition for some of Victoria's residents experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage by partnering with community housing providers to install rooftop solar panels to relieve pressures for low-income Victorians.

### Go all-electric and save

The **Gas Substitution Roadmap** is helping households and businesses shift from fossil gas to cleaner, cheaper, electric alternatives. This preserves gas for the industries that need it, putting Victorian jobs and households first.

Existing households with solar photovoltaic (PV) who fully electrify their homes can save around \$2,000 per year on their energy bills. That's why we've introduced nation-leading standards and legislation to avoid locking in expensive and polluting new gas infrastructure, and to help Victorians slash their energy bills long-term.

### Energy upgrades for homes and businesses

The **Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU)** program helps households and businesses lower energy bills and cut emissions. Victorians can access rebates and discounts on energy-efficient products like electric appliances, weather sealing, and window glazing.

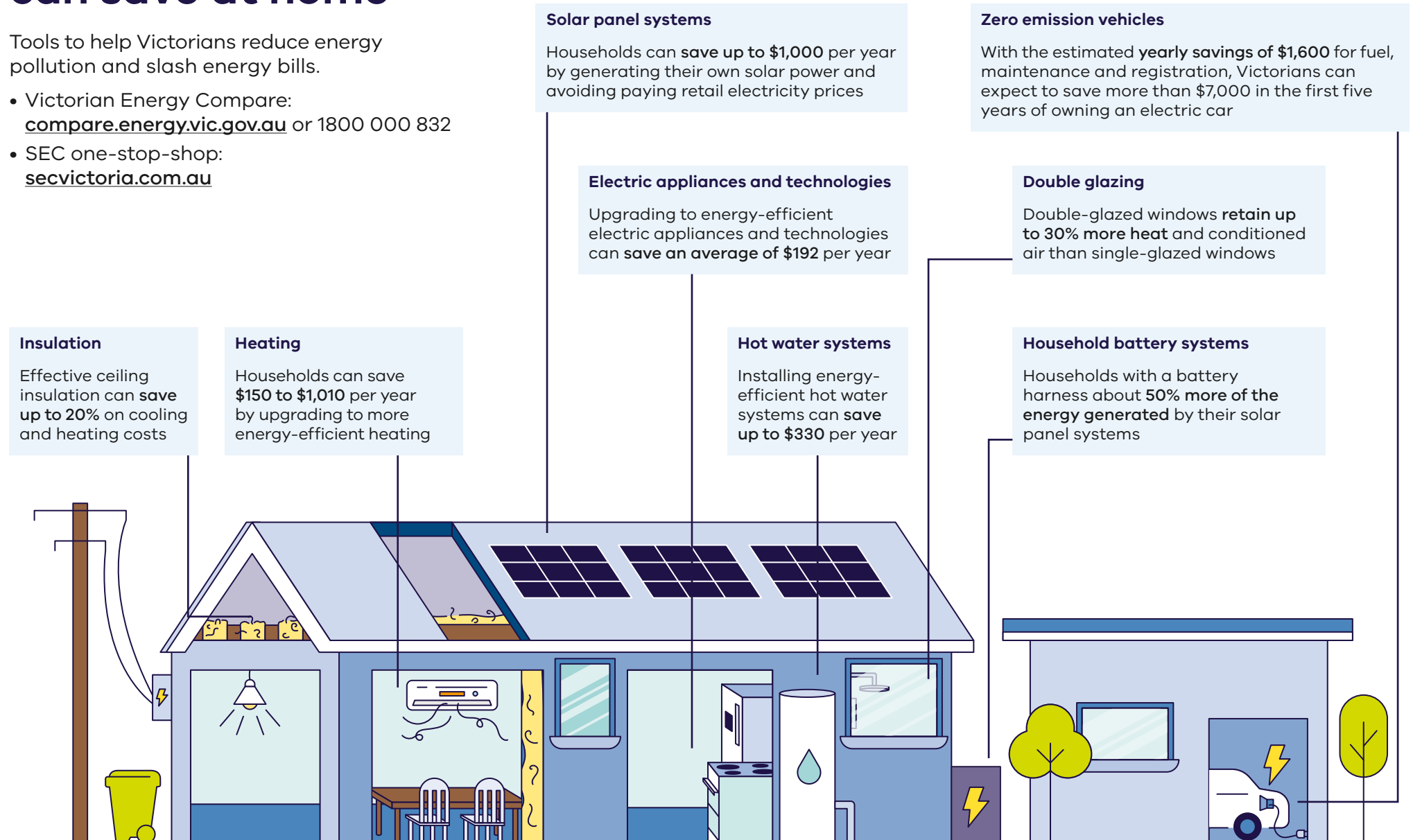
The VEU is the largest program of its kind in the country, and in 2024 alone it cut Victoria's emissions by 4.9 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

Over 2.4 million households and 180,000 businesses have participated in the VEU since 2009. Households have saved over \$2 billion on their energy bills.

# How Victorians can save at home

Tools to help Victorians reduce energy pollution and slash energy bills.

- Victorian Energy Compare: [compare.energy.vic.gov.au](https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au) or 1800 000 832
- SEC one-stop-shop: [secvictoria.com.au](https://secvictoria.com.au)





# Cheaper, more comfortable and resilient homes

## Making homes more resilient

Inefficient homes cost more to heat and cool. We're taking action to ease that pressure.

Through the **VEU** program we're helping Victorians understand their energy use and supporting the uptake of energy-efficient appliances.

In 2026, the **VEU** will also re-introduce support for ceiling insulation – helping the 60% of households in Victoria that currently have no or insufficient insulation.

By upgrading to energy-efficient products Victorians can save money while making homes healthier to live in year round.

The **Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program** will deliver over 50,000 upgrades across 23,600 properties, including replacing gas appliances with efficient electric alternatives, draught and gap sealing, ceiling insulation, gas disconnections and rooftop solar. The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments are contributing \$209.4 million through this program and the Commonwealth Government's Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative.

## Raising standards for climate-proof homes

In a nation-leading measure, Victoria introduced new **minimum rental standards** in 2025. These will deliver cheaper, cleaner and more comfortable home energy for millions of Victorians. One-third of Victorians are renters, and we know that every dollar counts.

From 1 March 2027, standards will require draught proofing, efficient shower heads, energy-efficient cooling and heating, and ceiling insulation.

Also from 1 March 2027, gas hot water systems at end-of-life must be replaced with efficient electric alternatives.

# Affordable and sustainable transport for everyone

## Investing in public transport

Our significant investments in public transport will keep Victorians moving for decades to come – reducing congestion and emissions, boosting productivity and making it easier for people to get around.

Melbourne's trains and trams are powered with 100% renewable energy retailed by the SEC. We're now focusing on creating a cleaner, smarter bus fleet – new transport buses will be purchased as zero emission buses in accordance with the **Zero Emission Bus Transition Plan**.

We've invested \$988 million to improve our train and bus network across the state. This means a cleaner, more frequent and better service for our growing communities.

We are also delivering free public transport for under 18s, as well as free statewide travel for seniors on weekends.

**More than 2,100 new train services since 2014 and 9,400 extra bus services since 2021**

The **Metro Tunnel** is the biggest transformation of Melbourne's rail network in more than 40 years and frees up space in the City Loop to run more trains, more often, on more lines.



Enabling 500,000 more low-emissions passenger trips per year



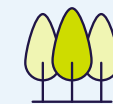
Five new world-class underground train stations



Powered with 100% renewable energy retailed by the SEC



Better access to education, hospitals, housing and jobs



8700m<sup>2</sup> of new green space and more than 500 new trees in and around station precincts will create cool, green and inviting spaces

## Encouraging walking and riding

Short car trips cost households money and congest our roads. But many of these trips can be replaced by walking or riding.

We've set a target of 25% of trips made by active transport by 2030. New, safer riding routes and pedestrian-friendly streets mean Victorians will be able to keep the car at home, stay healthy and save money.

## Supercharging our zero emission vehicles future

In 2021 we set a target for 50% of new light vehicle sales by 2030 to be zero emission vehicles (ZEVs). At the time, ZEVs made up 1.7% of new sales. We're now well on our way to meeting that target, with ZEV sales rising to 13.6% in September 2025, and Victoria having the highest share of any Australian state in the first half of 2025.

With the estimated yearly savings of \$1,600 for fuel, maintenance and registration, Victorians can expect to save more than \$7,000 in the first five years of owning an electric car.

By 2035 all Victorian Government passenger cars and vans will be ZEVs. This will reduce operating costs and emissions, while growing Victoria's second-hand ZEV market, helping Victorians make the switch.

# We've delivered 410 km of new and upgraded walking and riding paths and lanes since 2015



# Putting jobs and workers first in the transition

Victoria is one of the best places to live and work, with world-leading capabilities and a highly-skilled workforce. Strong climate action means Victoria will see more jobs – jobs for the future, spread across all corners of the state.



**Since 2014  
Victoria has had  
the highest jobs  
growth in the  
country – nearly  
one in four jobs  
today were  
created in that  
time – while  
meeting our  
nation-leading  
climate targets**

## Creating more jobs for Victorians

### New economic opportunities

Over the past decade, Victoria has led other states in real economic growth, and business investment growth.

The **Economic Growth Statement** lays out our actions for a stronger economy and a stronger future, and our **Industry Policy** provides the framework to drive competitiveness and productivity, and build economic resilience. This protects existing strengths and positions Victoria to seize key opportunities, such as critical minerals processing, renewable energy supply chains and the circular economy.

### Boosting investment

The \$150 million **Victorian Investment Fund** will boost business investment and expand priority sectors, creating jobs and cementing Victoria as the place to do business. It includes a \$50 million regional stream dedicated to supporting fast-growing businesses to enhance economic development, generating capital investment and new jobs in regional cities and towns.

### More jobs in local industries

Victoria's energy workforce is expected to grow by more than 60% between 2025 and 2040, powered by our once-in-a-generation investment in the renewable energy transition.

The forthcoming **Victorian Energy Jobs Plan** and the **Women in Energy Strategy** will collectively call on the energy industry, education and training sector, and governments to collaborate in tackling workforce challenges related to the energy transition. This builds on our support in the last strategy to upskill and support workers to take on clean energy jobs.

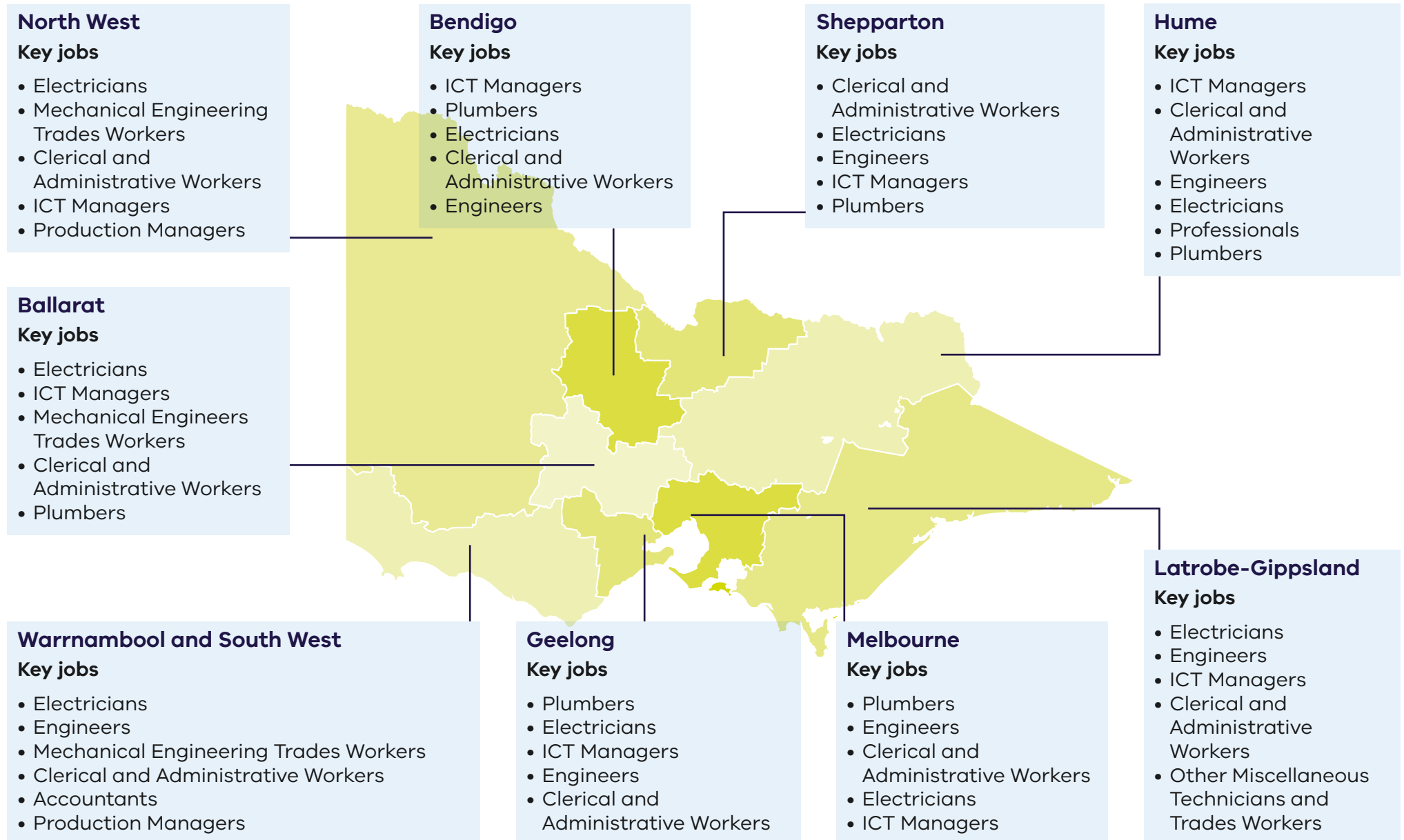
### Local critical minerals and rare earths jobs

Victoria's first **Critical Minerals Roadmap** aims to attract world-class minerals development and investors, while maintaining strong environmental standards and empowering local communities. It's a generational opportunity to establish well-paid, skilled jobs in regional Victoria and secure a world-leading role in a supply chain that is essential to the renewable energy transition.

**Our energy workforce is projected  
to grow to 67,000 workers in 2040**



# Renewable energy jobs across the state



# Investing in a skilled and inclusive workforce

With workforce development programs tailored for critical areas, fulfilling career pathways are being created for young people and mid-career workers alike.

## Supporting women in energy

The **Women in Energy Strategy** will support the full participation of women in Victoria's renewable energy transition, addressing their historically low representation in the sector.

The strategy will bring together industry, education, government, and stakeholders to tackle the key barriers facing women in the energy workforce.

## Driving energy jobs and growth with the SEC

To date, the SEC has invested in 819 MW of new generation and storage capacity, including the **Melbourne Renewable Energy Hub** and **SEC Renewable Energy Park** in Horsham. Together, these projects will deliver enough energy to power around 250,000 homes and create more than 400 full-time equivalent jobs during peak construction.

## Upskilling and reskilling trades

We're extending **Solar Victoria's training program** over the next three years. The program trains plumbers in heat pump installation, upskills the construction industry to deliver 7-star all-electric homes and mentors electricians working on rooftop solar installations and electrification.

We're also partnering with the Commonwealth Government and Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre to support the \$40 million **National Training Centre in New Energy Skills** to reskill thousands of plumbers and gas fitters.

## Latrobe Valley's renewable energy future

We've worked with local businesses, industry groups, schools, training providers and the community in the Latrobe Valley to help navigate economic changes, starting with our support during the closure of Hazelwood Power Station in 2017. Since 2017, we've invested more than \$1.6 billion in programs and major infrastructure projects that have created jobs and improved local services, resulting in thousands more workers in Gippsland.

## Partnering with the TAFE sector

Through **Free TAFE and Skills First**, we're providing fee-free or government-subsidised access to training pathways into clean economy jobs.

The \$50 million **TAFE Clean Energy Fund** is also establishing Clean Energy Centres at TAFEs in Morwell, Warrnambool and the Asia Pacific Renewable Energy Training Centre in Ballarat.

## Growing knowledge and skills in agriculture

We're collaborating with industry to help farmers reduce emissions, enhance productivity, and improve climate resilience. This includes partnering with industry, supply chains and the Zero Net Emissions Agriculture Cooperative Research Centre to provide outreach and services that build capability on reducing emissions and carbon farming, and to demonstrate solutions on-farm.

# Helping industries towards a net zero future

We're positioning Victoria to be a leader in low-carbon production by leveraging our affordable and reliable energy supply, industrial capabilities, natural resources, skilled workforce and research expertise.

## Supporting a profitable and productive agriculture sector

Victoria is Australia's largest agricultural exporter and has its largest workforce, supporting over \$20 billion in annual exports and around 150,000 jobs. We're driving innovation in agriculture by investing in research and commercialisation of new technologies. This boosts farm productivity, supports export competitiveness and positions Victoria as a leader in climate-smart production.

## Decarbonising freight

Victoria's freight contributes \$36 billion to the state's economy and supports 240,000 jobs – more than any other state. **Victoria Delivers** is our new plan released in 2025 to meet the challenge of growing freight volumes with actions to build the foundation for a low-carbon future. It provides a clear and aligned roadmap for investment confidence in low emission vehicles and technology, and encourages the use of more freight on rail to lower emissions, traffic and road trauma, and improve productivity.

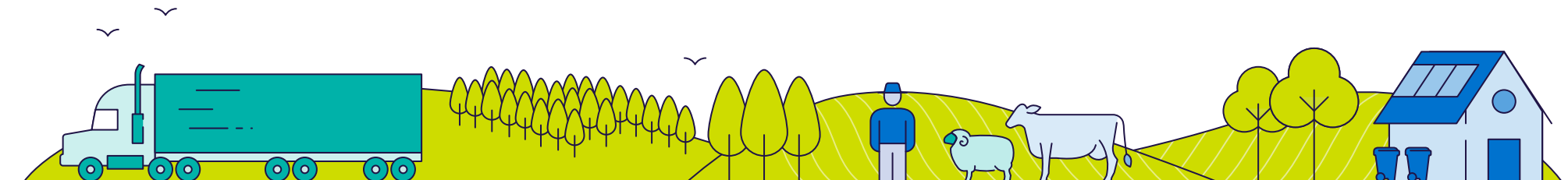
## Building Victoria's circular economy

Shifting to a circular economy will boost our state's economy by up to \$6.7 billion, help to create more than 3,900 new jobs, and establish new skills in design, repair and materials usage across Victoria.

## Sustainably growing Victoria's plantation estate and supporting farm forestry

Backed by \$190 million, we're supporting projects ranging from large-scale industrial plantations to integrated farm forestry. This includes the \$120 million **Gippsland Plantations Investment Program** – the largest single investment in plantation establishment in Victoria's history which will underpin 2,000 new and existing jobs in regional Victoria.

The **Victorian Plantations Support Program** and **Trees on Farms Program** are building the foundations for integration with agriculture, increasing adoption and market access for farm-grown timber and supporting greater uptake for carbon storage on private land.



# Building for the future

The choices we make today about how we power our homes and industries, design our communities and build our infrastructure will shape the future of Victoria for generations.

That's why we're planning and building with purpose: to create a more sustainable, connected and climate-resilient state.



# Delivering a historic investment in renewable energy

Affordable energy is the backbone of our economy – it's critical to almost everything we do. As Victoria transitions from ageing, unreliable brown coal, we must build a balance of renewable generation and storage to keep our electricity system stable and sustainable.

Victoria has met every renewable energy target it has set to date. Achieving our targets drives economic activity across the state contributing to new energy industries and more local jobs.

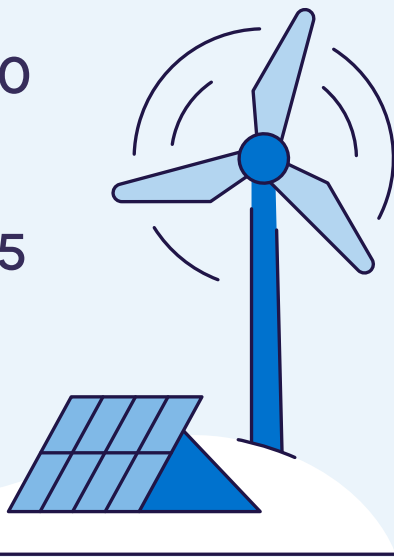
## Renewable electricity generation

**40%** by 2025

← **42%** renewable electricity in 2024–25

**65%** by 2030

**95%** by 2035



## Energy storage capacity

At least  
**2.6 GW\*** by 2030

At least  
**6.3 GW** by 2035

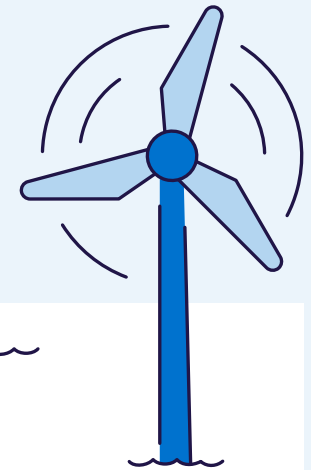


## Offshore wind energy

At least  
**2 GW** by 2032

**4 GW** by 2035

**9 GW** by 2040



\* 780 MW operating and 1.8 GW of utility scale storage committed, not including households and neighbourhood batteries

# Transforming Victoria's electricity sector

## Building large-scale energy storage to support renewables

Victoria is already the home of big batteries. These batteries improve the reliability of Victoria's electricity system by providing vital energy storage.

## Developing our offshore wind energy industry

Victoria is building a thriving offshore wind sector, leading the way for Australia's first offshore wind energy projects. We've established **Offshore Wind Energy Victoria** to unlock the state's world-class offshore wind resource.

## A planned and orderly transmission network

The **Victorian Transmission Plan** is about building the new energy infrastructure we need to keep the lights on, as coal closes. It proposes the creation of renewable energy zones that signal to the community, landholders, and industry where new energy infrastructure should be developed.

## Closing coal-fired generation

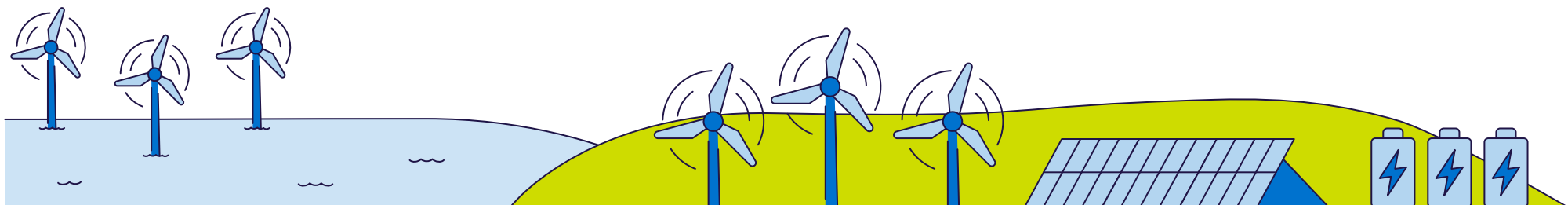
We're providing market certainty for new renewable investment with agreed closure timelines for coal-fired power plants. This certainty will help secure investment for replacement renewables and energy storage, keeping us on track to meet our renewable energy targets.

## Bringing back the SEC

The **SEC** is a government-owned renewable energy company that is investing in renewable energy generation and storage projects that help Victorians reduce their energy bills. We've allocated an initial \$1 billion towards delivering 4.5 GW of new renewable generation and storage projects by 2035. Almost 20% of this target, 819 MW, is already being built.

## Improving planning and approval processes

We're fast-tracking the transition to cheaper, cleaner renewable energy by streamlining planning and approval processes.





# Planning for our sustainable future

## Guiding sustainable growth

Our long-term vision sets a path for growth that protects the environment, strengthens communities and builds resilience to future challenges. We're planning for cities and towns to adapt to climate change by focusing on sustainable building and urban design that makes homes and workplaces more liveable.

In 2025 the Victorian Government released the **Plan for Victoria**, and the **Activity Centres Program**. Everyone should have the opportunity to live in a well-designed home, at an affordable price, in a place they can thrive. That's why we're planning for homes in and around 60 train and tram zone activity centres, encouraging more than 300,000 homes to be built close to public transport, jobs and services.

Together, these measures set Victorians up to live in communities which aren't just more sustainable, but also cheaper to live in, by providing more homes in areas with better access to walking, cycling and public transport.

## Planning and managing for climate resilience

We're investing early to embed climate resilience into our planning, design and construction to improve infrastructure and keep Victorians safe.

Recent reforms of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* require climate change to be considered when preparing or amending planning schemes.

We're already taking direct action for a more climate resilient environment, through programs such as **More Trees for a Cooler Greener West**.

We're also seeking to embed climate considerations into government budget and procurement processes, and undertake departmental climate risk assessments to provide more resilient and reliable services to Victorians.

In 2025, the Victorian Government released its second **Climate-related Risk Disclosure Statement**. This builds transparency and supports the public to understand the Government's approach to identifying managing climate-related risks and opportunities.

## Powered by the SEC

From July 2025, the SEC is powering 5% of Victoria's electricity market. It is retailing 100% renewable electricity to the Victorian Government. This includes everything from metropolitan and regional hospitals to some of Victoria's most iconic and loved places like Flinders Street Station, Werribee Open Range Zoo, and the Royal Botanic Gardens.

# Protecting our kids, families and communities

Nothing is more important than providing a better future for our kids.

Climate change is already being felt across Victoria, but we know that future generations will feel it more. Our climate actions protect them now and tomorrow.



# Improving health and wellbeing

## Tackling climate change and its health impact

In Victoria, around half the population has already experienced climate-related health impacts such as heat-related illness. Climate change is also impacting mental health and wellbeing, especially among young people and communities that face increased stress, anxiety and trauma related to environmental changes.

We're taking a coordinated, whole-of-system approach to climate and health in collaboration with partners across government, health and community sectors.

The **Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–27** recognises climate change and its impact on health as a key priority. We're taking action by reducing emissions to limit long-term health risks, building resilient communities that can adapt to climate-related challenges like extreme heat and poor air quality, and providing targeted support for those who need it most. The plan also highlights the shared benefits of climate and health action, particularly in areas like healthy eating and active living.

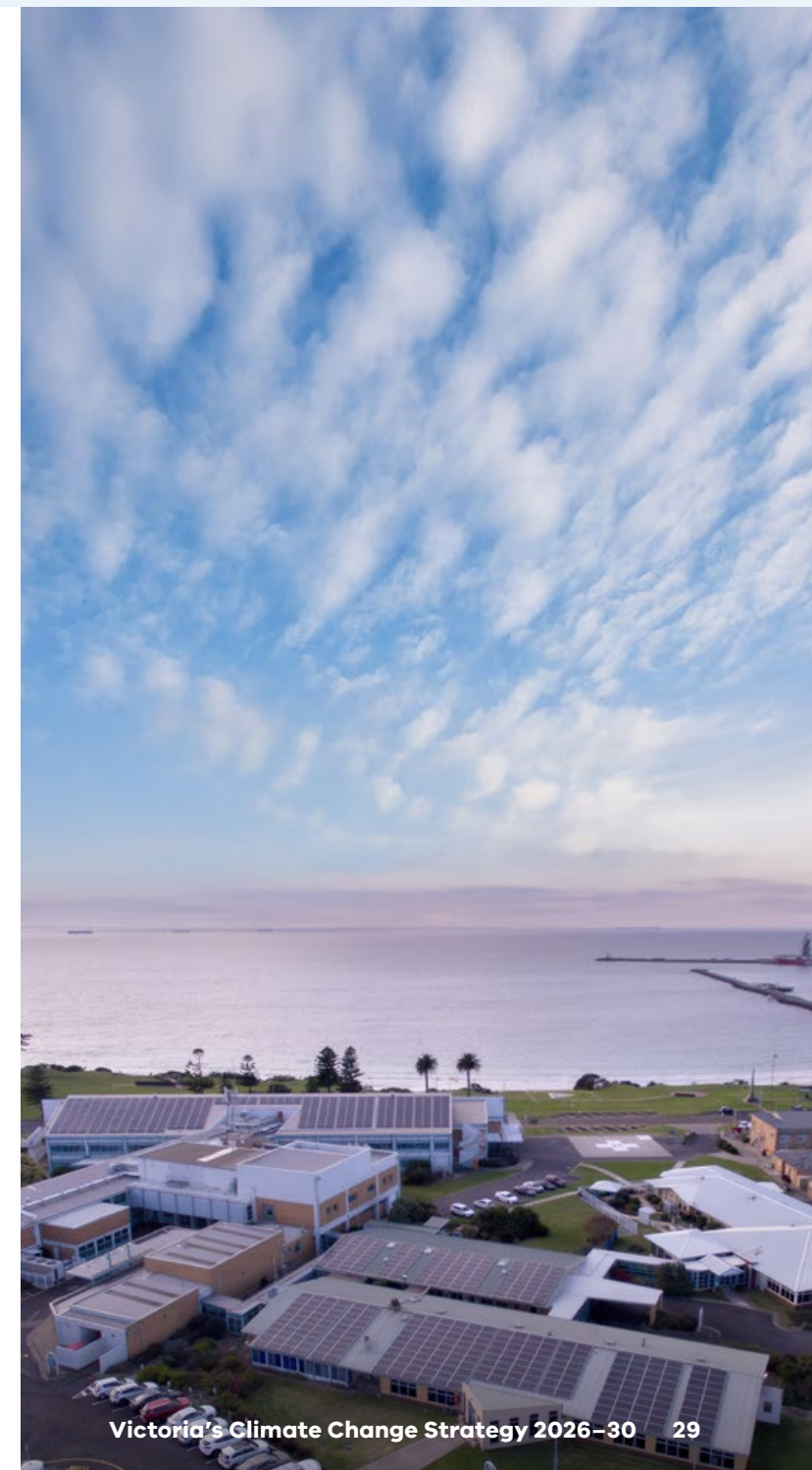
## Driving climate action across public health

**Climate Health Victoria (CHV)**, part of the Department of Health, is leading climate action across Victoria's public health system. We're supporting partners to cut emissions, improve health and wellbeing and deliver high-value care.

CHV also helps health organisations prepare for climate risks through practical tools and advice, including a climate risk toolkit and a partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to assess climate risks and identify opportunities to strengthen infrastructure.

## Greening Victoria's health system

We're investing **\$40 million in the Energy Efficiency and Solar Program** to install solar panels and improve energy efficiency in public hospitals, aged care facilities, and ambulance stations. By installing over 7,200 kw-peak of rooftop solar we're helping to reduce costs and emissions in our health system.



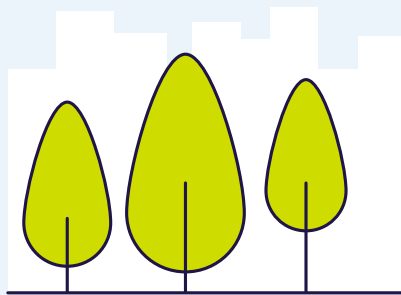
# Strengthening the natural environment for future generations

From forests and rivers to coastal habitats, Victoria's natural environments store carbon, protect biodiversity, and sustain our way of life. They're home to our unique plants and animals, and offer spaces for people to connect with nature.

That's why we've invested nearly \$800 million since 2014 – the largest biodiversity investment in Victoria's history – to protect and restore these precious places for generations to come.

## Greening urban spaces

We're committing over \$20 million to plant one million trees across Melbourne through the **More Trees for a Cooler, Greener West** and **More Trees in Melbourne** programs. These initiatives provide shade, expand green spaces, reduce pollution, and help combat urban heat.



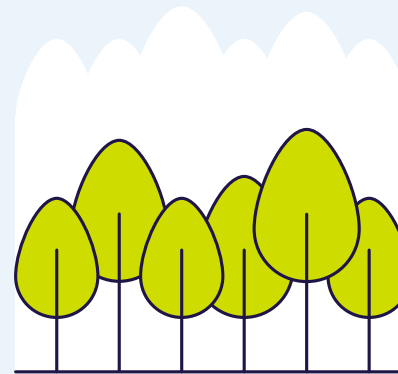
## Restoring native ecosystems

The **BushBank Program** is restoring over 20,000 hectares of native vegetation by 2035, enhancing biodiversity, storing carbon, and creating economic opportunities for Traditional Owners.



## Regenerating forests

The **Future Forests Program** is providing \$40 million to regenerate 1,200 hectares of native forests, manage pests, improve fire ecology and support research on ecological thinning to improve climate resilience.



## Shaping marine futures

We're investing \$1.84 million to prepare for our participation in blue carbon markets by mapping coastal ecosystem health, identifying restoration opportunities, and trialing new techniques. A **Blue Carbon Statement** will drive coordinated action and attract private investment.



# Supporting kids and schools

## Sustainable schools

Our schools are embracing sustainability programs and building environmental sustainability into their lessons.

Our early childhood services are helping kids to care for the environment and build wellbeing practices into their daily routines.

Through the **ResourceSmart Schools program**, schools get practical support to reduce emissions, water and waste, save on bills, connect to the environment and share lessons beyond the school gate. We're also helping schools install solar panels through our **Greener Government School Buildings Program** to generate renewable energy, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and save on their power bills.

## Bush kinders

**Bush kinders** provide children with opportunities to learn and play in nature, while fostering care and understanding for environmental sustainability as they grow and develop.

## Teaching students about future climate-ready careers

Teachers are supporting students to learn about climate action and future-focused careers.

The **Clean Energy Equipment Fund** helps tech schools to purchase the high-quality equipment and develop learning programs to teach students about careers in renewable energy.

The **SEC** is also leading a student education program to inform, inspire and empower students to take part in the energy transition and the opportunities it brings, providing practical examples of jobs and career pathways.





# Improving disaster and emergency management

## Strengthening resilience

As Victoria faces more frequent and intense extreme weather events, we're investing in stronger emergency services, recovery support and tools to reduce risk before disasters strike.

This includes boosting firefighting resources, maintaining critical bushfire and emergency assets, and improving emergency management information and early warning systems to keep communities safe, informed and empowered to act.

We're also supporting local resilience so businesses and communities can recover more quickly and cost-effectively.

## Climate-ready practices and preparations

We're incorporating future climate scenarios into emergency management planning and updating climate vulnerability assessments. Bushfire risk assessments are improving our strategic land use planning, and adaptation options are being developed for property and assets impacted by coastal hazards and sea level rise.

Our **Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2025** supports the efficient, effective, integrated and consistent management of fire and fire-related activities on public land.

Through this, we're protecting human life, health, residential property, critical infrastructure, community assets and the natural environment while increasing community resilience and healthy ecosystems.

## Protecting Victoria's water system

With drier conditions and growing flood risks, protecting our water system remains a priority. We're funding the **Maintaining water cycle climate action: Becoming net zero and disaster ready program** to implement the Water Cycle Adaptation Action Plan to reduce the vulnerability of the water system to climate-related risks.

We're also reducing flood risk through the continued rollout of the **Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy** and **10 regional strategies**.

## Protecting energy supply in the face of extreme weather

We've supported the installation of energy backup systems at community hubs, essential service sites and key local businesses in 27 towns, which consists of:

- energy resilience solutions in 24 towns
- **Community Microgrids and Sustainable Energy Program** projects in three towns.

An energy back-up system consists of solar PV, battery storage and generators managed by a smart controller. This allows a property to have power during outages, giving residents continued access to information, hot water, and device charging.

Our **100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program** has also expanded its scope to support energy resilience. Eligible applicants can access grants of up to \$400,000 per battery project for energy back-up systems that will increase energy resilience in their community.

### Council pledges

Victorian councils are delivering ambitious climate action policies to reduce Victoria's emissions and support local communities to respond and adapt to climate change.

Find out more about local council actions at: [climatechange.vic.gov.au/local-government/council-pledges](https://climatechange.vic.gov.au/local-government/council-pledges).



# Progressing self-determination

The Victorian Government acknowledges the diversity of Traditional Owner communities across Victoria, whose cultures are as rich and unique as the lands for which they are custodians.

Over generations, Traditional Owners have maintained their strong spiritual connections to land, to waters, to the skies and all the living things and natural resources, which are collectively known as Country.

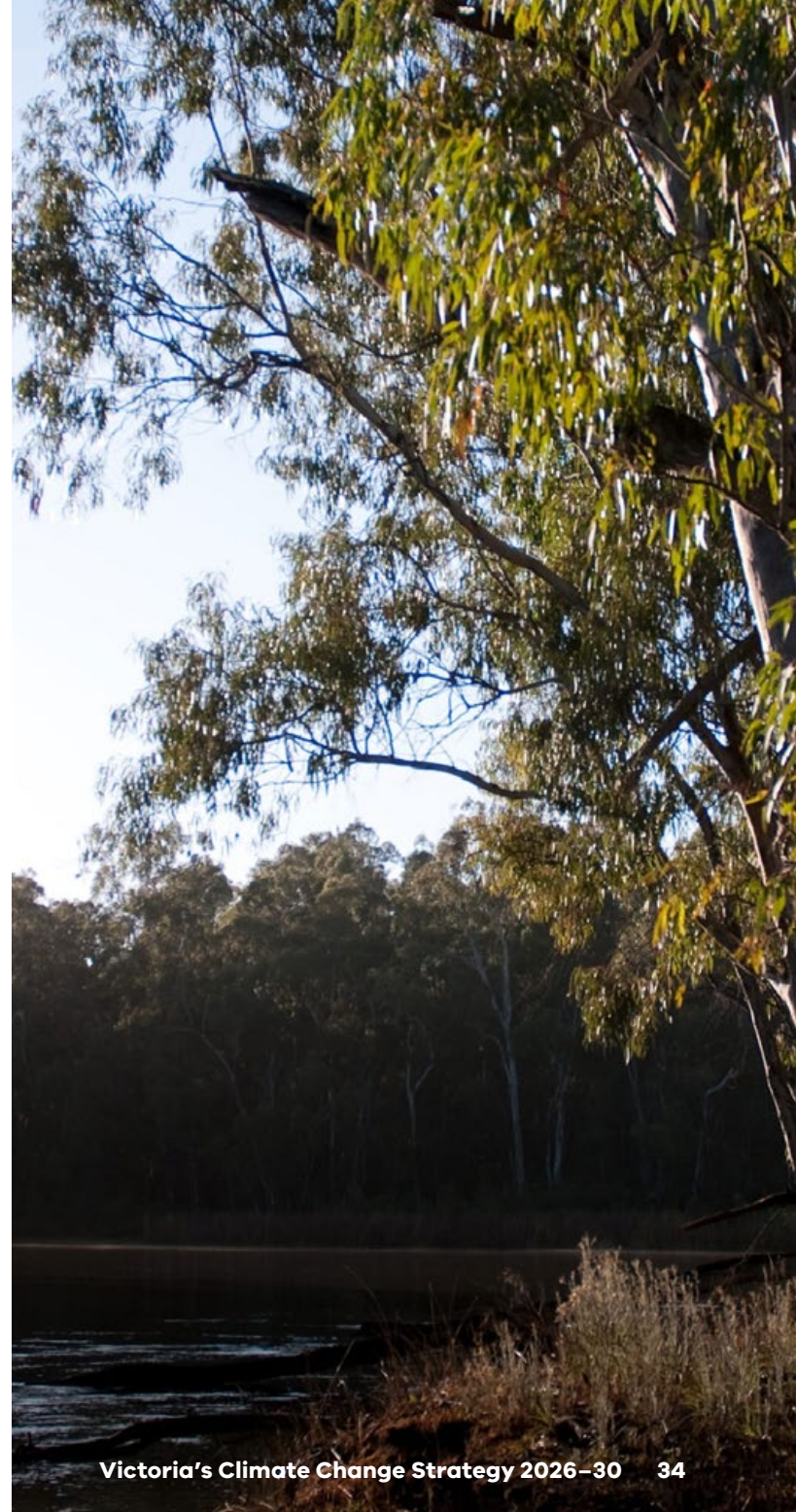
The Victorian Government's **Water is Life Roadmap** recognises the intrinsic connection to Country and the significant cultural and ecological knowledge of how to care for Country. It provides a pathway to deliver thriving cultural economies, and benefits for Traditional Owners and all Victorians.

Victoria's transition to net zero creates opportunities for Traditional Owners to share in the benefits of emerging industries, including new revenue streams, employment, capacity building and renewable energy sources for communities.

Through initiatives like the **BushBank Program** and the **First Peoples' Adoption of Renewable Energy Program**, the Victorian Government continues to embed self-determination and support Traditional Owners to achieve their goals for Country.

## Supporting Traditional Owners and their climate action goals

The **Traditional Owner Climate Action Grants Program** has provided \$1.1 million for Traditional Owners to build capability and capacity to care for Country and meet a range of on-the-ground climate action needs. This program recognises that each Traditional Owners Corporation has distinct climate action priorities and objectives.



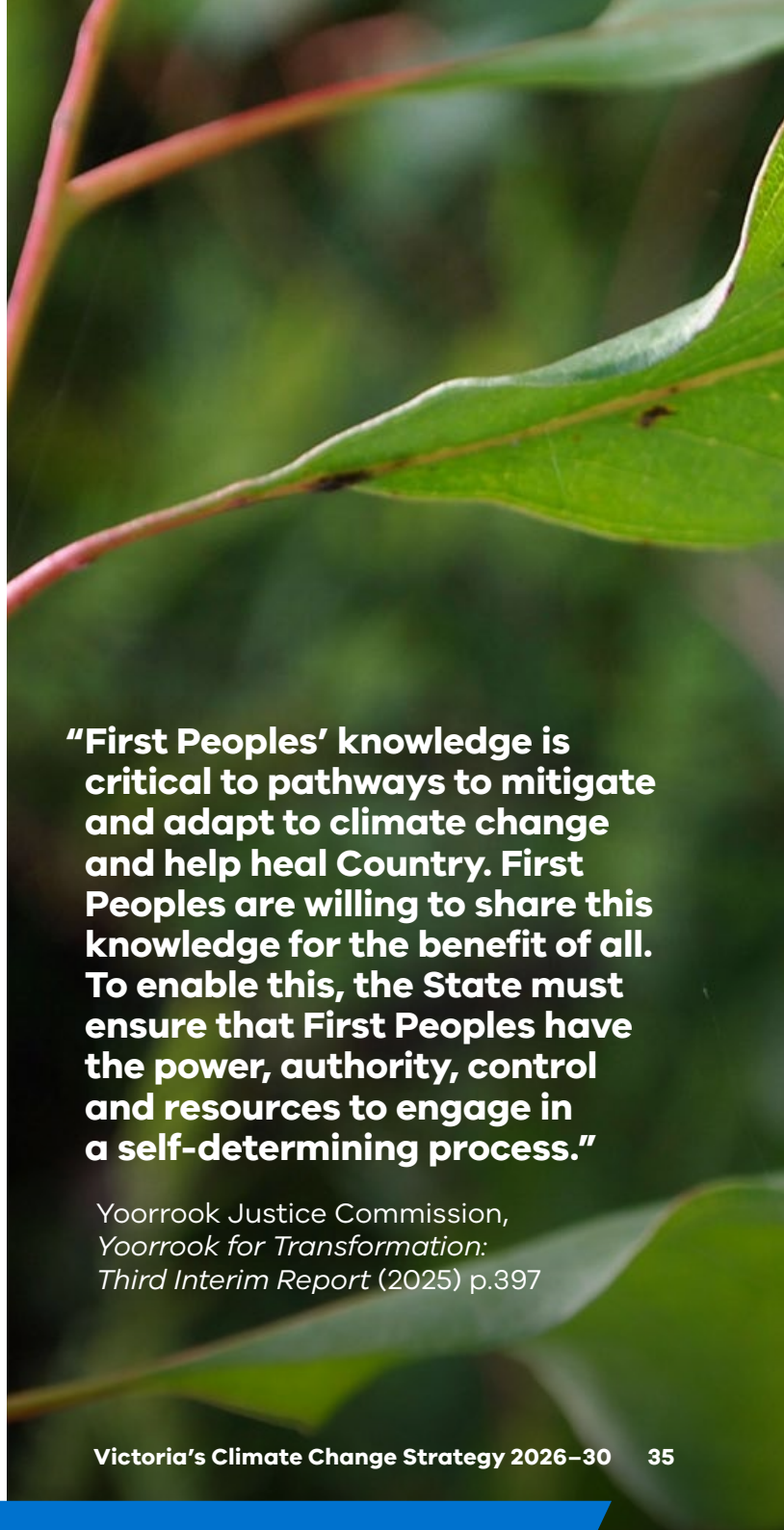
# Yoorrook Justice Commission

The Yoorrook Justice Commission (the Commission) was Australia's first formal truth-telling inquiry into historic and ongoing systemic injustices perpetrated against Traditional Owners through colonisation. Over four years, thousands of Victorians took part and shared their truths with the Commission through written submissions, testimonies and witness statements.

In July 2025, the Commission delivered its final reports and recommendations. The Commission noted how the impacts of climate change on Traditional Owners are acute and extend to health and wellbeing, housing, energy security, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, and capacity to live on and care for Country. The Commission also noted the impacts of climate change to Country – of the changes in season, loss of animal populations, changes in animal behaviour, damage to water systems and increased risk of climate emergencies.

The Commission considered Victorian Government engagement and partnership with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities to be a crucial element in Victoria's transition to a net zero and climate resilient state. Genuine partnership is necessary to ensure that Traditional Owners can benefit from the opportunities created by the transition and progress their climate priorities in line with self-determination principles.

The Victorian Government acknowledges the Commission's recommendation for the development of a First Peoples' Climate Justice Strategy. The Victorian Government will seek to advance Traditional Owners' objectives and priorities. The Victorian Government shares the Commission's goals of truth and justice and will carefully consider the Commission's findings and recommendations before delivering a formal response.



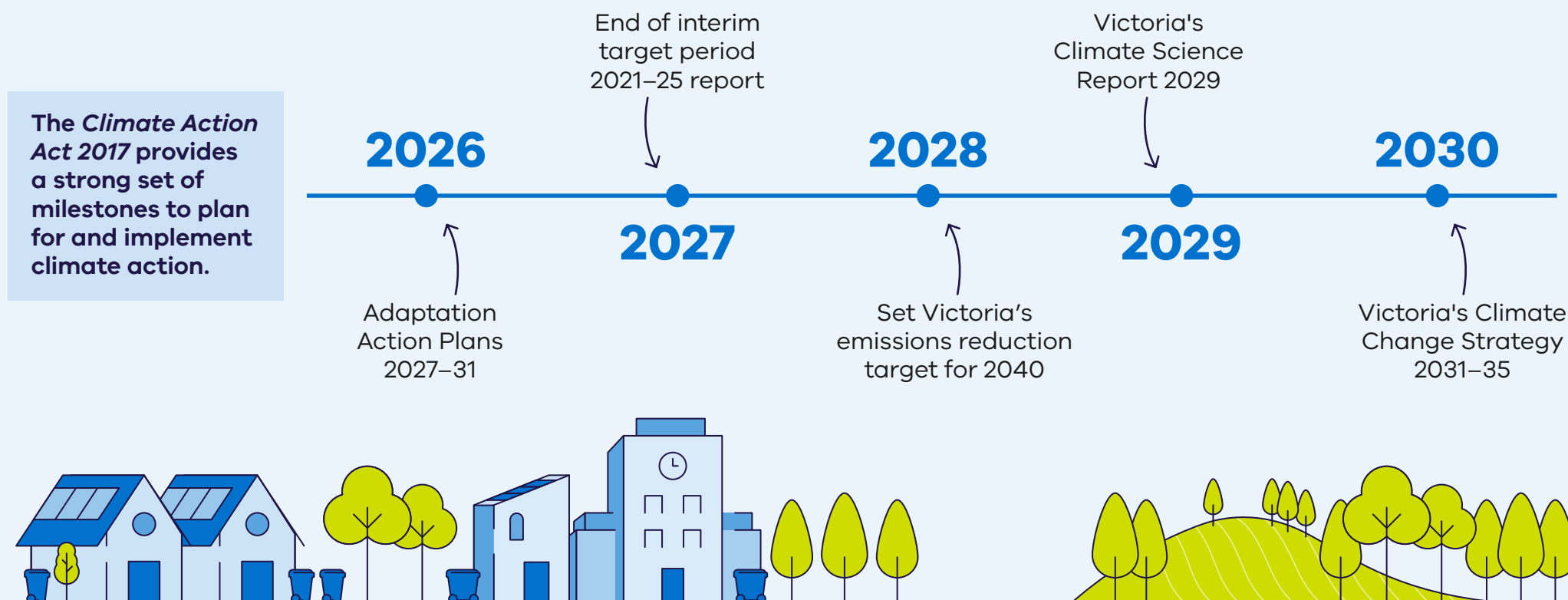
**“First Peoples’ knowledge is critical to pathways to mitigate and adapt to climate change and help heal Country. First Peoples are willing to share this knowledge for the benefit of all. To enable this, the State must ensure that First Peoples have the power, authority, control and resources to engage in a self-determining process.”**

Yoorrook Justice Commission,  
*Yoorrook for Transformation:  
Third Interim Report (2025)* p.397

# Next steps

**Communities, businesses and governments all have a part to play in reducing emissions and building climate resilience.**

**We will continue to lead the way, building on the actions in this strategy to create a prosperous, fair and strong Victoria.**



# New Adaptation Action Plans

## Our vision for a climate resilient Victoria



Households and communities have the knowledge and capability to manage climate impacts



Victoria's industries and workforces have the skills and resources to support a thriving economy and manage climate impacts



Victoria's infrastructure and settlements can withstand climate impacts



Victoria's natural environment is valued and healthy

## Our priorities will shape the new plans

Being prepared in 2026, the Adaptation Action Plans 2027–31 will be shaped by this strategy and underpinned by our commitment to support self-determination for Traditional Owners, to care for Country and culture in a changing climate and to benefit from the transition.

### Helping households with the cost of living and lowering costs for business

- Focus on the most at-risk individuals and communities and support them to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to climate impacts
- Provide information and advice to households and communities to manage climate risks and seize opportunities

### Putting jobs and workers first in the transition

- Focus on the most at-risk critical industry sectors and workforces and support them to reduce their vulnerability and exposure to climate impacts
- Provide information and advice to industries and businesses to manage climate risks and seize opportunities to build a climate resilient economy

### Building for the future

- Focus on the most at-risk assets and services and implement risk mitigation strategies, including feasible opportunities to build back better or support managed transition
- Ensure planning, design, location and procurement standards for new assets and services seek to minimise climate risks

### Protecting kids, families and communities

- Support emergency management and preparedness for more frequent and intense climate-related events
- Focus on climate-related risks to Victoria's natural environment and implement strategies to maximise biodiversity conservation and support ecosystem services
- Support nature-based solutions that connect Victorians to the natural environment, reduce emissions and build climate resilience



# Reporting on Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2021–25



**We've reduced emissions by 31.4% since 2005 – from 122.7 to 84.2 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e. That's within the range of our 2025 target of 28–33%.**

## Delivering on the strategy

Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2021–25 set out the pathway to achieving net zero emissions and building resilience to the impacts of climate change. The strategy:

- established ambitious 2025 and 2030 targets
- outlined the state's plan for reducing emissions
- set out a vision and priorities for a more climate resilient Victoria.

Over the last five years, we have reduced emissions; driven the transition to renewable energy while creating jobs and reducing energy bills; helped industry, agriculture and transport to start decarbonising; and supported vital infrastructure, services, industries, and environment to adapt to climate change.

## A strong foundation for more action

We built on Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2021–25. Since its release we've legislated Victoria's 2025, 2030 and 2035 emissions reduction targets, brought forward net zero to 2045, and put in place strong renewable energy generation, offshore wind and energy storage targets.

We've made major policy announcements that advance Victoria's climate action legacy, such as bringing back the SEC, and Australia's first Gas Substitution Roadmap.

In 2022, we released our first Adaptation Action Plans across seven systems with over 120 actions to build our climate resilience. A report on these plans will be released with the Adaptation Action Plans 2027–31.

Find out more: [climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-climate-change-strategy](https://climatechange.vic.gov.au/victorias-climate-change-strategy)

# Our strategy delivered real benefits

## A clean energy economy

- **Set strong renewable energy targets:** 65% by 2030 and 95% by 2035
- **Brought back the SEC:** investing \$1 billion into new public renewable energy and storage projects
- **Supported jobs:** nearly 4,000 through the Victorian Renewable Energy Target and Victorian Energy Upgrades program
- **Created new skills:** trained more than 6,000 workers in renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies through Solar Victoria
- **Led by example:** 100% of electricity supplied by the SEC for Victoria's public schools, hospitals, trains and other government operations is from renewable sources

## Innovation for the future

- **Funded innovation:** offshore wind projects, renewable hydrogen and zero emission farm equipment
- **Launched zero emission buses:** began replacing our diesel bus fleet with zero emission buses, with 88 rolled out to date
- **Released and updated:** the Gas Substitution Roadmap

## Resilient farms and forests

- **Planted trees:** 3.5 million seedlings planted for plantations and 2,700 hectares of habitat planted under the BushBank Program
- **Helped farmers reduce emissions:** worked with 250 farm businesses to estimate, understand and reduce their on-farm emissions

## Climate smart businesses and communities

- **Powered homes with solar:** installed over 400,000 solar PV, hot water and battery systems through the Solar Homes Program
- **Improved home energy efficiency:** over 2.4 million households have participated in the Victorian Energy Upgrades program since 2009 and have saved over \$2 billion on their energy bills
- **Upgraded business energy efficiency:** saved businesses an average of \$3,700 on annual energy bills through the Victorian Energy Upgrades program
- **Recovered waste:** 70% of all waste generated was recovered in Victoria as of 2023–24, among the strongest rate in the nation

## A climate resilient Victoria

- **Delivered home energy upgrades:** over 22,000 under the Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program
- **Built back-up power systems:** at community hubs, essential service sites and local businesses in 27 towns
- **Protected our coasts:** \$13.8 million in 2023 to protect coastal communities

# Glossary

| Term                                  | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal Community                  | Refers to and acknowledges all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people living in Victoria. Community can be used to describe the entire Victorian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community or smaller specific Communities.                                                                                       |
| Adaptation Action Plans               | The Victorian Government's plans across seven systems to ensure Victoria's climate resilience, now and in the future. The seven systems are: built environment, education and training, health and human services, natural environment, primary production, transport, and water cycle systems.                                     |
| Climate adaptation                    | Action taken to reduce the adverse consequences of climate change or harness opportunities by building resilience now into our environments, our economy and society.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Climate change                        | Changes in the state of the climate, including an increase in the occurrence of extreme weather events, long-term changes in weather patterns and sea-level rise, attributed directly or indirectly to human activity.                                                                                                              |
| Climate hazards                       | A natural or human-caused event or condition that may cause damage and loss.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Climate risk                          | The potential negative effects of a climate hazard, including environmental, societal and financial impacts, which includes consequences on lives, livelihoods, health and wellbeing, ecosystems and species, economic, infrastructure, services, social and cultural assets (IPCC, 2021).                                          |
| Disaster                              | A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts.                                               |
| Extreme weather events                | A weather event that is rare at a particular place and time of year. Examples of extreme weather events are heatwaves, bushfires, storms, floods and droughts.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| First Peoples or First Nations people | Refers to peoples or nations of people connected to an area prior to colonisation. These terms have some general acceptance but may not be the term preferred by individuals or specific groups of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples.                                                                                |
| Fossil fuels                          | Non-renewable energy sources formed from the remains of plants and animals that were buried by layers of rock over millions of years. Common fossil fuels are coal, oil and natural gas.                                                                                                                                            |
| Greenhouse gas emissions              | The production of gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere and contribute to global warming. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride.                                                                                                  |
| GSP                                   | Refers to Gross State Product, which details the total economic production of a state economy and is the state equivalent to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Mt CO <sub>2</sub> -e                 | A unit of measurement that converts all greenhouse gases to a million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Net zero                              | Achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Renewable energy                      | Energy that comes from resources that are continually replenished such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves and geothermal heat.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Resilience                            | The ability of a system, community or society exposed to climate hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management. |
| SEC                                   | The SEC is a government-owned renewable energy company that is investing in renewable energy generation and storage projects that help Victorians reduce their energy bills.                                                                                                                                                        |
| Traditional Owner                     | An Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who has traditional connections to an identified geographical area of Country.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Zero emission vehicles (ZEVs)         | Vehicles that do not use petroleum fuels and therefore do not emit greenhouse gas emissions from the tailpipe. Examples include battery electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles.                                                                                                                                 |

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