

# POLICY PLATFORM

May 2022

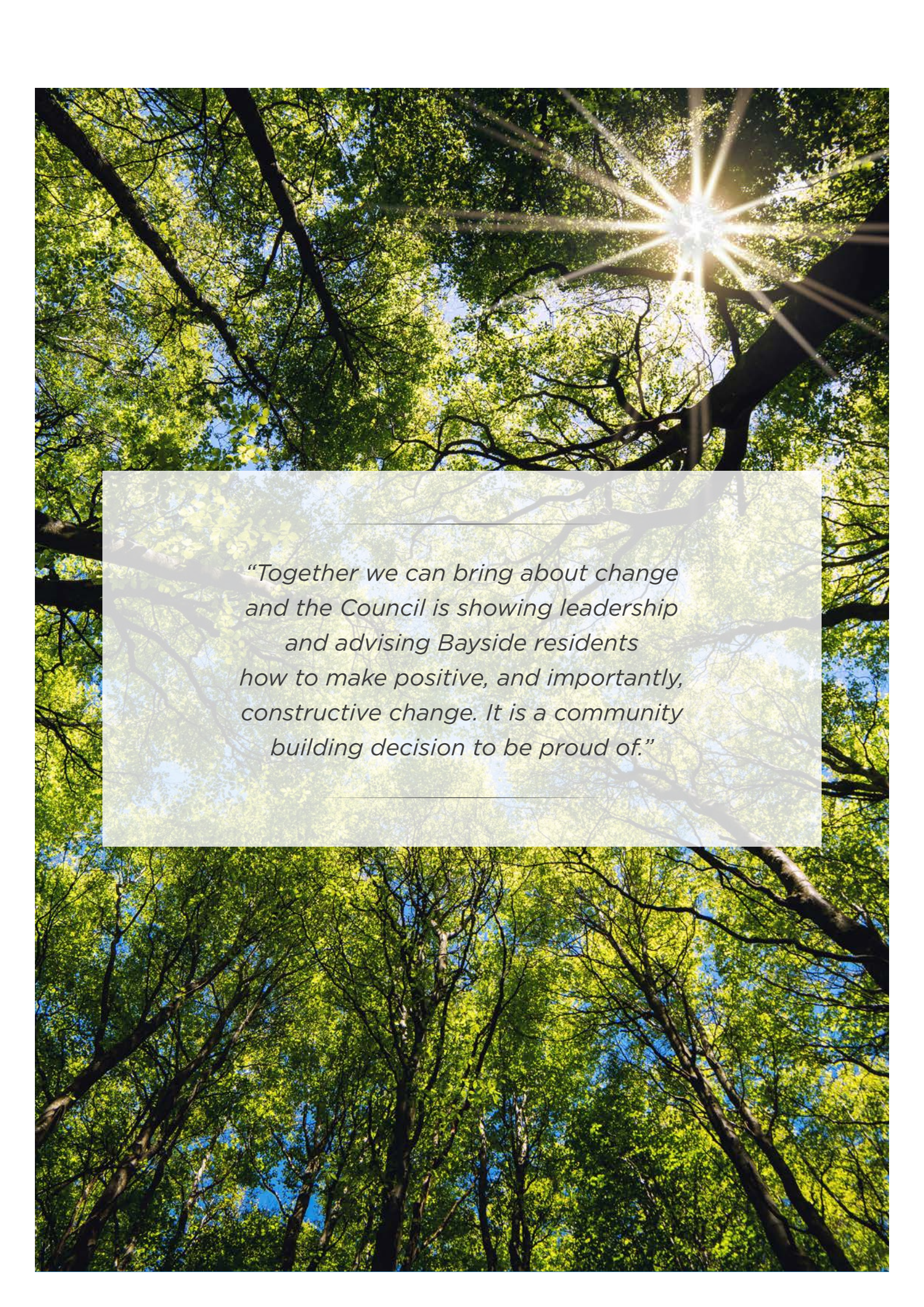


## SECCCA

South East Councils  
Climate Change Alliance







*“Together we can bring about change and the Council is showing leadership and advising Bayside residents how to make positive, and importantly, constructive change. It is a community building decision to be proud of.”*



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Introduction.....	4
About SECCCA.....	4
SECCCA Objectives.....	5
Climate Policy and Investment Platform.....	6
Policy - Net Zero by 2040 (or earlier).....	7
Regional Investment: Carbon neutral transport - connecting communities into the future.....	14
Regional Investment: Creating greener, cooler, more liveable cities and zero carbon buildings.....	16
Regional Investment: Adaptation - Becoming climate resilient communities.....	19
Appendix A - Local community survey results.....	21
Appendix B - SECCCA Recommendations table.....	23
For more information.....	Back cover

## INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance's policy positions. These positions have been created in consultation with our membership and intend to inform the decisions of the State and Federal government in the lead to the Federal and Victorian elections in 2022.

## ABOUT SECCCA

The South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA) is made up of nine local governments to the south east of Melbourne. SECCCA was formed to ensure that our communities remain productive and liveable with a safe and sustainable climate.

Our members have declared a Climate Emergency and have committed to reducing their own corporate emissions while supporting the wider community to take action.

*Our members have committed to reducing their own corporate emissions while supporting the wider community to take action.*





## FAST FACTS

### The SECCCA region:

- Home to 1 million Victorians;
- Produces \$85 billion in Gross Regional Product;
- Is one of Australia's largest manufacturing regions producing more than 45% of Victoria's manufactured product;
- Is a diverse mix of metropolitan, peri urban and rural communities.



## SECCCA OBJECTIVES

SECCCA member councils have ambitious emissions reduction targets in our communities to meet our commitment to keep warming below 1.5 degrees (in line with the Paris Climate Agreement). To meet this, the region needs to reduce emissions 5.8% (976 kt CO<sub>2</sub>-e) every year until 2037.

To achieve this outcome the following objectives have been set:

1. Achieve **net zero council corporate emissions** and lead action to achieve net zero community emissions;
2. Provide **leadership to the region** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build climate resilience; and
3. **Advocate for prioritising investment** to reflect the gravity and urgency of the climate emergency.



*Inverloch Screw Creek walk area, Bass Coast Shire Council*

# CLIMATE POLICY AND INVESTMENT PLATFORM


To ensure we can meet our objectives, we are seeking to advocate on behalf of our communities for:

**1**

## POLICY


A commitment to **NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2040** (or earlier) that includes...

### INTERIM REDUCTION TARGET



Legislate at least **67% reduction** in emissions **by 2030** (or earlier) to keep warming below 1.5 degrees\*;

### \*STATE ROADMAP



To map the path to **net zero** and interim targets; and...

### STRATEGIC INVESTMENT



To support access to **renewable energy** for our communities.

**2**

## REGIONAL INVESTMENT

Targeted **AREAS FOR INVESTMENT** for the **SECCCA** region



### LOW CARBON TRANSPORT



To invest in **active** and **zero emissions** transport for the SECCCA region; and

Creating greener, cooler, more **LIVEABLE CITIES & NET ZERO** carbon buildings



**Empowering** SECCCA members to address **climate change** in our region;

### ADAPTATION



To **invest** in climate adaptation projects in the SECCCA region.

**3**

## COMPLEMENTARY POLICY & INVESTMENT


led by our **PARTNER ORGANISATIONS**

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY



Re-open the **National Product Stewardship Investment Fund**; and

### INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT



Commitment to the **expansion** of the South East Water Pipes and Structures Program.

\*Note: this target aligns with the findings of the **INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL. Interim Emissions Reduction Targets for Victoria (2021-2030)** – p12

# POLICY - NET ZERO BY 2040 (or earlier)

SECCCA is calling on both levels of Government to accelerate their action on climate change so that temperature increases are kept below 1.5 degrees (in line with the Paris Climate Agreement). We make this call to reduce the impacts of global warming on the SECCCA region and our communities.

We are calling for a commitment to **Net Zero Emissions by 2040** (or earlier): and

1. An **interim reduction target**: legislate at least 67% reduction in emissions by 2030 (or earlier) to keep warming below 1.5 degrees<sup>2</sup>;
2. A **State and National Roadmap**: to map the path to net zero that includes a **Sector Based Approach** identifying the roles for industry and community; and
3. **Strategic investment**: to support access to renewable energy for our communities.

*“We make this call to reduce the impacts of global warming on the SECCCA region and our communities.”*

~ Bass Coast Resident

## CHALLENGES - WHY ARE WE MAKING THIS CALL?

Research conducted by Spatial Vision for SECCCA has found the region will experience the following impacts by 2050 on the current trajectory of national action:

1. **Heatwaves**: heatwave frequency across the region will increase by 8 times<sup>2</sup>;
2. **Decreased rainfall**: a reduction of 5% to 10% in annual rainfall;
3. **Increased flooding**: in the region in 1 in 100 flood zones.

### OUR COMMUNITY IS DEMANDING ACTION

Action on climate change is front of mind for the residents living in the SECCCA region. Community surveys from each of our member councils unearthed the high level of concern (ranging from 75-90% of community members\*) about the impacts of climate change on the SECCCA region.

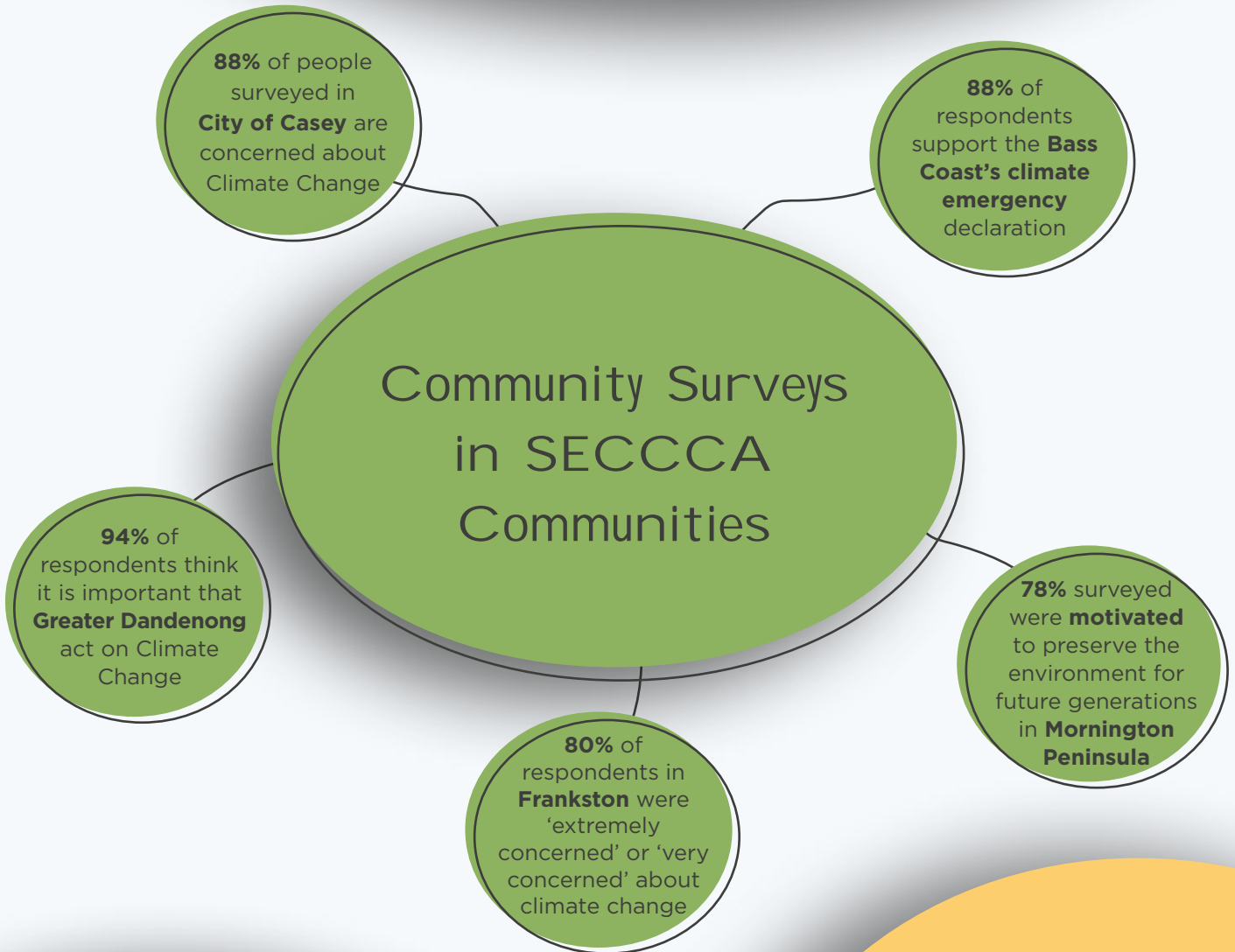
#### \*Appendix A - Local community survey results

<sup>2</sup>Note: this target aligns with the findings of the INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL Interim Emissions Reduction Targets for Victoria (2021-2030) - p12



*"Change is urgent now and anything less than zero emissions (by 2030) isn't enough."*

~ Bass Coast Resident



*"Keep up the good work Kingston Council. The residents of Kingston need a clean green environment and not industrial dust and pollution."*

~ Kingston Council Resident

The top areas of environmental concern in Bayside are:

- Bushfires
- Extreme temperatures
- Drought and lack of rainfall

*Annual Community Satisfaction Survey 2021*



# THE GROWING COST OF INACTION

Climate change has a very real financial cost to communities – these costs are felt in three direct ways:

1. **Increased pressure of rate capping** as councils deal with the growing cost of providing and maintaining community infrastructure in the context of disaster, mitigation and adaptation;
2. **Insurance premiums** in response to growing natural disasters;
3. **Rising energy costs** in response to warming climates; and
4. **Impacts on health and wellbeing** due to both the chronic and acute impacts of climate change, placing increased pressure on medical and support services.

## IMPACT ON COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

One of the greatest costs of climate change is on maintaining and restoring community owned council assets (paid through rates).

The economic value of council infrastructure is substantial. Victorian councils control more than \$102.1 billion in assets and infrastructure, including:

- \$26.5 billion in roads and bridges; and
- \$8.7 billion in drains<sup>3</sup>.

These assets and infrastructure are being impacted by climate change and the growing cost of dealing with this impact cannot be understood using historic climate data.

In addition to immediate implications on maintaining climate impacted assets, the *Local Government Act 2020* now requires councils to plan and mitigate climate risk.

To ensure that our members are able to meet their obligations, SECCCA engaged Spatial Vision to identify the areas of greatest concern on community assets, the table above identifies these concerns.

Projected climate change variables	Buildings	Drains	Roads	Open Spaces
Number of annual hot days				☑
Degree increase of annual extremely hot days	☑		☑	☑
Number of annual heat waves	☑			☑
Percentage change of annual extremely wet days		☑	☑	
Number of months that the dryness index falls below agreed threshold value	☑	☑	☑	☑
Percentage change in annual rainfall				☑



<sup>3</sup> [https://www.seccca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SECCCA-ICA\\_Mitigating-Climate-Change-Impacts\\_-Working-Paper.pdf](https://www.seccca.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/SECCCA-ICA_Mitigating-Climate-Change-Impacts_-Working-Paper.pdf)

## GROWING COST OF INSURANCE PREMIUMS

The clearest measure of the growing impact of climate change on insurance premiums was recently confirmed by the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) when it stated that Australia represents 2% of the global market for insurance capital, but 8% of the losses (Munich Re, 2018).

According to the Insurance Council of Australia, insurers have paid out more than \$8.9 billion in natural disaster claims in the past three years. The latest floods could cost another \$1 billion to \$2 billion.<sup>4</sup>

These claims are impacting homeowners and according to the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, the average premium per policy for the year to December 31 rose 8 per cent to \$860 for home owner policies, and 3 per cent for motor vehicle premiums.

The ICA CEO, Andrew Hall has further stated “The only way to effect lasting improvements to natural disaster exposure in Australia is by increasing funding for public and private mitigation projects, improving building standards and quality, and making informed land-use planning decisions.”<sup>5</sup>

To address the growing impact, ICA have made a call for the Australian and State and Territory governments to establish a Local Infrastructure Fund (\$522 million annually) to target flood mitigation projects such as levees and floodways.<sup>6</sup>

SECCCA is backing this call, but is making a further call to expand the investment to include adaptation measures that will further reduce the impacts of climate change on our communities.

*The Insurance Council of Australia CEO, Andrew Hall, has further stated: “The only way to effect lasting improvements to natural disaster exposure in Australia is by increasing funding for public and private mitigation projects, improving building standards and quality, and making informed land-use planning decisions.”<sup>5</sup>*



Latrobe Valley floods, Gippsland



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Create a SECCCA region \$10 million Community Resilience Fund to support service projects in local communities that assist communities adapt to climate change.

<sup>4</sup><https://www.afr.com/companies/financial-services/is-a-super-cycle-for-insurance-premiums-about-to-hit-20220306-p5a263>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.afr.com/companies/financial-services/is-a-super-cycle-for-insurance-premiums-about-to-hit-20220306-p5a263>

<sup>6</sup><https://insurancecouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/220222-ICA-Election-Platform-Report.pdf>

# OPPORTUNITIES - SETTING THE PATH TO RENEWABLES

## A ROAD MAP - PLAYING OUR PART ON THE ROAD TO RENEWABLES

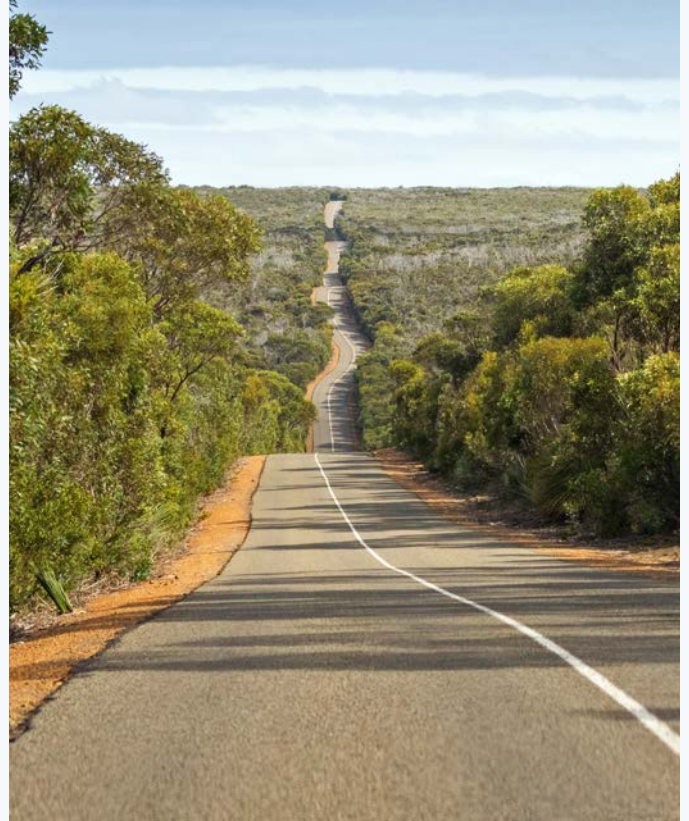
As Australia moved out of COVID lockdown restrictions, roadmaps at both the federal and state level became important guiding documents. These roadmaps allowed all parts of society to understand their obligations on the path to containing the virus and easing restrictions.

The roadmaps were widely used through the COVID period and were seen as a successful communication tool to allow impacted stakeholders to understand where restrictions would change in accordance with case numbers.

The high level of engagement and familiarity with this tool provides a precedent to communicate the responsibilities in emissions reductions to a broader set of stakeholders in an equally compelling way.

As such, we are calling on the State and Federal governments to develop a climate roadmap that identifies the path to zero emissions, while also identifying the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders (industry sectors, government and community) in reaching these targets.

It is the position of SECCCA that this will empower all stakeholders to 'play their part' in a net zero future.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop a National and Victorian Roadmap to Net Zero that identifies roles for governments (including local government) community and industry; and
- The roadmap should also include details on reaching interim emission reduction targets.



# STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

## A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO RENEWABLES

The ability for the SECCCA region to reduce emissions relies on the ability of our members, community and industry to choose green energy. It is on this basis that SECCCA is calling for more strategic investment in renewable energy.

SECCCA supports a smooth transition to electrified renewables and a transition away from gas as a clear mechanism to meet the Paris targets. This is a view that is supported by the *International Energy Agency through their Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector report*.

The report found that there was a “narrow and extremely challenging” pathway for the world to meet both the goals of the Paris agreement and get to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The report advises that there should be no new investments in oil and gas fields and coal power plants and that clean electricity generation, network infrastructure and end-use sectors are key areas for increased investment.<sup>7</sup>

We note the commitment to growing the renewables sector through the Victorian Government’s six renewable energy zones with a focus on wind and solar and the roles that VicGrid has in coordinating new electricity generation and transmission investment.

SECCCA further notes the Victorian Government is exploring sustainable alternatives and pathways for the gas sector to transition to net zero emissions and is developing a Gas Substitution Roadmap to provide a strategic framework for decarbonising natural gas in Victoria.

While we strongly support the moves to provide a source of green energy for Victorian consumers, as the table opposite identifies, key initiatives are required to empower our community and industry to transition away from gas.

With such a large proportion of residences and industry connected to gas there is significant benefit and opportunity to incentivise the transition to electrical appliances to allow the SECCCA region to support net zero objectives.

We further state that there will be significant financial and emission reduction benefits due to the efficiency of electrical appliances compared to gas and this transition will also facilitate job creation.

### To enable a path to zero emissions, the following key objectives for our region have been identified:

1. Empower our communities to access clean energy through increased support for rooftop solar and household batteries;
2. Where rooftop solar is not viable, support access to green energy through more investment into renewable generation and transmission;
3. Provide financial incentives to support businesses and households to transition away from gas to green electricity;
4. Building regulation in the Victorian Planning Provisions should ensure that new residential developments are gas free.

### Associated objective:

5. Support to enable the uptake of electric vehicles in the SECCCA region (refer to our Zero Emissions transport policy).

It is on this basis that SECCCA makes the following recommendations to incoming State and Federal Governments.



## SOURCE OF ENERGY

### SECCCA Region Emissions Profile

64% electricity      17% gas

## END USE

21% transport



23% residential      20% commercial  
38% industrial      cars (15%)  
19% public (4%)

<sup>7</sup>Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector - Summary for Policy Makers - INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY



## RECOMMENDATIONS

SECCA recognises the investments made by the Australian and Victorian Governments to support households and business to increase energy efficiency. To fully realise the benefits of these investments we recommend:

- A **25% increase in investment in Victoria's Household Energy Savings Package** which includes initiatives that support a transition to zero or low emissions homes, particularly for solar and battery installation.
- The establishment of a **SECCA Gas Transition Fund (Pilot Fund)** that provides grants to support homes and businesses to transition away from gas to electrification - \$20 million over 5 years.
- Funding to support a SECCA Officer to facilitate **Green Power Purchasing Agreements** for regional businesses - \$1 million over 5 years.



# REGIONAL INVESTMENT: CARBON NEUTRAL TRANSPORT CONNECTING COMMUNITIES INTO THE FUTURE

Transport is Victoria's second biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions<sup>8</sup>, with road transport (including cars, light commercial and heavy vehicles) responsible for approximately 87 per cent of the transport sector's emissions<sup>9</sup>.

With a sprawling population and strong economic growth, the demand on transport continues and SECCCA members understand there is a need for an immediate transition from petroleum-fuelled vehicles to zero emissions transport such as electric vehicles (EVs), active transport such as cycling and walking, as well as making better use of a zero-carbon public transport system.

Although there is still a deep reliance on road use, the trend towards active transport modes such as walking, and cycling is growing in the region<sup>10</sup>. Increasing the number of trails and tracks within and between local government areas, is helping to connect the communities of the SECCCA region without creating an emissions footprint.

Local governments in the SECCCA region are showing leadership by transforming council operations into low or no carbon emissions, including changing over fleet vehicles,<sup>11</sup> and facilitating funding for residents and businesses to ease towards the path of sustainable transport<sup>12</sup>.



*Cycling trails, Cycling, Victoria, Australia (visitvictoria.com)*

## THE FUTURE OF DRIVING IS ELECTRIC

Both federal and state governments have plans to invest in emissions reducing technology, including charging station infrastructure. However, greater collaboration is needed with local government to roll-out these works in a strategic way with the best outcomes for the community.

A strategic plan will see a regional network of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points along highways, at tourism destinations and suburban activity centres, that enable motorists to have the same confidence to utilise EVs as they do with fossil-fuelled vehicles.

Understanding this dilemma, SECCCA has already commenced work with the Institute for Sensible Transport to assist with the planned installation of charging stations for EVs in the SECCCA region.<sup>13</sup> By doing so, local government can set aside land required for stations in established locations, as well as incorporate sites into new developments, and work with power suppliers to guarantee network connection availability.

<sup>8</sup> Victorian Department of Transport, Environmentally Sustainable Transport.

<sup>9</sup> Cutting Victoria's Emissions 2021-2025, Transport sector emissions reduction pledge.

<sup>10</sup> Cutting Victoria's Emissions 2021-2025, Transport sector emissions reduction pledge.

<sup>11</sup> Cutting Victoria's Emissions 2021-2025, Transport sector emissions reduction pledge.

<sup>12</sup> Cutting Victoria's Emissions 2021-2025, Transport sector emissions reduction pledge.

<sup>13</sup> <https://sensibletransport.org.au/project/electric-vehicle-charging-roadmap/>



## OPPORTUNITIES

By switching to low or no carbon transport, local communities not only contribute to a zero emissions future, but also enhance their socio/economic outlook:

- Replacing solo car trips with ride sharing, carpooling or the use of public transport can improve social cohesion with more interpersonal interactions in the community; and
- For shorter journeys, using active transport such as walking or cycling has considerable added health benefits and can increase local social and economic activity.<sup>15</sup>

## CHALLENGES

With a growing population, the reliance on fossil-fuel powered transportation modes such as cars, motorcycles and (non-electrified) public transport contribute to a large source of emissions in the SECCCA region (4th largest).

<sup>15</sup> Victorian Department of Transport, Environmentally Sustainable Transport.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Develop a more robust sustainable transport policy framework to engage, encourage and incentivise suppliers to enter the Australian market;
- Remove the Fringe Benefit Tax on EVs to create more equitable access in vehicle purchase; and
- Remove the luxury car tax threshold for EVs.

### VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

Work with SECCCA to:

- Allocate \$20 million to the SECCCA region for the installation of a charging infrastructure network;
- Allocate land to enable charging station infrastructure delivery;
- Enable the possibility of EV bulk buy opportunities for SECCCA members; and
- Create a SECCCA region \$20 million Zero Emissions Active Transport Fund to create more bike paths and walking tracks.

# REGIONAL INVESTMENT: CREATING GREENER, COOLER, MORE LIVEABLE CITIES AND ZERO CARBON BUILDINGS

## Ensuring Victoria's planning system effectively tackles climate change

*"How we live our lives is strongly influenced by the places in which we live, and these are the remit of planning"*<sup>16</sup>.

The planning process is the key tool for managing the development of land in local municipalities. It also influences climate change mitigators such as water use, waste management and infrastructure development to support net zero transport. At present it has within its scope *sustainability* but not *climate change*<sup>17</sup>.

Therefore, with the backdrop of a climate change emergency, achieving the goal of net zero emissions and creating greener, cooler, more liveable cities, government must elevate climate change within the planning system to a position that is commensurate with the threat it poses<sup>18</sup>.

Victoria has in place a *Climate Change Act 2017* to assist it to achieve its objective of net zero emissions by 2050, however, there is no alignment between it and the planning system, especially in relation to land use and infrastructure development.

Nor is there any alignment with the various climate change / sustainability focused actions and programs such as:

- *The Climate Change Strategy* (Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), 2021).
- *Recycling Victoria: A new economy* (DELWP, 2020).
- *Victoria's Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap* (DELWP, 2021).
- *Gas Substitution Roadmap* (DELWP, 2021).
- *Victorian Renewable Energy Zones Development Plan* (DELWP, 2021).
- Integrated Water management forums (and strategic directions) (ongoing).
- *Victoria's Resilient Coasts 2100+* (place based coastal adaptation) (ongoing).
- Local Coastal Hazard Assessments (four pilots plus the unreleased Port Phillip Bay CHA) (various).
- Cooling and Greening (Melbourne) (ongoing).
- Review of the Building Code (aligned with updates to the National Construction Code) (ongoing).
- *Victoria's ESD Roadmap* (ongoing).
- *Built Environment Adaptation Action Plan* (draft, DELWP 2021).<sup>19</sup>

When there is more explicit alignment, given climate change is an evolving science, "specific policy benchmarks stated in planning schemes need to be consistent with the *"best available data and climate change science... to provide clear guidance for decision-makers"*<sup>20</sup>.

To encourage the community to develop sustainable, climate resilient buildings, there need to be clear and accessible policy guidelines within the relevant planning legislation, such as mandatory climate change related minimum standards.

Climate change needs to be an upfront consideration as it is difficult and cost prohibitive to change or retrofit buildings at a later stage.



Leafy Melbourne suburb

<sup>16</sup> Climate Change & Planning in Victoria 2021, Hansen Partnership, page 2

<sup>17</sup> Climate Change & Planning in Victoria 2021, Hansen Partnership, page 9

<sup>18</sup> Climate Change & Planning in Victoria 2021, Hansen Partnership, page 2

<sup>19</sup> Climate Change & Planning in Victoria 2021, Hansen Partnership, page 11

<sup>20</sup> Climate Change & Planning in Victoria 2021, Hansen Partnership, page 3



## Energy saving homes of the future

Energy efficiency for residential homes is available, achievable, and most importantly affordable. By making carbon neutral recommendations, home builders can achieve a net zero carbon/energy home.

From 2017–2020, SECCA delivered the New Home Energy Advisory Service (NHEAS) which provided bespoke and detailed design advice to numerous households regarding how to achieve net zero carbon. Twelve of these households received an as-built verification of their homes, an air tightness test and a report quantifying costs, energy savings and experiences.

The learnings for new homes, from the NHEAS as are follows:

1. Source 100% renewable energy (e.g. on-site solar or off-site Green Power purchase);
2. Install external shading for east and west windows;
3. Install roof insulation of minimum R2.5 in the walls and R5 in rooves;
4. Install glazing of minimum R0.3 and U value 3.3 in windows and doors;
5. Achieve a building envelope airtightness value of less than 5ACH at 50pa of pressure (under test conditions);

6. Achieve an air ventilation rate of 1ACH every 2 hours (under natural air exchange conditions). Including the recovery of heat to 90% in exchanged air and filtering of air to M5/G4; and
7. Mandate three additional onsite inspections - Pre insulation, Pre plaster and Post occupancy: on-site as built verification and certification (such as VRES).<sup>21</sup>

## CHALLENGES

At present there are no explicit triggers<sup>22</sup> that ensure climate change is considered when planning decisions are made.

Much work is needed to ensure that the following 'high-level' legislative drivers lead to the 'fine-grained'<sup>23</sup> decisions that respond to climate change:

- *Planning & Environment Act 1987*;
- *Building Act 1993*;
- Green Wedge Management Plan;
- Planning Schemes;
- Zones and Overlays; and
- Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs).

<sup>21</sup> SECCA submission to Building Victoria's Recovery Taskforce 2020, *page 3*

<sup>22</sup> Climate Change & Planning in Victoria 2021, Hansen Partnership, *page 3*

<sup>23</sup> Climate Change & Planning in Victoria 2021, Hansen Partnership, *page 2*





At present, those decisions are reliant solely on whether the planner or their LGA has specifically elevated climate change in their hierarchy of elements assessed. But often it is amongst a myriad of other policy considerations and can easily be overlooked or could be applied inconsistently by individual planners.

Despite having levers to guide residential development to include low carbon design, building and operation, without specific reference to climate change in planning legislation, it is much more difficult to enforce the same with larger developments and greenfield sites.

## OPPORTUNITIES

SECCCA and its members have undertaken a great deal of work in the region to determine how the Victorian planning system can better deal with the challenges of climate change.

SECCCA through its work with the Climate Change and Planning Advocacy Group and the Hansen Partnership has developed a detailed analysis of the barriers within the planning system to effectively deal with climate change as well as offer the opportunities to drive positive change. The nine SECCCA member councils have all begun to address this at a local level through their individual climate/sustainability related strategies.

As such, SECCCA is well placed to provide direct advice to government as to where change needs to occur, especially in relation to its region. The region requires the development of planning tools to manage coastal erosion, for example, which currently does not exist.



*“SECCCA is well placed to provide direct advice to government on where change needs to occur, especially in relation to our region.”*



## RECOMMENDATIONS VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

- Climate change response must be explicit and embedded in the legislation and in every municipal planning scheme. This will enable municipalities to give the required weight to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in line with the best available science and in alignment with the Hansen Report.
- DELWP to allocate resources to review the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to make recommendations on amending it to explicitly address climate change.
- Align planning legislation and regulation with the Climate Change Act 2017 and other climate change / sustainability focused actions and programs.
- Introduce mandatory climate change related minimum standards into planning schemes, especially those that are unique to SECCCA.
- Incorporate the learnings from the NHEAS project into the federal National Construction Code and state building codes for new homes. Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) of Buildings and Subdivision – A roadmap for Victoria’s planning system.
- Develop a clear planning tool to allow SECCCA members to manage coastal erosion in line with community expectations.

# REGIONAL INVESTMENT: ADAPTATION - BECOMING CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

*Our climate is changing at a pace never seen before in human history. It is critical that we immediately put in place policies and plans to support local communities to adapt and build resilience to our future climate.*

To date, a great deal of energy has focussed on mitigation, with activity addressing the root cause of climate change, for example, changing how we travel and increasing recycling and re-purposing to reduce our waste footprint.

Local communities in the SECCCA region, need to further adjust the way they live by building homes less likely to be impacted by extreme temperatures and weather, smarter use of water resources and better management of the coastline.

Local governments are often the first to respond to localised impacts, and their strong connections to the community and local knowledge mean they are often best placed to recognise the need for adaptation on a local scale.

So, for local communities to effectively manage the impacts of climate change, local governments need to be supported in managing their own risks as well as helping the community to adapt.



## OPPORTUNITIES

There is a myriad of actions that with support from a national approach and targeted funding, SECCCA and its members can put in place to adapt to the increasing effects of climate change and can be adopted locally.

These include:

- Heatwave Planning - especially essential services for aged residents;
- Shade from the sun - incorporating refuges from extreme weather in building design;
- Preparing for fire weather;
- Incorporating ecological sustainable design in new building planning and design;
- Improving the quality and connectivity of our natural ecosystems;
- Continue changing over sports grounds to warm season grasses;
- Investigating more alternative water sources for watering sports grounds and in general;
- Using our water responsibly;
- Integrating water sensitive urban design into new developments;
- Use the Planning Scheme to guide appropriate urban expansion encouraging open space and on-site water retention;
- Working with the State Government to explore future coastal risks; and
- Encouraging Water Sensitive Urban Design in new development.

## ADAPTATION

**Adaptation: The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects**

(IPCC 2014)



## CHALLENGES

Because local government authorities are at the forefront of managing the impacts of climate change through land-use planning, development consent and asset management and protection, the responsibility for adaptive action lies mainly with local government.

However, effective adaptation requires coordinated national leadership to support decisions made at the local level. The priority policy need of local governments is for legal, technical, financial and governance frameworks that enable effective delivery across a broad range of responsibilities.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> [https://nccarf.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/GOVERNMENT\\_A4Printable\\_0.pdf](https://nccarf.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/GOVERNMENT_A4Printable_0.pdf)



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- Develop a coordinated national approach to adapting to changing climate conditions.

### VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

Work with SECCCA to:

- Create a SECCCA region \$10 million Community Resilience Fund to support service projects in local communities that assist communities adapt to climate change.



## FAST FACTS

Climate change hazards faced by local communities in the SECCCA region include:

- Increased average temperatures and solar radiation;
- Increased extreme heat days;
- More extreme storm events;
- Decreased annual rainfall; and
- Rising sea levels and ocean.

# APPENDIX A - Local Community Survey Results

Council	Survey	Fast Fact	Areas of concern / council should act	Community Quote
1 Bass Coast Shire Council	Development & Engagement Climate Change Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% of respondents support the Bass Coast's climate emergency declaration.</li> </ul>	Top 3 climate hazards Bass Coast's community are concerned about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased extreme heat days</li> <li>Rising Sea levels (coastal erosion)</li> <li>More extreme storm events (impact to roads and other infrastructure)</li> </ul>	<i>"Change is urgent now and anything less than zero emissions (by 2030) isn't enough."</i> <i>"Climate catastrophe is here and imminent, we have no time to delay"</i> <i>"We are experiencing a climate emergency and already suffering bushfires, storm surges, heat and change in rainfall. "</i>
2 Bayside City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual Community Satisfaction Survey 2021 - Environment, sustainability, climate change rated 8th on the 'Top issues for the City of Bayside at the moment' down from 5th (2020), 7th (2019)</li> <li>'Council meeting its environmental responsibilities' ranked as the 14th most important of the 26 included services and facilities. Satisfaction with Council's performance meeting its responsibilities towards the environment declined 3.4% to 7.33%, but satisfaction remains at a "very good" level.</li> </ul>	Climate Emergency Action Plan Community Engagement - Stage 1 results.  Community engagement on the Climate Emergency Action Plan occurred for 7 weeks in February - March 2020. There was significant community interest in the development of the Action Plan, with a record number of contributions on the Have Your Say platform, over 1,500 residents engaged face-to-face, and over 4,000 people reached throughout the course of the consultation period.	Results were overwhelmingly positive, with 77% of residents who completed the survey on Have Your Say and 92% of those surveyed at pop-up stalls supporting Council's decision to declare a Climate Emergency in Bayside.  'Renewable Energy' was the most frequently selected of six priority areas for Council to focus on in the Climate Emergency Action Plan, with 37% of responses identifying this as the top priority. This was followed by 29% who selected 'Waste', and 27% who selected 'Sustainable Buildings and Homes' as their top priority area for Council.	<i>On Wednesday 25 March 2020, residents also participated in an online engagement workshop, with robust discussion on how Council and community can work together in the Climate Emergency.</i>  <i>One participant responded:</i>  <i>"Together we can bring about change and the Council is showing leadership and advising Bayside residents how to make positive, and importantly, constructive change. It is a community building decision to be proud of. We can do better."</i>
3 Cardinia Shire Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Change - Liveability Survey 2019</li> <li>Extreme Weather - Liveability Survey- 2021</li> </ul>	Cardinia shire residents are more commonly concerned about bushfires with 74% of respondents saying they were either, very or moderately concerned, compared to 68% of respondents in Victoria having a similar response.	Areas of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bushfires</li> <li>Extreme temperatures</li> <li>Drought and lack of rainfall</li> <li>Loss of biodiversity / flora &amp; fauna / vegetation / habitat</li> </ul>	
4 City of Casey	Community Environment Survey 2018	88% are concerned about climate change.	Top three areas of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bushfires</li> <li>Extreme temperatures</li> <li>Drought and lack of rainfall</li> </ul>	



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<b>5 Frankston City Council</b>	Climate Change Community Survey 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% of respondents are 'extremely concerned' or 'very concerned' about climate change</li> <li>73% support a target for the whole Frankston City community to become 'zero carbon'</li> </ul>	Top five areas of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>loss of biodiversity, flora and fauna, vegetation and habitat</li> <li>sea level rise and/or coastal erosion</li> <li>harsher and longer fire seasons, bushfires</li> <li>extreme weather events</li> <li>more hot days, heatwaves and drought</li> </ul>	<i>"I am grateful that Frankston Council is taking such positive action on Climate Change. There is NO Planet B!"</i>
<b>6 Greater Dandenong</b>	Climate change strategy survey 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>92% are worried about climate change</li> <li>94% think it is important that Greater Dandenong take action</li> <li>90% want targets of zero emissions by 2050 to keep temperature increases at 2C or below</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant more trees in Council's open spaces and streets</li> <li>Reduce waste sent to landfill</li> <li>Increase Council's use of renewable energy</li> </ul>	<i>"Climate change is happening and this issue will continue whether we like it or not. It is up to our council and our representatives have the initiative to combat climate change. With the initiative the City of Greater Dandenong is taking, it will hopefully kickstart other councils to make a stand on climate change. Tackling climate change is incredible and I'm so glad the City of Greater Dandenong is taking youth voices into account."</i>
<b>7 Kingston</b>	Kingston declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency as a result of two community petitions.	The largest source of Kingston's total emissions is electricity use in the industrial sector, which coupled with gas is responsible for 39% of emissions. The next highest source is on-road transport at 21%.	Areas of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bushfires</li> <li>Extreme temperatures</li> <li>Drought and lack of rainfall</li> <li>Loss of biodiversity / flora &amp; fauna / vegetation / habitat</li> </ul>	<i>"Keep up the good work Kingston Council. The residents of Kingston need a clean green environment and not industrial dust and pollution."</i>
<b>8 Mornington Peninsula</b>	Surveyed residents prior to the draft of the Climate Emergency Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly 90% of people surveyed believe that the Peninsula community should set a carbon emissions reduction target</li> <li>86% of survey participants identified the energy transition as an important outcome that is necessary to address the climate emergency</li> </ul>	Top 3 priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable farming</li> <li>Circular Economy &amp; Zero Waste</li> <li>Energy Transition</li> </ul>	<i>"Declaring a climate emergency is now the only way to get things moving, and I congratulate the Mornington Peninsula Shire for doing so. The longer we delay, the more expensive and costly it will be for the entire population."</i>  <i>"If we don't drastically take action...the world that our children inherit will be a scary and unstable one."</i>
<b>9 Port Phillip</b>	Surveyed residents as part of developing Act and Act Sustainable Environment Strategy (2018).	72% of emissions in Port Phillip relate to the commercial and industrial sectors.	Areas of concern: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extreme storm events and flash flooding</li> <li>Coastal inundation</li> <li>Extreme temperatures</li> </ul>	<i>"More focus needs to be placed on reducing our carbon emissions and we need to take a proactive approach to adapting to climate change."</i>

## APPENDIX B - SECCCA Recommendations table

Category	Number	Recommendation
<b>Community Resilience Fund</b>	1	Create a SECCCA region \$10 million Community Resilience Fund to support service projects in local communities that assist communities adapt to climate change.
<b>Emission Reduction</b>	2	Develop a National and Victorian Roadmap to Net Zero that identifies roles for Governments (including local government) community and industry.
	3	The roadmap should also include details on reaching interim emission reduction targets.
<b>Investment into Energy Efficiency</b>	4	A 25% increase in investment in Victoria's Household Energy Savings Package which includes initiatives that support a transition to zero or low emissions homes, particularly for solar and battery installation.
	5	The establishment of a SECCCA Gas Transition Fund (Pilot Fund) that provides grants to support homes and businesses to transition away from gas to electrification - \$20 million over 5 years.
	6	Funding to support a SECCCA Officer to facilitate Green Power Purchasing Agreements for regional businesses - \$1 million over 5 years.
<b>Transport - Federal Government</b>	7	Develop a more robust sustainable transport policy framework to engage, encourage and incentivise suppliers to enter the Australian market.
	8	Remove the Fringe Benefit Tax on EVs to create more equitable access in vehicle purchase.
	9	Remove the luxury car tax threshold for EVs.
<b>Transport - State Government</b>	10	Work with SECCCA to Allocate \$20 million to the SECCCA region for the installation of a charging infrastructure network.
	11	Work with SECCCA to allocate land to enable charging station infrastructure delivery.
	12	Work with SECCCA to enable the possibility of EV bulk buy opportunities for SECCCA members.
	13	Work with SECCCA to create a SECCCA region \$20 million Zero Emissions Active Transport Fund to create more bike paths and walking tracks.
<b>Legislation</b>	14	Climate change response must be explicit and embedded in the legislation and in every municipal planning scheme. Enable municipalities to give the required weight to climate change adaptation and mitigation, in line with the best available science.
	15	DELWP to allocate resources to review the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to make recommendations on amending it to explicitly address climate change.
	16	Align planning legislation and regulation with the Climate Change Act 2017 and other climate change / sustainability focused actions and programs.
	17	Introduce mandatory climate change related minimum standards into planning schemes, especially those that are unique to the SECCCA.
	18	Incorporate the learnings from NHEAS project into the states building code for new homes. ESD of Buildings and Subdivision - A roadmap for Victoria's planning system.
	19	Develop a clear planning tool to allow SECCCA members to manage coastal erosion in line with community expectations.
<b>Federal Government - Climate Adaption</b>	20	Develop a coordinated national approach to adapting to changing climate conditions.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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