Ref: DG/CNE-07-2010

29 July 2019

Enquiry Into Interim Emissions Reduction Targets For Victoria (2021-2030)

Dear Sir/Madam

The ASU (Victorian and Tasmanian Authorities and Services Branch) has read the submission of the Victorian Trades Hall Council (VTHC) to be lodged 29 July 2019, and supports this submission in relation to Victoria’s Interim Emissions Targets.

The ASU is Australia’s largest union in the energy/electricity industry, with members in thermal power stations, isolated hydro stations, electricity transmission systems and the distribution/retail industry.

Particularly relevant to this report are the ASU members working across the Latrobe Valley, who will be directly impacted by any transition in Victoria’s energy provision.

We appreciate the recommendations made by the Expect Panel in regards to the importance of ensuring a just transition.

The ASU agrees strongly with the VTHC’s position that any transition in this sector cannot be left up to the market. It is important that the workers in our energy sector, who have helped to power Victoria, are not left behind in this process, and that they are placed front and centre in all planning.

There is understandable scepticism among many workers in the sector about what the future looks like for the workers and communities who will be affected by this transition. We reiterate the emphasis placed by the VTHC on the importance of a transition that includes secure union jobs, local to affected communities.

Alongside workers in the energy sector, the ASU represents workers in the not for profit community sector. This includes workers in housing and tenancy, youth, child and family services, community and mental health, and job networks. These services must be provided with adequate funding to support communities most impacted by this transition process.

Equally, the effects of climate change are experienced most keenly by vulnerable Victorians, such as those from low socio-economic communities, migrant communities and the elderly, who are also likely to rely more on these community services. Proper long-term planning of
Victoria’s transition to a sustainable energy future is vital both to minimise this harm, and so that ambitious employment and transition goals are able to be met.

The ASU thanks the Expert Panel for the opportunity to provide feedback on these targets and requests continued inclusion in future consultation processes.

Yours sincerely

LISA DAR MANIN
BRANCH SECRETARY