

# FACT SHEET: CLIMATE CHANGE

VICTORIAN BUDGET 2017/18



The Andrews Labor Government has committed **\$25.4 million** over four years from the Sustainability Fund in the 2017/18 Victorian Budget to take decisive action and restore our position as a leader on climate change.

**\$12.8 million** will deliver on our agenda for climate change action, delivering the promises of *Victoria's Climate Change Act 2017*. This includes work towards reaching our emissions reductions targets for 2020 and 2050, and laying the foundations for successful adaptation, including:

- **\$3.4 million** to leverage local government action to reduce emissions, with priority given to councils supporting vulnerable communities;
- **\$2 million** to support Government departments to cut their office-based emissions by 30 per cent below 2015 levels – a key commitment made as part of our TAKE2 climate change pledge program. This includes developing tools for government to identify the best opportunities to reduce emissions;
- **\$1.6 million** to establish sector-based adaptation planning including pilot Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs). Pilot AAPs will address priority adaptation needs in the health and human services, agriculture and water sectors, and prepare core systems for mandatory AAPs from 2020 under the new *Climate Change Act 2017*;
- **\$620,000** to support the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group to recover waste from landfill to reduce methane emissions;
- **\$1.3 million** to develop a detailed picture of projected climate change in Victoria through dynamically downscaled climate change projections. These datasets will help government and the community understand potential impacts of climate change on a scale of 5km<sup>2</sup>, and to factor this information into decision-making;
- **\$1.1 million** to improve adaptation in land-use planning, including through the implementation of actions in Plan Melbourne;
- **\$800,000** to support strong national and international partnerships and to engage with world leading experts to exchange knowledge and expertise;
- **\$800,000** to draw together the right data and evidence to determine Victoria's interim targets for 2021-25 and 2026-30, on the pathway to net zero emissions by 2050;
- **\$700,000** to develop Victoria's greenhouse gas inventory from 2018, benchmarking our success in reducing emissions;
- **\$350,000** to undertake state-wide and regional vulnerability assessments, to better understand the risks of climate change to our communities and the economy; and
- **\$120,000** to develop a best-practice monitoring and evaluation framework for adaptation, to track our progress adapting to climate change.

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A further **\$12.6 million** will drive action under Victoria's *Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020*, including:

- **\$9.3 million** to support regions to manage the risks and impacts of climate change through adaptation planning. This will build on current adaptation projects and investment in the regions, and connect to the work of the newly established Regional Partnerships;
- **\$2 million** for a Coastal Hazard Assessment for Port Phillip Bay to build a detailed understanding of the potential impacts of flooding and erosion on the bay, to be delivered in partnership with bayside councils;
- **\$700,000** for climate change impact projections for the Victorian coastline so we can better understand the potential impacts of sea level rise and storm surges; and
- **\$500,000** to communicate up-to-date climate science and impacts.

Additionally, **\$4.4 million** over two years will continue and expand the ResourceSmart Schools program to assist schools to embed sustainability in everything they do.

## Supporting jobs and the economy

Supporting our regional communities and industries to adapt will help to minimise economic impacts of climate change.

Scaling up successful initiatives also has the potential to create jobs in new and emerging industries.

## Building on momentum

Action continues to deliver key commitments from the 2016-17 State Budget including:

- **\$15 million** in capital funding over four years to replace and upgrade critical coastal protection assets;
- **\$4 million** to monitor coastal flooding, erosion and land stability and undertake work to support State of the Bay reporting;
- **\$2.4 million** for protection of Priority Victorian Beaches and Foreshores program;
- **\$5.56 million** for the Virtual Centre for Climate Change Innovation. This is based on the successful European Union Climate Knowledge Innovation Community (Climate KIC) model;

- **\$2 million** to leverage private investment in developing Waste to Energy facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- **\$500,000** over four years to develop an integrated assessment framework for the built environment that addresses Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) and climate change; and
- **\$600,000** over two years to undertake modelling and feasibility studies on the costs and impacts of climate change on the health and human services system.

**Over \$2 million** in climate change commitments from the 2015-16 State Budget have been rolled out including:

- **\$1.15 million** in grants awarded to 39 regional and metropolitan councils for 45 climate change projects to support vulnerable members of their communities, and promote innovation and opportunities in climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- **\$450,000** to boost links between Victorian and international academics and entrepreneurs including scholarships for postgraduate students to turn low carbon research and innovations into business ideas and climate change research scholarships at leading Victorian institutions.

## Find out more

Keep up to date on Government's climate change action at [climatechange.vic.gov.au](http://climatechange.vic.gov.au)

For Victoria to achieve its net zero emissions target by 2050, we all need to play our part.

Individuals, businesses and community can 'pledge' to act now to keep the temperature rise to under two degrees by visiting [take2.vic.gov.au](http://take2.vic.gov.au)

