

## Email submission

***This submission was coordinated by Friends of the Earth, and sent to the Panel by 267 individuals***

Dear the Hon. Greg Combet and Panelists,

The Federal government's failure to act on climate change exposes Victorian communities to impacts such as intensifying bushfires, droughts, heatwaves, and extreme weather.

The Federal government's 'do-nothing' approach to climate change means we need to see greater leadership from Victoria.

I welcome the Independent Expert Panel's investigation into Victoria's interim Emissions Reduction Targets for 2025 and 2030. Our state has an opportunity to show leadership on climate change by setting ambitious, science-based targets.

As an independent panel free from political barriers, you have an opportunity to make recommendations to the government that are based on the latest climate science.

I call on the panel to make recommendations that ensure Victoria contributes its fair share towards the global goal of keeping warming to less than 1.5°C to 2°C.

As these interim targets will set the trajectory for future Victorian governments, and with time running out to avoid run-away climate change, I support deep emissions cuts to put Victoria on a path to rapid decarbonisation.

I believe Victoria must reduce emissions by as much as possible as quickly as possible, and not defer meaningful cuts until after 2030. I urge the panel to consider:

- The Climate Change Authority's recommendation for Australia to cut emissions by up to 65 percent below 2005 levels by 2030.
- For Australia to meet its carbon budget constraints, Professor David Karoly and Professor Clive Hamilton state that Australia would have to reach net zero emissions by 2035.
- The United Kingdom has set a legally binding target to cut emissions 57 percent below 1990 levels by 2032.
- Scotland, with a similar population as Victoria, will cut emissions 66 percent below 1990 levels by 2032 (with the additional aim for a 100 percent renewable electricity sector by 2032).

\*California, the world's sixth largest economy, will cut carbon emissions 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.

Sound decision making on Victoria's emissions reduction targets requires the greatest level of accuracy about our current emissions profile. I encourage the panel to account for the emissions associated with aviation, shipping, and land use (including prescribed burning and fire regime associated with logging).

In terms of policy tools, the panel can recommend the government: increase the Victorian Renewable Energy Targets to 100 percent by 2030; shift the balance of funding from road building towards public transport; and repower Melbourne's train network with solar, wind, and storage.

Finally, I encourage the panel to limit any offsetting included in the targets to Victoria. There are known human rights abuses and negative environmental impacts associated with some international offsetting schemes. Limiting offsets to Victoria will mean our state captures the full economic and employment benefits of such a scheme.

I look forward to seeing the panel's summary of responses in June 2018 and final advice to the government in February 2019.