



EASTERN ALLIANCE
FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION

C/O - MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL
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1 May 2018

The Hon Greg Combet AM (Chair)
Independent Expert Panel (Panel)
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
8 Nicholson St
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Online: engage.vic.gov.au/climate-change-targets-2021-2030

Dear Mr Combet,

Re: Interim Emissions Reduction Targets for Victoria (2021-2030)

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is pleased to provide this response to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) issues paper on the *Interim Emissions Reduction Targets for Victoria (2021-2030)*.

EAGA is a formal Alliance of eight Councils in Melbourne's East, committed to delivering mitigation and adaptation projects and advocating for initiatives that support sustainable, low carbon communities. Our members include:

- City of Boroondara
- Glen Eira City Council
- Knox City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- City of Monash
- City of Stonnington
- City of Whitehorse
- Yarra Ranges Council

In developing the State's interim targets, EAGA urges the Panel to consider the following responses to the questions posed in the issues paper:

1a. Should Victoria's interim emissions reduction targets relate to a national reference point?

Yes. Targets should be aligned to 2005 levels as per the Paris Agreement.

1b. If yes, what is the most relevant reference point?

The most relevant framework for the establishment of emissions reduction targets is the Paris Agreement. The Climate Change Authority's recommendation of 45-65% below 2005 levels by 2030 provides a useful scaled reference point for the Paris Agreement and should be used to inform Victoria's interim targets.

3a. Do you think a Victorian emissions budget should be used as a tool in the Panel's analysis?

Yes, a budget based approach is critical and aligns with international best practice.

3b. If yes, what global temperature outcome should a Victorian emissions budget be consistent with (e.g. 2°C above pre-industrial levels)?

Establishing a 2°C target will bring Victoria in line with the Paris agreement, however, the target review process should allow the State's emissions reduction trajectory to be revised to align with a more ambitious 1.5°C goal should circumstances change over time.

4. What do you see as the relative advantages and disadvantages of early versus late action to reduce Victoria's emissions to reach net zero by 2050?

There is an overwhelming volume of research demonstrating the high costs of delaying action on climate change. Taking strong and immediate action maximises the opportunity for success and reduces the risks over the long term.

5. What lessons can be learned from other state and local governments that have set emissions reduction targets?

Local Governments have typically adopted one (or more) of the following approaches to target setting for their communities:

- Aspirational or political targets, typically framed around an easy to communicate figure, but not informed by a strong evidence base
- Bottom up targets, informed by projects or actions with a forecast abatement potential
- Top down, or science-based targets, based on a scaled-down carbon budget from the national budget

Historically, most councils have chosen aspirational targets with mixed results. In many instances, councils committing to targets have done so with little understanding of the scale of the challenge and the resources required deliver on their objectives. The lived experience of councils demonstrates the importance of clearly communicating that the onus for taking action does not solely rely on the region's government entity, and targets are the responsibility of the region overall. Unfortunately, the mischaracterisation of responsibility in the past has resulted in many local governments abandoning their community-based targets.

However, the Paris Agreement provides a unique opportunity for all levels of government to synchronise their goals and priorities, develop a longer-term strategic resource allocation, and pursue alignment and cooperation in reduction measures. To achieve this, EAGA is happy to work with the Panel and DELWP to facilitate a seamless approach for councils to connect their targets with the State's emission reduction targets.

If you have any questions or queries relating to this submission, please contact Scott McKenry, EAGA Executive Officer, on scott.mckenry@maroondah.vic.gov.au or 03 9298 4250.

Kind regards,



Cr Josh Fergeus
Executive Committee Chair
Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
Councillor, City of Monash



This submission has been approved through EAGA's formal governance structure as described in the EAGA Memorandum of Understanding 2017-21. The submission may not have been formally considered by individual member councils.