



The voice of Victorian workers since 1856

VICTORIAN TRADES HALL COUNCIL

30 April 2018

Greg Combet
Chair
Interim Emissions Reduction Targets Panel
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Via climate.change@delwp.vic.gov.au

Dear Chair,

RE: INTERIM EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS FOR VICTORIA (2021-2030)

Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Interim Emissions Reduction Targets for Victoria Issues Paper.

We are especially pleased to be submitting to a panel that has the knowledge and experience to guide Victoria through this process and thank the panel in advance for your time and service.

VTHC was founded in 1856 and is the peak body for unions in Victoria. VTHC represents 41 unions and over 430,000 workers in Victoria. These workers are members of unions that reach into every industry in the state, both in the public and private sectors.

VTHC and its affiliated unions have campaigned for and won a range of important rights and entitlements for Victorian workers, including the eight-hour day, the minimum wage and superannuation.

VTHC welcomes the Andrews Government's commitment to emissions reduction targets particularly in light of the egregious failure of the Federal Government in this area.

VTHC takes a keen interest in addressing climate change as it is workers - such as scientists, nurses and firefighters - who are on the front lines fighting climate change. Along with our local communities, they are exposed to the impacts such as intensifying bushfires, droughts, heatwaves and extreme weather.

VTHC recommends that the panel makes findings that will ensure Victoria contributes our fair share towards the global goal of restricting warming to less than 1.5 to 2 degrees. VTHC supports an ambitious emissions reduction target.

The panel should recommend to the State Government that this goal can only be met by heavy investment in renewable energy. A heavy investment in renewable energy with a focus on ensuring a just and fair transition for effected workers

LUKE HILAKARI
Secretary

DAVID CRAGG
Assistant Secretary

**VICTORIAN TRADES
HALL COUNCIL**

54 Victoria Street
Carlton South, 3053
Phone: 03 9659 3511
info@vthc.org.au
vthc.org.au
weareunion.org.au

and their communities will establish Victoria as a leader in combating climate change.

Victoria's energy sector is a significant contributor to both the Victorian economy and employment. Boston Consulting Group estimate that approximately 25,000 Victorian workers are directly employed in the energy sector. As Victoria continues its move towards renewable energy the role of the government in providing for a just transition will be vital.

It is only through a fair transition that we will be able to tap into the renewable energy jobs bonanza that is waiting for Victoria just around the corner.

Finally VTHC wishes to draw the panel's attention to the submission of Friends of the Earth. We especially commend their recommendation advising against the practice of offsetting being included in Victoria's targets. Offsetting schemes (typically based overseas) have a proven history of worker and human rights abuses as well as negative environmental outcomes. By excluding offsetting from Victoria's targets we can ensure that our state is able to benefit from the full range of economic and jobs benefits of the emission reduction targets.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my lead political organiser, Danae Bosler on (03) 9569 3583 or dbosler@vthc.org.au

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Luke Hilakari
Secretary
LH: TS/ Ref: 85.243