

# Joint Statement: Set science-based Emissions Reduction Targets

To: Ministers Martin Pakula, Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade;  
Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

The Victorian government will soon set the state's first interim Emissions Reduction Targets for 2025 and 2030. This will build on the momentum from the Victorian Renewable Energy Target and is the next step in Victoria's path to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Victoria is leading the country in renewable energy job creation, with small and large-scale renewable energy projects creating enough work to employ over 9,600 people. Wind farm operation and construction has given an economic boost to local communities that has doubled in the last five years. With over 8,000 megawatts of new wind farm projects and over 2,500 megawatts of large-scale solar projects currently committed or proposed to be built in Victoria, there is a significant pipeline of new electricity supply available.

Victoria's Emissions Reduction Targets can cement this progress and continue the development of the renewable energy industry.

The government tasked an expert panel to inform the process and found that a 1.5 degrees carbon budget is possible for Victoria. This target would help reduce energy prices while creating more jobs and reducing emissions. The expert report indicated that setting an emissions reduction of at least 67% in Victoria would be required to have any chance of limiting warming below 1.5 degrees.

We believe the government can show leadership by setting science-based Emissions Reduction Targets that keep global warming below 1.5 degrees. The International Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) has said that this decade is critical and ambitious steps need to be taken. In 2018, the IPCC's Special Report reinforced the huge risks if global warming rises above 1.5 degrees.

Committing to limit warming within 1.5 degrees will give humanity the best chance to secure a safe climate, align the state with the Paris Agreement, and secure Victoria's place as national leader on action on climate change.

The renewable energy sector is ready to play its role in cutting emissions, and we call on the Victorian government to show leadership by setting science-based Emissions Reduction Targets that keep warming below 1.5 degrees.

Yours sincerely,

