

As the Alliances are primarily comprised of local government members, the advocacy positions outlined in this document focus on outcomes relevant to local government. However, the Alliances seek to represent the interests of all members where relevant and where members choose to participate in advocacy.

Issue	Level	Outcomes Sought	Government Policy / Opportunities
Climate policy, targets and multi-level governance	Federal	- Establish a comprehensive climate policy framework that integrates all levels of government and recognises local government contributions to Australia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ensuring that voluntary action taken by local governments is additional to Australia's international obligations. - Establish a Coalition for Higher Ambition Multi-Level Partnership (CHAMP) aligned multi-level governance partnership to deliver an Accord that defines shared objectives for strengthening climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience across all tiers of government. - Allocate appropriate resources to implement the Accord based on a well-defined methodology to determine region-specific adaptation and mitigation costs. - Amend the national Climate Change Act 2022 to include objectives and principles to guide a fair, equitable, and inclusive transition to net zero emissions. - Implement stringent emission standards on coal fired generators and prohibit use of carbon capture and storage to meet emission standards. - Develop a robust framework for carbon dioxide removals including separate targets to emission reductions. - Encourage a robust local offset market that prioritises drawdown of greenhouse gas emissions and maximises co-benefits for First Nations and regional communities and supports compliance schemes without compromising carbon budgets. - Consider opportunities to establish a framework that can recognise and account for greenhouse gas emission drawdown which councils already undertake through Open Space and Conservation work. - Develop clear guidance and tools for local governments to adequately prepare for and navigate climate-related financial reporting (e.g. updates to guidance/tools to clarify Scope 3 boundaries and reporting requirements for local governments including supply chain emissions) - Strengthen commitments to justice and equity in Australia's transition to a clean economy.	- Climate Change Act 2022 - Australia's Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan - Coalition for Higher Ambition Multi-Level Partnership (CHAMP) - National Net Zero 2050 Plan and sectoral plans - Clean Energy Innovation Fund - Future Made in Australia - Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) - Modern Manufacturing Strategy - National EPA - ACCU Scheme and Safeguard Mechanism - Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Review
	State	- Strengthen commitments to justice and equity in Victoria's transition to a clean economy. - Provide practical support to local governments making Emissions Reductions Pledges and/or municipal emissions reductions targets, including provision of practical tools, training and resources for less-resourced councils to measure and report on their emissions reduction activities. - Investigate and support local carbon offset accounting schemes being developed at the state and/or local government level, that use local activities for offsets – particularly natural resource management (NRM) activities. - Support engagement in multi-level governance discussions and approaches, together with Federal Government.	- Climate Change Act 2017 - Climate Change Strategy - Reviews of emissions reduction targets and interim targets - Emissions Reduction Pledges
Climate risk mitigation, adaptation, and emergency management	Federal	- Increase funding and support for climate risk mitigation actions. - Establish a national \$400 million (ALGA figure) climate adaptation fund for councils to deliver local, place-based solutions, including support to integrate climate change risk management into investment decisions and to demonstrate the benefits and business case for climate change adaptation action.	- Second National Action Plan to implement the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework - National Adaptation Plan - National Climate Risk Assessment - National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

		- Also establish a dedicated \$600 million 'Build to Withstand' Fund to allow councils to conduct pre-disaster investigation works to identify and address the highest priority infrastructure for resilience upgrades (MAV's advocacy ask) - Improve National Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and ensure states and territories adhere to the principle of betterment. - Support collaborative platforms for engaging private finance to assist in the delivery of resilient, adapted, zero carbon communities. - Allocate appropriate funding-to the delivery of the National Adaptation Plan and consult local government in the preparation of an Adaptation Action Agenda pursuant to the Plan - Commitment to continue and expand the Disaster Ready Fund beyond current 5-year term.	Disaster Ready Fund
	State	- Increase funding and support for climate risk mitigation actions. - Attach funding to the 2026 updates of Victoria's sectoral Adaptation Action Plans, including direct financial support for councils, to enable implementation. - Clarify roles, responsibilities and liabilities for adaptation across the three levels of government in key climate policies and plans. - Recognise the role that local governments play driving place-based adaptation for climate-resilient infrastructure, assets and communities and fulfil commitments in Victoria's Second Climate Change Strategy. - Support regional adaptation actions, plans and programs that improve climate-adapted liveability in rural and urban areas. - Coordinate heatwave response policies with a focus on low income and vulnerable households. - Support proper consideration of climate change in municipal emergency management plans and related services, including improvements to the community emergency risk assessment (CERA) tool and process. - Improve climate risk assessment guidance, adaptation information and GIS-based tools, particularly catchment and inland flood modelling, storms, bushfires, urban heat mapping and canopy cover, and sea level rise. - Support local government's priorities for WSUD and commitments under catchment based Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMPs) in state-based adaptation plans. - Support collaborative platforms for engaging private finance to assist in the delivery of resilient, adapted, zero carbon communities.	- Sector and Regional Adaptation Actions Plans (2026 update) - Victorian public health and wellbeing plan 2023-2027 - Victoria's Future Climate Tool - Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Roadmap - EM Sector Outcomes Framework - Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy - State Emergency Management Plan - Victoria's Climate Change Strategy - DEECAs legal review of adaptation roles and responsibilities - Water for Victoria - Biodiversity 2037 - Regional IWMPs - Nature Repair Market - Bushbank Program
Electrification, energy efficiency, and energy equity for households and SMEs	Federal	- Increase investment in and support for council-led infrastructure upgrades (e.g. aquatic centres) and mechanisms to address the cost of local grid upgrades (e.g. extend and expand the Community Energy Upgrade Fund) - Invest in an all-electric and energy efficient future for Australian homes and communities, including support for place-based outreach and facilitation programs delivered by councils as trusted intermediaries, and targeted finance and subsidies to reduce or eliminate upfront costs for low-income and vulnerable households. - Work with the states to upgrade all social housing by 2030 to ensure housing is safe, healthy, all-electric, energy efficient, and climate resilient, and to build the workforce for residential upgrades. - Secure funding to deliver the Repowering Homes with Local Government proposal. - Fully fund home energy efficiency and climate resilience upgrades for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing in collaboration with First Nations people.	- Household Energy Upgrades Fund - Federal battery incentive scheme - National Construction Code - National Australian Built Environment Rating System - Product Emissions Standards Act 2017 - National Energy Performance Strategy (NEPS) - Pricing Review (AEMC)

	State	? Increase investment in and support for council-led infrastructure upgrades (e.g. aquatic centres) including mechanisms to address the cost of local grid upgrades. ? Appropriately target and enhance the accessibility of incentive schemes and programs for residential electrification and energy efficiency for low income and vulnerable households, in partnership with local/regional providers. ? Increase financial support and other targeted assistance for SMEs to electrify, reduce emissions, and plan for and mitigate climate risks. ? Provide greater choice for renewable options in Victoria's Energy Compare tool. ? Encourage energy retailers to provide additional support to customers with low English literacy and from culturally diverse backgrounds, including energy bill information that is easier to understand, improved interpreter services and information provision in languages other than English. ? Introduce minimum energy efficiency standards in rental properties, including protections for renters, assistance for landlords to work with tenants, and compliance schemes. ? Introduce mandatory energy disclosure and efficiency standards for commercial and residential buildings at point of sale and lease. ? Remove limitations within the Residential Tenancies Act that restrict application of EUF and the ability of landlords to voluntarily share upgrade costs with tenants. ? Provide resourcing and other assistance (e.g. online platforms) for place-based special rates charge and residential EUF programs to streamline administration and minimise overheads. ? Update the Owners Corporation Act and broader strata and ownership frameworks to remove barriers to upgrades ? Establish a State funded Apartment Energy Upgrade Program, that can be delivered in partnership with local government.	? State Election 2026 ? Victorian Renewable Energy Target ? Victorian Energy Efficiency Target ? Gas Substitution Roadmap and building regulation reforms ? Amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act ? Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) Program Strategic Review ? Solar Homes package ? SEC One-stop-shop ? Victoria's 'Big Build' social housing program ? Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings ? Amendments to the LG Act 2020
A just clean energy transition	State / Federal	? Deliver upgrades to transmission networks to address capacity issues and support higher penetration of renewables, ensuring that major transmission and renewable energy projects are developed in the right places, in consultation with First Nations People, councils and communities, mitigating negative impacts on the environment and agriculture. ? Resource and support regional communities, councils, and First Nations groups to plan for and participate meaningfully in the development and implementation of the Victorian Transmission Plan and Renewable Energy Zones. ? Outline a consistent and coordinated approach for regional and rural councils and communities hosting renewable energy to realise meaningful, inter-generational benefit-sharing investments in over the next five years. ? Scale-up private sector investment in renewable energy projects and initiatives to fast-track decarbonisation of the grid, applying social merit criteria and ensuring that proponents are demonstrating best-practice community engagement and benefit sharing. ? Support regions and communities impacted by the transition away from coal, expanding green jobs, employment and training. ? Develop clear policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure that the energy, water, emissions and other environmental impacts of data centres are mitigated and managed effectively.	? AEMO Integrated System Plan ? Victorian Transmission Plan (VTP) ? Victorian Renewable Energy Target ? National Capacity Investment Scheme ? Recommendations of the Inquiry into Renewable Energy in Victoria ? Recommendations of the Dyer Community Engagement Review ? First Nations Clean Energy Strategy
Energy system and market reform	AER, AEMO, AEMC, ESC, DNSPs	? Adequately embed environmental and social outcomes in changes to the National Electricity Objective (NEO) ? Remove regulatory and market barriers to rapid integration of renewable and distributed energy resource. ? Remove regulatory and market barriers to electrification and increase support for new and emerging business models and technologies, such as local electricity trading.	? AEMO Integrated System Plan ? National Energy Productivity Strategy ? National Energy Performance Strategy ? Australian Energy Market Commission pricing review and rule changes ? Australian Energy Regulator processes and contestability reviews

		❑ Support distributed and renewable energy through appropriate tariff structures. ❑ Encourage investment in energy resilience via incentives for renewable energy storage. ❑ Adopt equitable tariffs for electricity use and empower consumers to reduce consumption through greater transparency in billing in accessible language/s. ❑ Ensure network tariff review does not disincentivise or penalise household and business electrification. ❑ Develop models to facilitate more integrated planning between distribution network service providers (DNSPs) and council land use planners. ❑ Require DNSPs to allocate sufficient resources to network upgrades in rural and regional areas to enable electrification and enhance energy equity and resilience. Establish free public access to data on network constraints and energy consumption to enable municipal emissions reporting and planning for electrification. ❑ Address regulatory barriers for small market sites in Victoria (which cannot be aggregated as they can be in other states).	❑ Victorian Essential Services Commission inquiries and price reviews ❑ Guarantee of Origin (GO) scheme ❑ Technology specific regulation (e.g. geothermal)
Public lighting	State	❑ Improved engagement between DNSPs and council planners.	❑ Road Management Act 2004 ❑ VicRoads Guidelines for Street Lighting Design
Planning for safe, resilient, and sustainable housing and communities	State	❑ Align planning reforms with state climate policy, targets, and the most up-to-date climate science. ❑ Coordinate measures to increase housing supply and density with infrastructure planning and delivery to avoid enhancing exposure to climate risks and negative biodiversity impacts. ❑ Implement the ESD Roadmap and ensure that state-wide ESD standards elevate and do not dilute higher local ESD standards. ❑ Align planning reforms with Plan for Victoria's 30% canopy cover target (at minimum) and support the expansion of blue/green infrastructure including in new estates and on private land. ❑ Close loopholes in the Victorian Planning Scheme that weaken native vegetation protections and ensure that the Victorian Government's role in assessing and deciding applications to log private land is not devolved to regional councils. ❑ Operationalise the mandate to address climate change in the Victorian Planning and Environment Act and require every planning scheme amendment, at all levels of government and the planning framework, to include an assessment against relevant climate change considerations. ❑ Align Plan for Victoria action to implement a consistent state-wide planning approach to flooding, coastal inundation, and other climate risks (similar to current bushfire arrangements). ❑ Support the Sustainable Subdivisions Programs and local government shared services/advisors in peri-urban and regional Victoria. ❑ Support improved strategic planning tools and data. Resource local governments with access to improved heat mapping, flood modelling and tree canopy tools to better embed climate resilience into planning scheme amendments. ❑ Support and assist councils to access Victoria's Future Climate tool and data for climate change risk assessments and other purposes.	❑ Review of Victorian Planning Provisions ❑ Roadmap for ESD of Buildings and Subdivisions ❑ Plan for Victoria ❑ Infrastructure Victoria's 30 year strategy ❑ Review of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (PE Act) and Schedule 1 of the Climate Act ❑ Victorian Environment Protection Act 1970 and Regulations ❑ Victoria's 'Big Build' for social housing ❑ Native vegetation clearing regulation

Sustainable transport	State / Federal	❑ Implement and expand national fuel efficiency and emission standards to include new heavy vehicles. ❑ Remove regulatory barriers and establish robust policy frameworks to support the rapid transition to EVs and a net zero emissions transport sector. ❑ Implement regulation and standards for public charging networks to ensure a level of standardisation, up-time, operational requirements and data sharing/reporting. ❑ Establish a comprehensive and equitable electric vehicle charging network across Victoria and remove barriers to charging points on council-managed arterial roads. ❑ Increase state and federal investment in public transport, particularly ensuring that regional and growth areas have access to safe, affordable and convenient public transport. ❑ Electrify all public transport and community transport fleets. ❑ Increase investment in and support for councils to plan, provide, and facilitate active travel infrastructure and programs.	❑ Light and heavy vehicle emissions standards ❑ Transport Sector Transition Plan ❑ Future Fuels and Vehicles Strategy ❑ National Hydrogen Strategy ❑ Future Fuels Fund - ARENA ❑ Electric vehicle tax
Waste resource and recovery emissions	State	❑ Support councils to develop a shared long-term goal for waste, thus providing investment certainty for the waste services sector to provide appropriate processing facilities and local waste management solutions. ❑ Provide further funding to assist councils to enable best practice delivery of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) programs, particularly to enhance communications to maximise uptake and minimise contamination rates and stimulate the market for end-use opportunities. ❑ Support the development of a state-wide approach to offsets from council managed landfills and alternative waste treatment. ❑ Support circular economy opportunities, particularly reuse applications for waste materials, and fully embed consideration of climate impacts into waste and circular economy programs. ❑ Allocate landfill levy funds transparently and equitably to sustainability, climate and waste projects across the state.	❑ DEECA (Regional Circular Economy Plans) ❑ Recycling Victoria ❑ EPA ❑ Victorian Waste to Energy Policy ❑ Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme funding opportunities