



PLANNING FOR ALL OF MELBOURNE

The Victorian Government response to the *Melbourne 2030* Audit



FACT SHEET CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Melbourne is a growing, successful international city with a population that could reach five million people by 2030. This growth, combined with the challenges of climate change, housing affordability and transport require decisive action. The Victorian Government will take a strong lead in planning for all of Melbourne, in partnership with local government, stakeholders and communities, to enhance Melbourne's highly valued liveability.

The impacts of climate change are being felt across the globe.

As the world's understanding of climate change has increased, so has the need to take decisive action.

The Victorian Government has a clear commitment to plan for a future that is both sustainable and able to withstand the environmental impacts of climate change.

Good planning is critical to facing a carbon-constrained future.

The way we design and lay out our new suburbs, the way we design our houses, the way we plan development in our activity centres – these are all fundamental to responding and adapting to climate change.

COMMITMENTS

The Government has made significant progress in tackling climate change and has set a target to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from 2000 levels by 60% by 2050. Action towards meeting these targets has already commenced, with the Premier's recent Climate Change Summit and the development of a Green Paper/ White Paper on climate change.

The Government will focus on the challenge of increasing the environmental sustainability of Melbourne in the face of climate change. Integrated land-use and transport planning will be important to sustaining biodiversity across our metropolitan area, managing waste and water resources, and reducing Victoria's greenhouse gases.

Actions will include:

- seeking reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from energy use in transport
- making Melbourne and its infrastructure more resilient to climate change impacts
- supporting the development and use of renewable resources, recycling, efficient use of water and the protection of water supply catchments
- encouraging water sensitive urban design in new developments, reducing water usage by 30% on a per capita basis, increasing water recycling to 20%
- cutting waste generation by 12%, and recovering 75% of solid waste for reuse, recycling and/or conversion to energy
- improving the energy efficiency of homes, offices and buildings by promoting better energy performance requirements
- increasing our use of Greenpower to 25% and reducing the energy use of our buildings by 20% below 2000 levels by 2010
- managing urban development to avoid or minimise impacts on native flora and fauna, and link and protect areas of high environmental value.

FAST FACTS

- Temperatures have been increasing by around 0.15°C per decade since 1970.
- Since 1973 Victoria's energy consumption has doubled.
- Transport contributes about 16% of Victoria's total greenhouse emissions.
- By 2030 residential energy is projected to increase by 53% through increased use of appliances and "stand by" power.
- 5 Million ML of water is used in Victoria each year.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is a 60% reduction in emissions enough?

The policy to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from 2000 levels by 60% by 2050 is a current Victorian Government policy and is consistent with Australian Government commitments.

What is being done to manage Melbourne's water supplies?

Demand for water in urban areas will continue to grow as Melbourne's population increases, and climate change is likely to reduce the water yield from our catchments even further. *Our Water Our Future: The Next Stage of the Government's Water Plan* will help us diversify our water sources and use what we have more wisely.

The Government will:

- construct a new desalination plant to provide water for Melbourne and its surrounding towns, which will generate up to 150 billion litres of water per year
- expand Victoria's Water Grid by constructing the Sugarloaf Pipeline which will transfer up to 75 billion litres of water saved from the Food Bowl Modernisation Project
- upgrade Melbourne's Eastern Treatment Plant to produce up to 100 billion litres of tertiary treated recycled water for non-potable residential, industrial, agricultural and environmental uses
- continue water conservation measures such as the *Water Smart Gardens* and *Homes Rebate Schemes* which provide rebates for rainwater tanks, grey water systems and dual flush toilets
- continue to encourage water sensitive urban design in new developments.

Will the Government be extending its 5 star initiative?

Victoria has led the way in Australia with the introduction of 5 Star sustainability requirements for new homes. But we can do more, which is why we are working with stakeholders such as the housing and building industries, the plumbing industry, local

government and the community to improve the long-term efficiency of new Victorian homes, offices and other buildings by promoting higher energy performance requirements.

How will the Government manage Melbourne's growth while protecting endangered flora and fauna?

Mapping of important areas of vegetation and habitats in Growth Areas and green wedges will be accelerated and extended. Planning for biodiversity will be integrated to minimise and offset any losses and provide greater certainty as to future development.

How will the Government protect coastal areas at risk of climate change impacts?

Coastal areas are at particular risk of climate change impacts such as storm events, sea level rise, erosion and flooding. The Government is undertaking the Future Coasts program, which will assess how vulnerable Victoria's coasts are to these risks and help plan future coastal development.

How will the Government protect buildings and infrastructure from the effects of climate change?

Infrastructure, such as buildings, transport, roads and bridges, may be affected by higher temperatures, stronger winds and flooding risk. The Government will update policies for the design and construction of buildings and infrastructure to consider climate change risk, and ensure that climate change risk is considered through our planning system.

What about the threat of bushfires?

Climate change will mean drier conditions for Victoria. Development at the fringe of Melbourne and in surrounding regions will be at increased bushfire risk as bushfire seasons lengthen and average rainfall levels decline. The Government will improve fire safety by reviewing the location and design of new settlements and the construction of new buildings in bushfire prone areas.

Will the Government legislate that land-use planning supports emissions reduction?

Policies and regulations for the design, construction and retrofitting of buildings, transport systems and infrastructure will be updated to ensure the uptake of energy efficient and renewable energy options. New legislation is not required.

What are the Government's plans to make Melbourne less car-dependent?

Land-use planning guides urban form, street and neighbourhood layout, solar orientation of lots, diversity of development and building type. We will ensure that land-use planning supports emissions reduction through the uptake of energy efficient and renewable energy options for the built environment (including through the design and location of buildings and activities and the design of subdivision layout). The Government is also funding infrastructure improvements in the metropolitan area to encourage walking, cycling and use of public transport.

When will the Government release its White Paper on climate change?

The White Paper will be released in 2009 and will ensure Victoria's policy settings are right for preparing industries, households and communities for the necessary change to a carbon-constrained economy.

When will the Victorian Transport Energy Strategy be released?

A transport energy strategy will be developed during 2008-09 in consideration of the development of the White Paper on climate change and will be released at an appropriate time.