



A FUTURE FOR ALL OF US



CONTENTS

Introduction	3	Build Communities Not Prisons	18
Transforming Transport	4	Caring For Young People	19
Trains Not Tolls	6	Fix The Waste Crisis	20
Protect Our Forests	7	Love Nature, Protect Nature	21
100% Renewable Energy	8	Reducing Harm from Gambling	22
A Home For All	10	Liveable Communities	23
Politics For The Public Good	12	Animal Protection	24
Justice for Aboriginal Victorians	14	Regional Victoria	25
Health & Hospitals	16	Economic Wellbeing & Jobs	26
Early Education, Schools & TAFE	17	How we will fund our plan	27

We pay our respects to the over 300 Clans and 38 surviving language groups in Victoria who have never ceded sovereignty.

Their languages, culture and connections to Country are still strong.

VICTORIANS NEED A GOVERNMENT THAT REPRESENTS ALL OF US, NOT JUST THE BIG END OF TOWN.

Labor and the Liberals are letting corporations run our state, putting the interests of those few above the public good and putting what we love about Victoria under pressure.

As Victoria is growing, the benefits are not being shared equally. Unplanned growth is leading to us spending more time in traffic, overcrowded and unreliable trains and trams, a housing crisis and increasing homelessness, skyrocketing energy prices and massive habitat loss for our beloved endangered species.

At this election there is a clear choice between voting for a party that will put you and your community first, or the old parties that continue to let property developers, toll road companies, big energy companies and the gambling industry run our State.

In the following pages we have outlined our key policies for the upcoming 2018 Victorian election.

There is every chance that the Greens will hold balance of power in both houses of parliament after November. That possibility presents an exciting opportunity to change politics for the better in Victoria.

We are ready to protect the liveability of our communities, to see Victoria powered by 100% renewable energy and for a government that looks after our people, not the big end of town.

We have ambitious plans because we want to build a future for all of us.

The Greens have a plan that puts the public first and makes our communities more liveable.

We will:

- ▲ **Invest in world-class public transport** to get you where you want to go when you need to be there. Make our trains, trams and buses more frequent and reliable instead of building more polluting toll-roads.
- ▲ **Power Victoria by 100% clean renewable energy** by 2030 and lower prices by setting up a government-owned electricity retailer.
- ▲ **Protect Victoria's unique forests** that provide precious habitat to our native species. We will create the Great Forest National Park and Emerald Link and end logging in native forests.
- ▲ **Fix the housing crisis** by building 40 000 public housing homes in 6 years and implement rent caps so everyone can have a place to call home. Our plan puts people before property developers.
- ▲ **Stop further privatisations** that lead to increased costs and poorer services and return vital public services like transport, housing and energy back into public hands.

To see all our detailed plans, visit
victoria.greens.org.au/platform



TRANSFORMING TRANSPORT

The Greens have a plan to put communities first, and create a transport network that all Victorians can rely on, no matter where you live.

We believe in creating a system that gets you where you want to go when you need to be there.

Poor planning has led to our public transport system becoming overcrowded and unreliable. And many suburban and regional Victorians have been completely ignored, with no alternative to driving and spending hours in traffic each day.

Over the past few decades, both Labor and Liberal Governments have let corporations have too much influence over our transport system. They have handed over billions of dollars of public money to build private toll roads.

So while corporations make profits from these deals, Victorians are either locked into a life of traffic and pollution, or struggling to get around on overcrowded trams, delayed trains and unreliable buses.

But it doesn't have to be this way.

We can transform our ageing, unreliable public transport system.

We can create a fast, reliable and efficient transport network that works for all Victorians, whether you live in the suburbs, the inner city or a regional town.

The Greens plan to **Transform Transport** will:

- ▲ **Extend Melbourne Metro** to provide metro rail services to people in the western suburbs and Melton, and the south-eastern suburbs beyond Cranbourne, and interchange with South Yarra and station upgrades at South Kensington and Caulfield.
- ▲ Plan for the **Melbourne Metro 2** rail project now. Melbourne Metro 2 would create a new underground line from Clifton Hill to Newport, new stations in neighbourhoods with no rail access such as Fishermans Bend and Fitzroy, and allow for future rail extensions to Wyndham Vale, Wollert and Doncaster.
- ▲ **Reverse decades of damaging privatisation** by bringing our transport system back into public hands and creating a Transport Super Agency for better planning and coordination, while ensuring genuine local consultation.
- ▲ **Transform our bus network** by upgrading some of Melbourne's busiest bus routes to provide commuters with a quick reliable service in areas that aren't serviced by trains and trams and reviewing all metropolitan bus routes to improve their effectiveness and increase coverage to public transport dead zones.
- ▲ Transform Melbourne's overcrowded and unreliable tram network by **upgrading all tram routes** in a decade to include level access stops along entire routes, better separation from traffic and traffic light priority, and manufacture of 30 new high capacity trams every year for the next 10 years.
- ▲ Ensure **"turn up and go" trains** and trams across Melbourne so you won't wait more than 10 minutes to get going where you want to go.
- ▲ Introduce a modern metro system with **high capacity signalling** across the entire network; build more high capacity metro trains; and plan for further level crossing removals along key lines. Instead of trains that are overcrowded and impossible to get on during peak hour, we'll ensure trains can run every 2 to 3 minutes during peak hour, so you're never left behind at the station.
- ▲ Make riding your bike and walking safer by **investing in bike paths** and better pedestrian infrastructure.

TRAINS NOT TOLLS

Instead of prioritising public transport, Labor and the Liberals continue to spend billions on polluting toll roads.

Labor's North East Link and the West Gate Tunnel will lock Melbourne into car dependence and traffic jams for decades to come. Meanwhile the Liberals are trying to revive the disastrous East West Link project, which the Greens helped bury at the last election.

We are at a turning point in Victoria. If these private toll roads get built, Victoria is on a path locking in more and more pollution and congestion over fast efficient public transport for decades to come.

There are alternatives.

In the North East, a Rapid Bus Network will get people moving and the long promised but never delivered Doncaster Rail will have the ability to transport more people, more quickly.

Our Rapid Bus Network will provide for high quality bus services with fewer stops to get people quickly to key destinations.

It is the change that can reverse traffic congestion problems in Melbourne's East. Importantly, this Rapid Bus Network can be rolled out within 18 months, and will reduce congestion immediately. It won't take 10 years to build like the North East Link toll road, or 28 years to build like the Suburban Rail Loop.

Our neighbourhoods in the West can have truck bans sooner, better air quality and safer streets for a fraction of the cost of the West Gate Tunnel. The Greens will invest in truck off-ramps, shift freight off roads to rail, and provide better public transport across the growing western suburbs of Melbourne.

If the West Gate Tunnel toll road is built, communities in the west stand to be locked into the disadvantage that comes with the rising cost of owning and travelling by cars and private toll roads. The West Gate Tunnel will also entrench truck traffic and funnel more cars into our inner suburbs and CBD.

Our Transport Master Plan for the West focuses on moving people, not cars, around and across our great city.



PROTECT OUR FORESTS

Victoria's stunning native forests should be protected for future generations, and for the many threatened native animals and plants that call our forests home.

Our forests provide us with clean air and water, store enormous amounts of carbon and underpin many local communities who rely on tourism to boost their economies.

But the shocking reality is that the Labor Government continues to log and burn our native forests to supply mills with logs for woodchips to make cheap paper.

If that's not bad enough, threatened species like the Leadbeater's Possum and the Greater Glider are heading further towards extinction every single day that our native forests are destroyed because Labor refuses to stop native forest logging. In

fact Labor MPs voted in the parliament to continue to guarantee 350,000 cubic metres of logged native forest every year to be turned into paper.

We know Victorians are horrified at this destruction, and that's why we've got a plan to protect our forests.

We will protect our magnificent forests and transition our wood supply to sustainable plantation timber.

We will create a future for our threatened native animals, and make sure future generations will continue to know the Leadbeater's Possum and the Greater Glider.

We will grow employment in tourism and forest restoration, to make sure our forests have a secure future for many generations to come.

The Greens plan to **Protect our Forests** will:

- ▲ **Create the Great Forest National Park** in the Central Highlands of Victoria and the Emerald Link in East Gippsland, in consultation with the Traditional Owners of the land.
- ▲ **End logging of native forests** while making sure that people working in the timber industry can transition to an industry based on sustainable plantation timber.
- ▲ Transition native forest logging to **sustainable plantations**, including by providing funding for sawmills to re-tool for different wood.

100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

All Victorians should have access to cheap, clean energy that doesn't pollute our air or damage our climate.

But our energy market is dominated by a few big corporations, and they're pushing up prices and holding back the transition to renewable energy.

These energy companies have been able to wield their influence on successive Labor and Liberal Governments through political donations and sheer corporate power. And they make huge profits, while far too many Victorians struggle to pay their bills.

The Greens have a plan to transition Victoria to 100% renewable energy by 2030, and start to bring our energy system back into public hands, where it belongs.

We can create a system that is sustainable for generations to come and doesn't contribute to climate change.

We can give Victorians peace of mind that they won't have to worry about ever-increasing power bills.

The Greens plan would power Victoria with 100% renewable energy by 2030. Our plan will:

- ▲ Significantly increase the Victorian Renewable Energy Target and invest \$9 billion in public renewable energy projects including building large-scale publicly-owned renewable energy, bringing energy back into the public's hands, where it belongs.
- ▲ Upgrade the energy grid across north and west Victoria, unlocking a wind and solar boom.
- ▲ Phase out all coal plants in Victoria by 2030, and create new jobs and industries in the Latrobe Valley with investment in big batteries, pumped hydro storage, offshore wind and hundreds of new solar installation jobs in the Valley.
- ▲ Make the Latrobe Valley the battery test bed of the world by an initial investment of \$500 million in big batteries and pumped hydro energy storage so there is reliable energy for all Victorians, all year round.

SOLAR FOR ALL & MOVING BEYOND GAS

For too long, renters and apartment-dwellers have been locked out of solar energy.

The Greens plan for Solar for All will support all households to be a part of the solar revolution by:

- ▲ Providing \$1000 grants for people who rent or live in an apartment to buy solar panels in solar gardens on public buildings, like train stations. The energy savings would be credited to your bill, and move with you if you move house.
- ▲ Installing solar panels on all stand-alone public housing homes.
- ▲ Requiring landlords to upgrade their houses to meet strong minimum energy efficiency standards, with grants available to some landlords to help them meet the standards.
- ▲ Providing grants of \$1000 to help owner-occupier and landlords replace expensive, old gas heaters with efficient and clean solar heat pumps.
- ▲ Changing building regulations to require all new homes to have solar panels or electric heat-pump solar hot water.
- ▲ Installing solar and batteries on all Victorian public schools.

We know that gas is a fossil fuel that contributes to climate change.

The Greens plan for a future Beyond Gas will:

- ▲ Declare a permanent ban on all offshore and onshore gas exploration in Victoria.
- ▲ Oppose the monster gas import ship in Westernport Bay.
- ▲ Support Victorians to phase out gas in their homes through an education campaign and \$1000 grants to replace old, expensive gas heaters with efficient solar heat-pumps.
- ▲ Mandate non-gas heating in building regulations for all new builds.
- ▲ Stop new gas pipelines to new towns and suburbs.
- ▲ Identify options for industry transition beyond gas, including use of biogas.

We will also protect Victoria from climate change by:

- ▲ Establishing a Climate Commissioner, like the Auditor General, who reports on how the government is tackling climate change.
- ▲ Hold an inquiry into the climate impacts on Victoria, helping to understand and communicate what we need to do to protect us from drought, rising sea levels and increased storm events.
- ▲ Investing in carbon drawdown to protect us from greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere.



A HOME FOR ALL

The Greens have a plan to make sure every Victorian has a place to call home.

Having a roof over your head is a basic human right, and it's the foundation for all of us to be able to participate fully in society.

But for so many Victorians, a secure and stable home is out of reach. The price of housing is out of control and too many Victorians cannot afford to buy or even rent a good home.

There are more than 80 000 people currently on the public housing waiting list, with some desperately waiting for more than 10 years. And over 20 000 Victorians are homeless, including an increasing number of older Victorians.

The rental market is broken with rents in Victoria increasing while there are fewer and fewer affordable properties available to renters.

We have ended up in this crisis because successive Labor and Liberal Governments have neglected housing, refusing to build more public housing and allowed property developers to run riot.

Most recently, the Andrews Labor Government exacerbated the problem by making the unprecedented decision to sell off public housing land to private property developers.

There is a better way.

The Greens have a plan that puts people before property developers.

Long term Government intervention in the housing market is essential to address the out of control price of housing and end homelessness in Victoria. It is a core responsibility of Government to ensure it's citizens have access to housing.

We want to build a society where everyone has a safe and secure place to call home.

The Greens plan for 'A Home for All' will:

- ▲ **Build 40,000 new and refurbished public housing homes** over the next 6 years to eradicate the public housing waiting list.
- ▲ **Stop the sale of public housing** to private property developers, to ensure that we have enough public land to provide homes for all Victorians.
- ▲ Build another **40,000 public, community and affordable homes** over the next 12 years and require 30% of new big apartment developments to be public, community and other affordable housing, providing more homes for Victorians.
- ▲ **End homelessness** by building more housing and investing in the Housing First approach to homelessness.

PLANNING FOR PEOPLE

For too long, big property developers with too much influence have been allowed to shape Victoria's planning system. The Greens will transform planning to help deliver more affordable and sustainable homes, create thriving neighbourhoods, give communities more certainty and put people back at the centre of decision making.

The Greens plan to fix our planning system will:

- ▲ Mandate 30% of all big developments are set aside for public, community and other forms of affordable housing.
- ▲ Provide certainty by ensuring consistent controls, including,
 - Mandatory height limits and minimum apartment sizes;
 - Protecting Green Wedges and the urban growth boundary.
- ▲ Rapidly increase the sustainability of all new urban development by:
 - Requiring all new residential and commercial development to achieve a minimum 8 star rating;
 - Requiring all apartment buildings of 5 storeys and above to provide 50% of their roof space for either solar panels or a green roof; and
- Taking strong action to combat the urban heat island effect by ensuring minimum garden areas and tree cover especially in areas designated for more housing.
- ▲ Restore the rights of the community in local decision making by reforming the VCAT appeal process to stop developers gaming the system.
- ▲ Strengthen planning laws, including penalties, to better protect our significant built heritage.

FAIR GO FOR RENTERS

Rents are skyrocketing. Our rental market is broken and it's time to take urgent action to improve the conditions for those Melburnians who live in private rental housing. As more people now see renting as their only housing option, the time to improve the rights and conditions for renters is well overdue. Recently we secured a number of improvements to the Residential Tenancies Act to make renting fairer, but there is still more to do.

The Victorian Greens will:

- ▲ Introduce an annual cap on residential rent increases of 2.5%, in line with the Reserve Bank's 2-3% target range for inflation. This will stop
- people who rent from being priced out of the homes and communities in which they may have grown up, or have lived in for many years. Rent control operates in many jurisdictions around the world, including New York, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and parts of Canada.
- ▲ Create a Housing Ombudsman to provide renters and retirement housing residents with a free, quick and binding means to secure their rights and resolve disputes with their landlords, agents and retirement housing operators.
- ▲ Ensure that all rental homes are required to meet minimum energy and water efficiency standards, including public housing.

POLITICS FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Politicians should act in the public interest without influence from powerful corporations.

We want our Government to make decisions for the community, rather than property developers, the coal lobby, toll road companies and the gambling industry.

The reality is that Labor and Liberal Governments have been heavily influenced by powerful corporations that make large political donations to gain access to politicians and wield their influence.

The result is a system where laws are created to benefit the bottom line of these corporations, rather than laws designed to benefit the community.

We see examples of this all around us, whether it's a private toll road designed by Transurban to make profit rather than help us get around, or poor quality apartment buildings that deliver property developers big margins and a terrible quality of living for residents.

Crown Casino and the gambling industry have the Labor and Liberal parties in their

pockets allowing harmful gambling to continue to devastate our community.

The Victorian Labor Government are selling off important public assets, just like former Liberal Premier Jeff Kennett did. Labor has sold Victoria's Port and Land Titles Office, have kept our trains and trams in private hands, are selling public housing land, and want to allow Apple to take over Federation Square.

And just like before, Victorians are paying the price. For example Port fees have just been massively increased, costs that will flow on as price increases in all products that transit through the Port.

This is why the Greens want to transform politics.

We want to make sure that all decisions are being made for the benefit of the community, not the big end of town.

We want politics to be a system for the public good, and keep public assets in public hands for the benefit of everyone in our society.

The Greens plan for **Politics for the Public Good** will:

- ▲ **Keep our public assets in public hands**, because public services should be run for the public good — not for private company profits. For more on our campaign against the ongoing privatisation of public assets and services visit [Our State Not for Sale - state4sale.org](http://OurStateNotforSale-state4sale.org)
- ▲ Start to **bring our energy and transport systems back into public hands**, and running them for people, not profit.
- ▲ **Stop the sale of public housing land** to private property developers.
- ▲ **Save Federation Square** from being sold off for an Apple Mega Store.

INTEGRITY IN POLITICS

The last term of Parliament was ridden with scandals, particularly around MPs misusing their entitlements. The fact that so many people are being turned off parliamentary politics is due not only to the scandals but also the sense that our democracy is being run for and by corporations, not for and by the people.

We witness time and time again, Labor and the Liberals putting the interests of their corporate mates ahead of the best interests of Victorians. The unsolicited bid by Transurban to build the unnecessary and polluting West Gate Tunnel is a clear example. With details still shrouded in secrecy, what we do know is that Transurban will make billions off Victorians while we are left with a private road that will make pollution and congestion worse.

While the Government improved Victoria's anti-corruption commission, there is still room for IBAC to be strengthened. In particular, the apparent inability of IBAC to properly investigate complaints regarding police misconduct – most of which are referred back to police. The Greens have long been calling for an independent body to investigate the police in relation to death, injury and human rights complaints.

Secrecy has been the hallmark of this Labor Government. Secret deals with toll road companies. Secret deals to sell off Federation Square for an Apple Mega Store. Secret deals to sell off public housing, the Port and the Land Titles Office. Democracy requires transparency and openness.

The Greens plan for **Integrity in Politics** will:

- ▲ **Prevent governments from hiding behind commercial-in-confidence** in relation to large infrastructure projects.
- ▲ **Strengthen political donations laws** by including expenditure caps and extend donation caps to Local Councillors and Council elections.
- ▲ Legislate **a cooling-off period for Ministers** and their staff before they can work in industries and areas they had significant dealings with.
- ▲ **Strengthen anti-corruption laws** and ensure the police can't investigate themselves.
- ▲ Providing **greater transparency** by reforming Freedom of Information laws.
- ▲ Establish an **Independent Parliamentary Standards Commissioner** to ensure parliamentarians comply with the rules.

The Greens are proud to have won our long-running campaign for caps on political donations. The political donations reforms that recently passed the parliament have been a long time coming. The corrosive impact of political donations has hurt our democracy. Limiting the influence of property developers, the gambling industry, the energy companies and others by limiting their ability to donate to political parties is an important step to getting corporations out of our politics.

JUSTICE FOR ABORIGINAL VICTORIANS

For nearly two hundred years, the injustice of stolen land and the devastation of the invasion and colonisation have marred Victoria without any fundamental attempt to set it right.

Australia is the only Commonwealth country without a treaty agreement with its First Peoples. The Victorian Government has now initiated a treaty process in Victoria, which we strongly welcome, but they have failed to properly respect Aboriginal culture and support true self-determination in the process. Instead, the Government has appointed

people of their own choosing as advisors and leaders of the process, have largely ignored the Clans and Nations, and have inappropriately influenced the formation of the Aboriginal Representative Body.

Under the leadership of Gunnai-Gunditjmara woman Lidia Thorpe MP, the Greens have been leading calls for true self-determination, rights and cultural respect in the treaty process. We will continue to work with Elders and grassroots communities to ensure their voices are amplified and people on the ground benefit from the treaty process.

To ensure the treaty process provides **justice to the First Peoples of Victoria**, the Greens will:

- ▲ Amend the treaty legislation to ensure it recognises the sovereignty of the Clans and First Nations over this land.
- ▲ Fight for true self-determination, cultural respect and justice in all processes, representative bodies, and in establishing the Treaty Negotiating Framework.
- ▲ Amend the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities to specify a new principle that recognises the right to self-determination for Aboriginal people of Victoria, to help strengthen the process.
- ▲ Advocate for and support Clans and Nations to be at the heart of the treaty process, including sitting on the Aboriginal Representative Body and fund the establishment of an Elders Council.
- ▲ Fund cultural identity mapping to enable clan genealogy to be fully traced.
- ▲ Introduce a moratorium on sale of surplus Crown Land and Government-owned freehold land for private sale, so that this land is available for treaty negotiations.
- ▲ Establish a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission to finally allow Aboriginal people to reveal the full truth about their history and establish a Truth Telling Museum, a black political history museum in Collingwood.

Together these actions will ensure the treaty truly delivers peace, justice and healing for the First Peoples of this land.

STOLEN GENERATIONS REDRESS

Twenty one years on from the Bringing Them Home report, and ten years on from the apology to the Stolen Generation, not only has the Federal Government failed to provide reparations, the Victorian Government is the only state in Australia that has not provided some kind of compensation scheme to survivors of the Stolen Generation.

It's deeply shameful that we continue to re-traumatise these people by failing to act on this unfinished business. The hurt of this injustice runs deep. With so many Stolen Generation members now aging, those who still survive deserve to finally get some peace and comfort through the provision of a reparations scheme.

The Victorian Greens will consult with members of the Stolen Generation to deliver a \$110 million package of measures that meets their needs and aspirations. We envisage the package will include:

- ▲ \$200,000 compensation for each Stolen Generation member, up to the value of \$100 million over two years, then reviewed and expanded as necessary.
- ▲ \$10 million over 4 years, which will be used to create and fund memorials, keeping places, dedicated aged care and other services required.

- ▲ Consultation with Traditional Owners with the intention of creating Healing Places across the state. These will include trauma-informed, culturally safe support for members of the Stolen Generation, their families and the wider community.

This Victorian scheme will not fully compensate members of the Stolen Generation for the pain they have endured, but it will help bring some relief.

The Greens will continue to advocate for establishment of a national reparations scheme and for the recommendations of the 'Bringing Them Home Report' to be fully implemented.

HEALTH & HOSPITALS

All Victorians need access to quality, local healthcare and funding should be allocated based on need - not politics.

Neglect from Labor and the Liberals has meant that health services are not meeting increased demand across the State. People trying to access health services are finding it difficult to get what they need at a price they can afford, particularly mental health services.

We know that stopping people getting sick in the first place is the key to reducing demand on hospitals and the healthcare system. We are committed to boosting preventative health strategies and improving access to community health services, particularly community mental health services, in the city and rural and regional Victoria. Community health services remain underfunded and struggle to meet demand.

THE WAR ON DRUGS HAS FAILED.

The "tough on drugs" approach of Labor and the Liberals causes enormous harm. It drives people away from getting help when they need it and exposes them to a dangerous black market. It is time to treat drugs as a health issue not a criminal issue. Our approach would keep more people out of the criminal justice system which we know only compounds the problem rather than treating it.

The Greens have led the charge on the drug law reform debate and we will:

- ▲ Decriminalise cannabis as the first step towards legalisation.
- ▲ Provide for pill testing to keep people safe.

We will:

- ▲ Provide **free ambulance cover** for all Victorians, no more fees.
- ▲ Reverse Liberal and Labor cuts to community mental health, invest more in youth mental health clinical care and keep women safe in mental health services. We will **invest an additional \$270 million in mental health** over the next term.
- ▲ Focus on prevention and **increase funding to community health services**, with an investment of \$500 million over the term.
- ▲ Increase funding to **community dental health services**, enabling more Victorians to access dental care.
- ▲ Ensure funding for hospitals is keeping pace with Victoria's growth and is based on need, not just marginal seats.
- ▲ Build and **fund Healing Places** across the state for the 38 Aboriginal Nations to come together and heal from the trauma of the Stolen Generation and colonisation.

- ▲ Invest in drug and alcohol treatment services with a focus on early intervention and support.
- ▲ Continue the safe injecting facility.
- ▲ Commit to further drug law reform.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, SCHOOLS & TAFE

Every child deserves a high quality education, no matter where they live or their family income. State Governments should prioritise public education.

Public Schools

Victoria is the lowest spending state on public schools in the nation.

Funding of schools should be based on equity and need with full transparency of all funding decisions for school upgrades and maintenance and building new schools to take the politics out of school funding allocations.

The Greens are the party of public education. Our plan will make sure every child has access to a great public education in quality facilities.

- ▲ **Fix the ten year old maintenance backlog** for all schools within 2 years and provide ongoing funds to make sure all schools get the facilities they need.
- ▲ Bring **public school funding** up to the national average so Victoria is no longer the lowest funded state, meaning more teachers, smaller class sizes and a higher quality education.
- ▲ Remove the unfair requirement that private schools receive one quarter of funding allocated to public schools regardless of need.

- ▲ Ensuring the Government is **properly funding schools** to meet the needs of students with disabilities and other learning needs.

TAFE

Over the last ten years, both Labor and Liberal Governments have decimated our once strong public TAFE system. The Greens would fully restore a well funded TAFE system as the leading provider of low cost, high quality vocational education and training in Victoria by making sure at least 70% of public funding goes to TAFE.

Early childhood education and care

The Greens support free 3 and 4 year old kinder for everyone and greater investment in community childcare. Preschool connects families, builds social skills, prepares children for school and is one of the most effective ways of reducing inequality in society. Yet it remains unaffordable for many families. Successive Labor and Liberal governments have presided over the closure of government and community run preschool programs, with poorly regulated private companies stepping in to meet demand. The Greens will provide support to community run kinder and childcare to ensure the highest quality care is available to everyone.

BUILDING COMMUNITIES NOT PRISONS

Building stronger communities with better engagement programs and supports will make everybody safer.

Tough on crime policies do not make our communities safer, or prevent crime and re-offending.

Rehabilitation not more prisons is what we need. Many offenders come from and return to a small number of disadvantaged communities. Justice Reinvestment shifts money from more prison beds to fund programs in communities to address the underlying causes of crime.

We will:

- ▲ **Prevent crime** by addressing the causes of crime with more investment in mental health, employment and housing services and early childhood intervention. We will invest \$200 million over the term into Justice Reinvestment.
- ▲ **Fix the child protection system** to keep young people away from the justice system with an investment of \$200 million over the term.
- ▲ Commit \$132 million in additional funds for **legal assistance** to Legal Aid and community legal centres so more Victorians can access legal help when they need it.
- ▲ Invest in two new drug courts to help **prevent drug-related crime**.
- ▲ Work to **address the unconscionable over-representation of Aboriginal people in the prison system**, including through the treaty process.
- ▲ **Oppose mandatory sentencing** and make sure courts have the full range of sentencing options to fit the unique circumstances of each offence.

VICTORIANS ARE
PROUD OF OUR
CULTURAL DIVERSITY.

**RACISM AND
DIVISIVENESS HAVE
NO PLACE IN OUR
COMMUNITY.**

Some of our political leaders are exploiting race and religion for political advantage by targeting migrant communities and stoking fear. It is a base and cynical strategy to win votes.

The Greens support multiculturalism and reject the race-baiting law-and-order agendas of Labor and the Liberals. We will always stand up for minority communities that are targeted by unjust laws, including opposing mandatory detention, opposing locking up 14 year olds without charge, and opposing anti-association laws. And we will continue to oppose human rights abuses in our youth justice system.

CARING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The youth justice system is in crisis in Victoria. It is a crisis that's been manufactured by successive government failures.

For two terms now, both old parties have ignored the evidence about what works to reduce youth offending. Instead of doing what works, they have been in a race to the bottom to see who can be the toughest and the meanest about young people who commit crimes.

We need to be very clear: simply getting tough on young people who do the wrong thing doesn't fix the problem, and doesn't make us any safer. In many cases it simply makes things worse.

The Greens support an evidence-based, fully-resourced, therapeutic youth justice model which builds on the principles of justice reinvestment and early intervention and prevention. It is a lot more effective to spend public money on preventing the conditions that lead to youth offending, than it is to deal with the consequences after it happens.

Instead of locking young people up in gaol and increasing their likelihood to reoffend, the Greens will invest in caring for our young people by fixing the child protection system and protecting vulnerable families.

We will:

- ▲ Boost **subsidies for relationship and parenting courses**.
- ▲ Establish a **Multicultural Family Services Team** to provide regular training and support/consultation to departmental and front-line staff on culturally competent practice.
- ▲ Make consultation with the Multicultural Family Services Team standard practice.
- ▲ **Extend the provision of leaving care to 21 years of age**, and provide ongoing support up to age 25.
- ▲ Ensure the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle is followed in 100% of out-of-home care placements, and secure community involvement in Aboriginal child protection cases, including through Grandmothers Against Removals.

- ▲ **Increase foster carer and kinship carer reimbursements** to bring these into line with other states.
- ▲ Create a **Carer Intake and Response Service**.
- ▲ **Scale up the successful Treatment and Care for Kids program** to provide 100 children in residential care or at risk of placement breakdown with experienced foster carers who are skilled, resourced and supported in the provision of therapeutic care.

FIXING THE WASTE CRISIS

Victorians deserve clean air, fresh water and unpolluted soil.

Victoria is in the midst of a waste crisis. Landfill is often the first resort for managing many different types of waste. A huge ongoing effort is required to manage the long term risks that landfills pose to our groundwater and public health. Recently China cracked down on contaminated recycling imports, exposing Australia's recycling system to collapse. We can no longer afford to rely on the current take-make-dump approach to how we make and use products.

In the midst of this crisis, is an opportunity. **The Greens Waste Transition Plan** represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to set us on a path to smarter use of resources and materials and phase out landfill and problematic waste.

The Greens plan will:

- ▲ Expand the local sorting and recycling industry, creating jobs and diverting waste from landfill.
- ▲ Close the loop on food waste by giving all Victorians a third bin which takes food waste to large-scale composting facilities and gets all food waste out of landfill by 2030.
- ▲ Recycle smarter by creating the Circular Economy Centre and start the transition to a circular economy.
- ▲ Boost demand for locally recycled content through State and Local Government procurement.

Ending plastic pollution

We all want a clean and healthy environment where wildlife can thrive, and that we can enjoy for generations to come. But plastic pollution is choking our parks, waterways and oceans. Over the past three decades our use of disposable plastics has skyrocketed.

Victorians recycle only about 25% of the plastics we use. The rest of it ends up in landfill, or worse, as litter that often enters our waterways and oceans.

The Greens have a plan to drastically cut plastic pollution at the source. We will:

- ▲ Introduce a container deposit scheme with a 10c refund on bottles and cans.
- ▲ Ban plastic bags, unnecessary packaging around fresh produce and other single-use plastics.
- ▲ Legally require companies to boost recycled content in their packaging.
- ▲ Invest in local plastic recycling infrastructure and jobs.
- ▲ Support community-led information campaigns to reduce plastic consumption, increase recycling and drastically cut plastic pollution in Victoria.

The Greens believe the Traditional Owners of the land must have the opportunity to have a greater role in the management and protection of Country. Through the treaty process and more broadly, we will continue to support Traditional Owners rights, including to self-determination and free, prior and informed consent, regarding major decisions that impact their traditional lands and waters.



LOVE NATURE PROTECT NATURE

Victoria is home to some of Australia's most amazing natural wonders, from our magnificent native forests, to our beautiful coast line and Alpine mountain ranges. But our precious environment is under constant threat. We must do more to protect it from unchecked development and corporate destruction.

We need to save our national parks following funding cuts from the last Liberal government, protect our natural environment from invasive species, and protect our wonderful coastline and marine environment.

The Greens will save our National Parks by:

- ▲ Providing an additional \$50 million a year in core Parks Victoria funding to protect habitat and biodiversity in our national parks.
- ▲ Providing \$40 million to protect important pieces of habitat on private land.
- ▲ Replacing the Parks Victoria board with a majority of people who have expertise in conservation, biodiversity and indigenous knowledge.
- ▲ Banning commercial development in national parks and fund staffing for visitor centres.

We will protect our natural environment from invasive species by establishing an Invasive Species Management Authority that will be responsible for:

- ▲ Controlling the out-of-control deer population.

- ▲ Managing other invasive species, such as cats, rabbits, goats, pigs and more.
- ▲ Managing weeds.
- ▲ Eradicating new invasive species.
- ▲ Monitoring and research into new and humane ways to manage invasive species.

Victoria's coastline and marine environment is special, but only 5% of our marine waters are protected in reserves. Australia's international commitments are to protect at least 30% of marine waters, but Victoria falls well short.

To protect our coasts the Greens will create a Marine and Coastal Authority, and:

- ▲ Create new marine reserves and coastal parks, including the Moolap coastal park and Belfast Coastal Park.
- ▲ Ban gas drilling on our coasts and marine environment.
- ▲ Ban racehorse training on sensitive beaches.
- ▲ Require Local Government to set strong coastal town boundaries and ban canal estates.

We will also continue to work with local communities to **stop projects like the monster gas ship proposed for Crib Point in Western Port Bay**, keep the ban on fracking, and stop all destructive gas exploration.

Our rivers are beautiful places, and they should be clean, healthy places for us all to enjoy. The Greens will:

- ▲ Plan to make the Yarra swimmable again.
- ▲ Introduce laws to protect our rivers and creeks, making sure they're managed properly.
- ▲ Provide funding to protect our riverbanks from erosion and other environmental threats to improve water quality.
- ▲ Join with communities along the Murray-Darling river system to protect environmental flows to sustain the river, our remnant wetlands and river red gums.

REDUCING HARM FROM GAMBLING

Victorians are losing more on the pokies than ever before. The Government's addiction to gambling revenue has allowed the industry to continue to exploit and harm our communities. Enough is enough. The Greens will put our community before gambling profits, and commit to **phasing out pokies in Victoria by 2028**.

Current Victorian pokies licences expire in 2022. The Labor Government, supported by the Opposition, has provided for licences to be extended for a further 20 years.

The Greens opposed this outrageous extension at the time and will move to replace it with legislation to:

- ▲ Repeal the 20-year licence extension.
- ▲ Create one new 6-year licence – 2022-2028 – with no new licences after 2028.
- ▲ Give Councils veto power over whether to grant a new licence to pokies operators in their community or remove pokies from 2022 altogether.
- ▲ We will also provide a \$200 million fund to assist clubs to move away from harmful pokies and ensure their survival as important community centres.
- ▲ Furthermore, the Greens will immediately introduce harm reduction measures which will apply to poker machines during the phase out:

▲ **Maximum bet limit of \$1 per spin.**

A \$1 limit will reduce the amount an adult could lose on the pokies from an average of \$840 per hour to about \$120 an hour.

▲ **A load up limit of \$20.** Jackpots of no more than \$500. Limiting jackpots reduces the volatility of the machines and therefore their addictiveness.

▲ **EFTPOS cashout limits** of \$200.

▲ Enforceable limits on amounts that can be lost.

Pokies will be restricted to Crown Casino, which is protected by legislation passed by both Labor and the Liberals. Under the deal agreed to by Labor and the Liberals, harm minimisation measures cannot be introduced to Crown or the tax rate on Crown's pokies increased, without the Government paying \$200 million a year in compensation. This outrageous deal shows how beholden Labor and the Liberals are to the gambling industry.

We are also deeply concerned about the rise of online gambling, particularly its impact on young people. We would ban all outdoor advertising of online gambling, including at sports grounds.

LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

There are many other issues that we will act on to ensure the liveability of communities all around Victoria.

Liveable communities are safe communities, where people's rights are respected and we look out for each other. There is more to do to ensure everyone in our community is safe and free from discrimination and violence.

Women

Our society is still plagued by harassment and violence against women. The Greens supported the Royal Commission into Family Violence. It was a watershed moment for our State. We will continue advocate for the full implementation and funding of all the Commission's recommendations. We will always stand up against sexual harassment and assault. The Greens will also protect women's right to abortion and fight to keep safe access zones.

People with a disability

People with a disability still face many barriers to participation in society. Existing Government plans and targets to make our public transport and built form more accessible, and our society more inclusive, have not been met. The Greens will fill funding gaps that the Labor Government has left in the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We will improve the accessibility of our public transport system starting with a plan to build accessible tram super stops, and improve the accessibility of our built environment through planning laws. We will ensure the Government is properly funding schools to meet the needs of students with disabilities and other learning needs.

Multiculturalism

People from all over the world have come to call Australia home. Together we have contributed to making our nation great. Our community's diversity is our strength. The

Greens strongly believe in equal opportunity and freedom from discrimination for all people, no matter who you are or where you come from. Everyone has the right to celebrate and express their cultural heritage or faith. The Greens will always stand against bigotry and racism.

LGBTI community

Removing all discrimination against LGBTI people is necessary for a fair and equal society. The Greens will legislate to remove exemptions that currently allow religious organisations to discriminate against LGBTI people, including kids at school. Labor has opposed this in the past but we will continue to fight for a Victoria free from discrimination.

Respect for First Peoples

Our cultural and physical landscapes must change to show respect and reflect the First Peoples of this land. In so many communities, respect for the history of this land and its people only extends to the post-colonisation years. The oldest living culture on earth deserves proper recognition and respect in our landscapes and in our communities. The Greens will strive to ensure this happens.

Arts and culture

Liveable communities are also vibrant, diverse places that provide space for the arts and cultural activities and respect our culture and built heritage. Many artists and associated industries are being pushed out of cities because of high costs for space and development pressure. The Greens will explore strengthening Victoria's planning system to preserve areas for arts production, performance venues and connected industries. We have advocated strongly for protection of live music venues through planning laws and will continue this through policy and practice. We will also advocate for a Day to Commemorate Artists as a way of acknowledging the enormous value artists provide to Victoria.

ANIMAL PROTECTION

The animals we share this planet with are sentient beings capable of feeling and suffering.

The Greens have long campaigned to:

- ▲ **End animal cruelty** and for the abolition of cruel and inhumane treatment of animals in sport, recreation and entertainment by banning duck shooting, jumps racing and greyhound racing.
- ▲ **Phase out of intensive farming practices** that are inconsistent with the natural behavioural needs of animals.
- ▲ **Protect our native wildlife.**

We want to see an independent body to regulate animal welfare.

While action has finally been taken to ban puppy farms, other cruel practices have been allowed to continue, including duck shooting, greyhound racing and jumps racing.

During the annual Victorian duck shooting season, thousands of 'game' ducks are shot on our wetlands along with rare and threatened ducks and many other types of birds including protected species. Up to one quarter of the birds that are shot fly away wounded. Duck shooting is banned in WA, NSW and Queensland, and was never permitted in the ACT.

Jumps racing has long been banned in most of Australia, but inexplicably, is still allowed in Victoria and South Australia despite the continuing toll of deaths and horrific injuries to horses. Some horses injured in races are shot on the race track behind a screen. Some are just never seen again. The Greens in Victoria and South Australia are campaigning to ban jumps racing once and for all.

Thousands of greyhounds are 'euthanised' every year, simply because they don't win races. Many more suffer injuries during racing and training, simply so punters can place a bet. The Greens are campaigning to end greyhound racing in Victoria and across Australia.

Chickens continue to suffer in battery cages, where they can't walk or flap their wings, and endure the agony of de-beaking. The recent national 'free range' standard allows 10 000 birds per hectare (it should be no more than 1 500) with no guaranteed access to the outdoors. Sow stalls, where sows cannot turn around, are still permitted. The Greens will ban battery cages and sow stalls.

Animals may not be able to speak, but we can be their voice.

We stand with the majority of Victorians who want to see an end to cruelty and suffering for animals.

REGIONAL VICTORIA

The Greens recognise that the sustainability, productivity and resilience of rural and regional areas is vital to Victoria's economic and social prosperity.

Life in regional communities is different to the city; it has different challenges and opportunities. However, support is still needed to nurture sustainable communities in regional Victoria. We want people to be able to live in the places they love. For this to happen, we have to prioritise health, well-being, social and economic opportunities in rural Victoria.

Regional Victoria is on the frontline of climate change. The impact of rising temperatures, more intense bushfires and sea-level rises will all be felt by regional Victorians. The Greens plan for 100% renewable energy will help address climate change, provide secure, cheap energy and provide a jobs boom for the regions. Our Climate Commissioner will run a Local Climate Impact Inquiry, in partnership with local government, communities and environment groups, to identify localised climate change impacts and ways these can be addressed.

We will also continue to **protect the land from fracking** and other gas exploration. We want the moratorium on onshore gas exploration made permanent. Protecting and caring for our agricultural land and supporting sustainable agriculture is vital for food security and regional economies.

Successive governments have let important services lag behind in many part of regional Victoria. Passenger and freight rail services have been cut and the lines left to rust. Health services are spread out and under pressure. This is unacceptable. Living in rural and regional Victoria should not

mean putting up with fewer services. We have plans for significant investment in community mental health services that recognise the needs of people living in the regions. Our investments in schools will also **see regional public schools better funded.** We will also invest in regional rail services to improve the ability of people to get around.

We also support **greater funding for local councils to provide local services.** Successive Governments have stripped funding away from Councils, who in turn have often had to pass these costs onto the community, in the form of rates.

The Greens also understand the pressure many regional towns are under as Victoria's population grows. We are committed to ensuring regional towns remain liveable and maintain the characteristics that make them special. Our planning policy will give local communities more certainty through mandatory planning controls and stronger protection for our rural and green wedge areas. Our plan to **phase out the pokies** will ensure more local money is spent locally. We want our local food production and supply industries to thrive and want to protect agricultural land from inappropriate uses.

Water is a precious resource for farmers, towns and the environment. The Greens want **the Murray-Darling River** to continue to flow. The reality is if the environment doesn't get the water it needs, the river system will die and that doesn't meet anybody's needs. We will join with communities along the Murray-Darling river system to sustain the river, our remnant wetlands and river red gums. As a priority water theft in the Murray-Darling must be thoroughly investigated and those found guilty brought to justice.

Even though Victoria's economy is booming, it is not delivering equally for everyone.

We need caring and responsible governments to deliver for all Victorians, not just those that can afford to pay the most. For too long Labor and the Liberals have been focused on Victoria's credit rating or the size of our surpluses as the measure of the success of our economy. The Greens believe that a better measure of success is whether the Victorian Government is creating the most good in the lives of Victorians.

Financial indicators do not tell us about our wellbeing, the health of our democracy, or the wellbeing of our environment. We believe it's never good enough to implement a policy that increases our budget surplus but decreases our quality of life or degrades our environment.

The Greens plan to develop the Victorian Wellbeing Standards in consultation with all Victorians.

Under our plan the Government would have to measure and report annually on Victoria's wellbeing across four areas:

- ▲ Victoria's Environment would measure and improve the ability of our natural environment to support life as well as benefit human activity.

Putting wellbeing at the centre of everything our government does is how we can ensure we look after everyone and our environment. This is what we expect from a good society.

The Greens plans for Victoria will create tens of thousands of jobs. Our crucial investments in public transport, renewable energy infrastructure and public housing will be a jobs boom. Our plans to expand the recycling industry will create hundreds of ongoing jobs, while our investments in schools and the health system will also create more secure jobs around Victoria.

We will look after jobs in the wood processing industry by shifting to

ECONOMIC WELLBEING & JOBS

- ▲ Opportunities for all Victorians would measure and improve the things that enable us all to fully participate in all parts of Victorian society like school completion rates, adult skill levels, social connectedness, leisure time, and our mental and physical health.
- ▲ Victoria's Assets and Finances would measure and improve on the things that we rely on to support our incomes, our material wellbeing and our financial security. For example: whether our infrastructure is keeping up with demand, or the number of affordable and adequate homes.
- ▲ A Strong Victoria would measure and assess the things that strengthen our society like the rates of democratic participation, levels of trust amongst Victorians, Aboriginal sovereignty, and the notion of the fair go.

sustainable timber and provide clubs with a transition fund to ensure they retain jobs and remain vital community centres. We will invest significant resources in new industries in the Latrobe Valley as we move away from coal and spend more on science research and innovation to create jobs and build a stronger knowledge economy in Melbourne.

The Greens will also support moves to ensure greater job security. We will look at ways the public sector can depend less on contractors and casual staff and employ more permanent workers. We voted for regulating labour hire, we will support criminalising wage theft, and we have called for industrial manslaughter laws.

HOW WE WILL FUND OUR PLAN

All our policies are being costed by the independent Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO).

We have an ambitious platform because that is what Victoria needs to ensure our wellbeing into the future. Victorians are sick of governments focusing on their own electoral success instead of our long term wellbeing and security.

Big Bank Levy

Australian banks are the most profitable in the world. The big four banks and Macquarie made over \$33 billion in profit last year, and their five CEOs took home a combined \$50 million. Banks have not been contributing their proper share of tax for years. If we try and make them play by the same rules as the rest of us, they run political campaigns, threaten workers or threaten to increase their fees.

The Greens' Victorian Bank Levy will bring in \$1.5 billion of revenue over four years, according to modelling carried out by the PBO. This means \$1.5 billion more for our schools, hospitals, public transport, and essential services. The big banks contribute to our society and our economy, they shouldn't get to own it. They should be contributing their fair share.

Profits from land rezoning

When land is re-zoned by the Government, it can make windfall profits for developers. The Government can capture some of this profit to provide better services for all of us. The Greens will introduce a Windfall Rezoning Tax to that will ensure future rezoning windfall gains are shared by all Victorians.

Borrow to build

We plan to take advantage of today's record-low interest rates to borrow money to build and improve our critical assets and infrastructure for tomorrow. Like our public transport system, critical energy infrastructure, and more public housing.

Earning and Spending Smarter

Instead of building more prisons, we can instead use public money for early-intervention programs that keep people away from crime in the first place. Instead of building more private toll roads, we can improve our strained public transport system and build smarter road projects.

The Greens also have a plan to establish a Parliamentary Inquiry to investigate whether some of our sources of income like gambling taxes or stamp duty are effective, efficient or even harmful and if so how to move to better alternatives.

Authorised by C. Quinn Level 1, 45 William St Melbourne VIC 3000.



victoria.greens.org.au/platform