



PRINCIPLES

1. Victoria's unique indigenous biodiversity is valuable and must be protected.
2. Bio diverse ecosystems and ecosystem processes sustain Earth's life support systems including the climate system.
3. Biodiversity is essential to human survival, health and wealth.
4. Healthy and resilient ecological systems are essential for current and future generations and include our cities, agricultural and rural enterprises, rivers, grasslands, woodlands, forests, fauna and flora.
5. Economic development and technologies must be within the limits of our bio diverse ecosystems if we are to survive and flourish.
6. The loss of Victoria's biodiversity poses an unacceptable risk to human and ecosystem health, and dramatically reduces our ability to cope with major ecological threats.
7. Victorian ecosystems are vital for the survival of nationally and internationally significant species of migratory animals and the loss of biodiversity in Victoria has national and international ramifications.
8. Local Indigenous Networks have an important role to play in the protection of Victorian biodiversity
5. A comprehensive, adequate and representative system of terrestrial, freshwater and marine protected areas (MPAs) including all remaining areas of high conservation value, managed primarily to protect biodiversity.
6. Protection from accidental or deliberate introduction of exotic plants, animals and organisms, which could compromise Australia's biodiversity, agriculture or human health.
7. Support for science-based large scale programs for habitat protection, and restoration of ecological systems and protection of all indigenous species.
8. Support for effective integration of regional and urban planning, ecological sustainability, economic development and social wellbeing.
9. Liaison and support for environmentally focused community groups to further identify areas of environmental concern.
10. Introduction of state measures to end broad scale clearing and incremental loss of native vegetation including degradation of native forests.
11. Establishment of evidence based buffer zones in high conservation areas, with linkage and restoration of ecological fragments on public and private land.
12. Research into humane and sustainable means of controlling existing and potential threats to biodiversity from feral animals, weeds and pest species.

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Review all current environmental legislation to evaluate where it is protecting our natural environment, including areas and species, and identify where improvement is needed.
2. Passing of legislation to prevent actions which are damaging our ecological systems and processes.
3. Resourcing of environmental legislation implementation to fulfil its primary objectives of maintaining and improving the natural environment.
4. Establishment of a comprehensive state-wide biodiversity framework with a funding mechanism aimed at reversing the ongoing degradation of existing biodiversity. This framework will give priority to protecting ecosystems, allowing our fauna and flora to evolve naturally.
13. An increase in and enforcement of penalties for the killing and/or capture of state listed threatened and endangered species and damage to their habitat.
14. Support programs to work with private landowners and community groups to protect, restore and conserve natural values on their land, including conservation covenants.
15. Development and enforcement of recovery plans for threatened and endangered species and protection plans for ecological communities.
16. An increase in funding to biosecurity services to anticipate new invasive species threats posed by climate change and expanded pathways resulting from globalised trade and travel.
17. The creation of indigenous flora and fauna reserves where animals and plants can be protected or re-established.



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18. Resourcing of educational and research bodies to monitor the status of Victoria's ecosystems to enable the introduction of programs to educate Victorians on the benefits of improved biodiversity.

PRINCIPLES

1. Fire is an integral part of many Australian landscapes but varies in its behaviour, intensity and frequency and weather plays a critical role in fire behaviour.
2. The preservation of human life is paramount.
3. Ongoing detailed evaluation of and response to the urban-bushland/grassland interface to ensure that public safety is protected as well as protecting the environment.
4. Many bushfires are started by human activity – accidental, negligent, or malicious.
5. A well-resourced emergency services sector is an essential asset for a safer, more secure community.
6. Landscape and fuel management including prescribed burns, must be informed by evidence-based science and The Precautionary Principle.
7. Ongoing, well-funded education and training programs for the community are essential to be adequately prepared.
8. Encouraging and utilising locally developed best practice for warning and communication systems and fire safety planning.
9. Ensuring ongoing maintenance of places of last resort (neighbourhood safer places and community fire refuges).
10. Providing rebates for installation of residential fire safety systems.
11. Ensuring greater maintenance of all power lines by power distribution companies.
12. Stopping the use of machinery with the potential to ignite fires on Total Fire Ban days including, but not limited to, harvesters and logging machinery.
13. Providing active education and training programs including greater distribution of common-sense literature and practical training for those who live in high risk areas.
14. Inviting the insurance industry to design a rating system for insuring properties in fire risk zones.

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

Safer Communities

1. Victorians being better prepared and more self-reliant in bushfire risk zones.
2. Communities becoming 'fire smart' through incentives, education and training.
3. The development of greater choices for sheltering from bushfires.
4. Ensuring more effective and active partnerships between communities and emergency services to provide improved
5. Local warning systems
6. Pre-planning for the 'less-abled' / more vulnerable in the community; and
7. Methods of creating safer, more defensible zones around houses and townships that are ecologically sympathetic.

Wildfire

15. The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards increasing the survival and rehabilitation of wildlife.
16. Fire agencies and emergency services allowing trained wildlife volunteers to access areas immediately after a fire to rescue, feed or humanely destroy suffering wildlife.
17. Fire agencies assessing the relative size of areas destroyed by "back burns", their effectiveness and their likely impact on fleeing wildlife.
18. Reassessing the practice of burning out of unburnt "islands" within the fire zone as a standard tool of post fire management.
19. The impact on wildlife to be included in ecological assessments undertaken before any fuel reduction burn.

Researching and Understanding of Bushfires

20. An advanced public understanding of bushfire, to ensure Victoria develops world's best practice in fire prevention, management and control.
21. An improvement in public understanding of how to use landscape features and fire retardant vegetation for residential fire protection.

22. Bushfire research and fire suppression techniques taking into account the need to halt biodiversity decline.
23. Increasing research funding to advance fire agencies understanding of fire and the environment, and fire risk minimization.
24. Furthering research and review into the impact of climate change on bushfire behaviour.
25. Increasing research and understanding of the many ways people react in times of extreme emergency.
26. Furthering research and review into the impact of fire retardant chemicals used in fire suppression.
27. Reviewing and improving emergency warning systems including fire weather warnings.
28. Encouraging the scientific community to use plain language to bring bushfire information and expertise to the broader community.
29. Improving the scientific accountability of fire management.
38. Providing integrated state fire services.
39. Reinstating / upgrading and staffing of fire spotter towers.
40. Providing a single website for the community to access fire information.
41. Ensuring emergency telephone systems are adequate for the task and are properly staffed to prevent failure in times of fire disaster.
42. Investigating options for financial support of CFA volunteers.

Planning

30. The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards planning controls that reduce the level of risk at the residential / bushland interface.
31. Incorporating bushfire risks regulations for the location and maintenance of plantations.
32. Changing government plans for logging state forests adjacent to residential interface to reduce flammable regeneration.
33. Identifying high fire risk zones to limit subdivision in dangerous interface areas.

Fire Emergency Services

34. The provision of well-resourced fire emergency services.
35. The provision of rapid fire-detection systems and equipment.
36. Review of emergency community alert pilot systems to ensure the most effective, broad ranging alert systems are in place.
37. Streamlined fire services administration to allow more immediate and direct response to emergency situations.

PRINCIPLES

1. Climate change poses the greatest threat to our world in human history and requires urgent local, national and global action. The preservation of human life is paramount.
2. This is the critical decade for combating climate change.
3. The amount of greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere necessitates not only urgent, substantial mitigation but also prompt adaptation to climate change.
4. Early action to reduce greenhouse emissions, including carbon pollution, is cheaper and fairer than delaying action.
5. Climate change policy should be based on the best available science.
6. Climate change policy should inform and frame all other policies.
7. Victoria is one of the world's largest per-capita emitters of greenhouse gases, with 50% of Victoria's emissions coming from the burning of brown coal.
8. Victoria therefore must work towards a significant net emissions cut by 2020.
9. The lack of an effective global (or Australian) GHG emissions mitigation agreement must not prevent Victoria from reducing its emissions.
3. Victoria being positioned, through innovation, to capitalise on the new jobs, skills, technologies and markets available in a low carbon economy.
4. The provision of support, throughout the low carbon transition, to those regions, businesses and communities particularly vulnerable to emissions mitigation programs, and in particular to the Latrobe Valley
5. Regulating the phase-out of existing coal-fired power stations, and banning development of new fossil-fuel based power stations.
6. Banning the exploration and development of new fossil fuel resources including coal seam and other forms of unconventional gas.
7. Complementary mitigation measures, developed and implemented in collaboration with other governments where possible.
8. Assisting the Agriculture and Forestry sectors to reduce emissions - including from ruminant livestock production and land clearing - and to maximize effective and sustainable carbon farming and bio-sequestration.

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

Mitigation

1. Binding Victorian emissions targets to achieve a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by at least 40% from 1990 levels by 2020, and net zero or negative greenhouse gas emissions as soon as feasible and by no later than 2050
2. Developing and then implementing a detailed plan to end Victoria's reliance on fossil fuels by shifting to a low carbon economy.
9. Government support for adaptive actions to protect the environment and key public assets, and to manage major public risks.
10. The implementation, through public and private action, of the Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and ongoing review with community and expert involvement.
11. Assisting the Agriculture sector to adjust to reduced water availability and to make itself more energy self-sufficient.
12. Ensuring that coastal zone planning regulations allow for expected rise in sea levels, which could be 1.1 metres by 2100 (see Land Use Planning Policy).

PRINCIPLES

1. Properly staffed and well-resourced emergency services are essential to effectively ensure the safety and security of individuals and communities in times of disaster through a comprehensive system of early warnings, frontline response to emergency situations and provision of recovery assistance and disaster relief.
2. The provision and adequate resourcing of comprehensive emergency services is a Government responsibility and should include the full funding of services staffed with an appropriate mix of paid professionals and volunteers who are properly trained and equipped, fully insured and appropriately recompensed.
3. Emergency services must focus on both reducing the risk and improving the management of emergency situations as well as increasing community safety and resilience. This requires increased funding of research into most effective methods of doing so and ensuring that the research findings are implemented at all levels.
4. All aspects of emergency planning that involve members of the community (e.g.: education, warnings, evacuation) should be fundamentally based on up-to-date science in resilience and behaviour change.
5. Assistance provided to affected communities during and after disasters should recognize the fundamental long-term nature of recovery, which can take up to ten years.
6. such as those with a disability or from a non-English speaking background.
3. Establishment of a comprehensive and multi-modal emergency warning system that can effectively alert and inform people of emergency and disaster situations in an appropriate and timely manner.
4. Emergency services administration being streamlined to ensure that the responses of all emergency services to emergency and disaster situations are comprehensive, coordinated, complementary and seamless.
5. All urban and rural emergency and disaster services being appropriately staffed by both paid professionals and volunteers who are fully trained, equipped and insured and adequately recompensed for any losses or injuries resulting from their volunteer work.
6. The work and practices of the emergency services are based on implementing the results of sound research into best practice for prevention and management of disaster and emergency situations and the safety of the public and emergency service workers in these situations.
7. Increasing funding for research into the most effective ways to minimise both the risk and impact of natural disasters and accidents and the implementation of the research findings.
8. Providing full government funding and improved integration/coordination of all rural and urban emergency services.
9. Upgrading and staffing emergency/disaster early detection and warning systems, such as fire spotter towers.
10. Establishing a comprehensive and integrated public warning and information system to enable the community to access ongoing and current/updated information about emergencies through the telephone system, media and internet.
11. Ensuring that all emergency services volunteers in both rural and urban areas are appropriately trained and resourced and adequately insured.
12. Providing appropriate recovery services and assistance for all affected by emergencies/disasters.

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. Sufficient government funding and resourcing of state emergency services to enable the comprehensive delivery of rapid detection and effective early response to emergency situations such as fires, storms, floods, accidents and acute health episodes.
2. Providing inclusive Emergency planning arrangements so that the general community can be empowered to provide solutions and that the arrangements are tailored to their needs. This is especially true of people from sectors of the community who face particular barriers in an emergency,

PRINCIPLES

The Australian Greens Victoria believe that:

1. State and local energy strategies must be based upon the principles of ecological sustainability and social equity.
2. Exclusive and efficient use of renewable energy represents the only viable route to achieving a sustainable energy industry.
3. Incentives for sustainable transformation of the energy sector need to be accompanied by disincentives to the consumption of fossil fuel.
4. All buildings and appliances need to be energy-efficient and energy conserving.
5. All households need affordable energy to meet essential needs.
6. Environmental costs need to be factored into the price of energy in such a way as to encourage and enable a rapid, equitable and affordable shift towards sustainability.
7. Government has a significant role to play in creating a sustainable energy sector and industries.

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

Targets

1. Binding Victorian emissions targets to achieve a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by at least 40% from 1990 levels by 2020, and net zero or negative greenhouse gas emissions as soon as feasible and by no later than 2050.
2. Implementing measures in Victoria which go towards achieving the Australian Greens' renewable energy target of 90% by 2030.
3. Phasing out the Victorian use of fossil fuels, using a combination of energy efficiency, energy conservation and renewable energy.

Supply

4. The maximum use of renewable energy as an energy source.
5. Boosting small scale renewable energy generation, including by introducing a fair feed-in tariff and removing barriers to grid connection.
6. Supporting and assisting the development of markets for alternative sustainable fuels.
7. Supporting the development and use of sustainable energy storage technologies.
8. Opposing the burning of woodchips from native forests for power generation.
9. Developing and implementing complementary policy measures in collaboration with other governments where possible.

Demand

10. A reduction in Victorian energy demand by 20% by 2020, with appropriate sectoral targets (for the building sector, transport, etc.).
11. Removing – including through reform of the national energy market and by other measures – perverse incentives that encourage use of fossil fuels and growth in energy consumption
12. Assisting industrial and commercial energy consumers to reduce consumption.
13. Supporting companies that assist consumers to conserve energy and to access affordable and reliable renewable energy.
14. Assisting electricity users to reduce summer peak electricity demand.
15. Assisting industry to retrofit with low emissions equipment.
16. Implementing measures to ensure that development across Victoria is energy, water and waste efficient.
17. Improving and implementing mandatory energy performance standards for buildings.
18. Mandating compliance with emissions standards and the disclosure of energy performance ratings for buildings prior to construction, refurbishment, sale or lease.

19. Minimum energy and water efficiency standards for rental housing.
20. Working with all stakeholders to achieve demand reductions.
21. Developing, funding and publicising an energy retrofit strategy for existing buildings.
22. Supporting the production of biofuels by farmers for use as tractor fuels.
23. Promoting the sustainable use of electric vehicles.

Transition and Adaptation

24. Providing structural adjustment assistance for rural and regional consumers.
25. Ensuring the provision of effective fuel poverty alleviation measures.
26. The implementation of programs to assist Victoria's coal and energy-intensive industry dependent communities to make the transition to other more sustainable sources of economic prosperity.

Funding the Renewable Energy Transition

27. Legislating for 'feed-in' tariffs for renewable energy.
28. Improving the targets and coverage of the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) scheme to further reduce energy consumption by households and businesses.
29. Financial support for concession holders to convert their homes to meet the 5-star standard.
30. Ending support for the development of gas- and oil-from-coal, and CCS technologies.
31. Ensure that any subsidy for the Alcoa aluminium smelter applies only to renewable energy.



Wind and solar will power our clean energy future. The Commonwealth Renewable Energy Target is under threat, but in Victoria we can end the uncertainty.

The Greens will re-instate the Victorian Renewable Energy Target as part of a package that gives renewable energy investors the certainty they need to create jobs in regional Victoria and tackle dangerous climate change.

The Greens' plan will make Victoria a clean energy state despite Prime Minister Abbott's attempts to dismantle the Commonwealth Renewable Energy Target (RET) and Clive Palmer's failure to give investors certainty beyond 2016.

Victoria is in position to act quickly, because the legal framework for the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) was retained when the scheme was mothballed in 2009.

Victoria is also the national priority in cleaning up Australia's energy system, with Victoria's heavy reliance on brown coal – the dirtiest electricity source of them all – for over 90% of the state's electricity.

The Greens will increase the target for renewable energy, not reduce or eliminate it. If Victoria leads the way, we can power the future on clean, green energy.

VICTORIAN ENERGY JOBS UNDER THREAT

Victorian wind investment is being pushed to South Australia and New South Wales by the Naphthine Government's ludicrous 2km veto laws.

Tony Abbott has been trying to destroy clean energy and prop up coal since he became Prime Minister.

As a result, Victorian clean energy projects are under threat. The Mildura solar farm has been shelved, 18 new wind farms have been put on hold and manufacturer Keppel Prince in Portland will have to

shed up to 150 jobs, according to the Portland Observer (20/08/14), if our renewable energy laws go backwards.

REDUCE YOUR POWER BILLS

RET schemes reduce your power bills and save households money. A Victorian RET would keep these savings going.

1. Once built, clean energy has low running costs. The sun, wind, waves and geothermal heat provide the fuel for free. This helps drive down power prices.
2. The more renewable energy we make, the cheaper everyone's bills become. The RET also drives down the price of an average solar panel system by \$1200.
3. More than one in ten Victorian households has installed solar which makes a dent in the times of energy peak demand in summer, saving us all money.
4. Gas is set to triple in price over the next decade. Renewable energy will protect us from these massive price rises.
5. The faster we shift to renewable energy, the more chance we have of reducing dangerous climate change.

Even the government's own dodgy review by ACIL Allen showed that households will pay \$91 less in 2030 under the RET, than if it didn't exist.

HOW CAN WE REINSTATE THE VRET?

Victoria's Renewable Energy Target (VRET) was mothballed in 2009, with all participants transitioning across to the expanded Commonwealth RET.

VICTORIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY TARGET

VICTORIA CAN LEAD THE WAY TO A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE



But the Victorian scheme wasn't dismantled, it was just powered down.

It still exists, but with three key switches flicked off:

1. The annual target for renewable energy
2. Accreditation of new renewable power generators
3. Creation of new renewable energy certificates.

The Greens will legislate to reestablish the VRET.

We would start by using powers the Minister retained when the scheme was mothballed, to have an expert independent review into reinstating the RET. The review would examine how to encourage additional renewable energy creation, regional investment and employment, new technology development, diversity in power generation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

To put this plan into action, we will convene a Renewable Energy Roundtable of Victorian renewable energy companies and other stakeholders. With the Ministers for Energy and the Environment, they will marshal the necessary skills, resources and other supporting laws and regulations to drive the development of the industry towards the Greens' national goal of 100% renewable energy as soon as possible and no less than 90% by 2030.

GOOD FOR VICTORIA, WHATEVER HAPPENS

The VRET can co-exist with the Commonwealth RET, with a higher target. So the Greens plan will benefit Victoria, even if we succeed in saving the RET.

The two schemes co-existed when VRET was created. Simple measures made sure only one certificate was created for the same renewable power generation.

If the Abbott government dismantles the Commonwealth RET, we can let Victorian participants transition to the VRET, in the same way the VRET participants transitioned to the Commonwealth RET in 2009.

HOW A RET WORKS

A Renewable Energy Target is a market mechanism to encourage new renewable energy investment, by making clean energy as profitable as dirty coal.

It creates a compulsory target, which is currently 41,000 gigawatt hours renewable energy by 2020. The Greens want to reach even higher.

Companies that create electricity from renewable sources like wind and solar get certificates. They sell the certificates to electricity retailers that are required to buy them.

The income from the certificates supplements the income from selling electricity for the first 15 years of a new investment.

Renewable energy is cheaper to produce in the long run, since wind, sun and geothermal energy are free.

The RET is split into two parts, for large and small producers of renewable energy. The large generators get certificates for the energy as it is produced.

Smaller generators, for example solar panels, solar hot water, heat pumps and small scale wind and hydro get their certificates up-front, which has been instrumental in driving down the cost of domestic and farm renewable energy across the nation.

The Greens oppose burning native forests for electricity production or renewable energy certificates.

OTHER PARTIES

The Liberal government has blocked renewables in Victoria at every turn and even tried to get fossil fuels included in the RET. Their 2km veto laws make it easier to build a coal-fired power station, or drill as gas well, than a wind farm. They have slashed the solar feed-in tariff and axed a range of energy reduction programs, including the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target (VEET) scheme.

Labor has criticised the government's performance, but they haven't come up with a plan to boost renewables in Victoria.

More homes in Australia have gone solar than in any other country, but millions of Victorians are still missing out on solar savings.

HELP US HELP YOU

The Greens will make sure that Victorian households and businesses can cut the cost of energy and reduce their greenhouse emissions.

The number of households with solar has doubled in the last three years, creating a new group of Victorians who want to control their energy costs and expect the government to help them do so.

Energy companies are preventing Victorians from taking control of their energy bills. Solar consumers and businesses who have already connected solar to the grid aren't saving as much as they should because the guaranteed energy buy back rate is too low. Low income households who don't have the money up front and a strong credit rating need support so they can cut their bills through solar.

The Greens will announce solar energy initiatives in more detail before the November 2014 election, to achieve three goals:

1. Fair price for solar

The Greens will support the continuation of existing feed-in-tariffs that pay a fair price for solar. All future installations in Victoria will earn the owner a guaranteed minimum price, equivalent to the price they pay for energy.

2. Right to go solar

No energy company should have the power to deprive Victorians of their right to go solar and control their energy bills. The Greens will introduce a law for the right to connect solar to the grid.

3. Access to solar capital

The Greens will establish a clean energy fund which will mean no up-front costs and households can pay for their panels through their bills or at low interest.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Few people realise the Greens party invented the feed-in-tariff for solar power, in Germany more than 20 years ago.

SOLAR IN VICTORIA

- Victoria is falling behind the other states: 10% of homes have solar, compared to 23% in Queensland and 25% in South Australia

- In 2016 the PFIT and SFIT schemes will close, leaving 57% of current solar homes without a fair feed-in-tariff
- Solar in Victoria generates 666 MWh (from 554 MW installed capacity)

The Greens won \$13.2 billion for clean energy in the federal parliament, after the 2010 election put them in balance of power. For example, the \$10 billion Clean Energy Finance Corporation is successfully profiting from clean energy investments around Australia, cutting emissions by 3.9 million tonnes of CO₂e per annum and creating jobs.

1 in 10 Victorian households have chosen to control their energy bills through solar, but the power companies are preventing them from saving as much as they should. The Greens are the only party committed to a fair go for solar households.

SPREADING THE BENEFITS OF CHEAP, SOLAR ELECTRICITY

The Greens package of policies will help hundreds of thousands of Victorians go solar and ensure that households and businesses who have solar panels get a fair price for the energy they export to the grid.

Solar saves money as well as help the environment. Victorians can save at least 40-60% of their energy bills easily, by using a well designed solar system.

By taking pressure off the power grid, people with solar panels help keep everyone's power bill down.

OTHER PARTIES

The Liberal-National government and the Labor opposition are on the side of the energy companies, against solar citizens.

The Victorian Government is letting energy companies get away with using discriminatory measures to prevent people connecting solar to the grid.

The Victorian Government has backed the energy companies instead of ordinary Victorians. 21% of solar homes currently have no guaranteed level of payments.



Land and water are vital for food production. The Greens stand with communities that are threatened by mining companies. We want a permanent ban on fracking, onshore gas and new coal mines in Victoria.

Victoria's fresh food comes from areas like Gippsland, the Otways and Bacchus Marsh that are under threat from new coal mines and unconventional gas drilling including fracking.

Farmers currently have no ability to lock the gate against mining companies that want to dig for coal or drill for gas deep beneath the farms, in a process that will damage the farm forever.

The Greens support a permanent ban on new coal mining, onshore gas and fracking, as part of a fast transition away from fossil fuels towards a clean energy future.

At risk are the most precious resources of all – our soil and water – which stand to be poisoned by coal mining, gas drilling and fracking.

Onshore gas and fracking in New South Wales and Queensland has led to shocking leaks, contamination and farm damage. The compensation to farmers falls well short of the damage done. And the damage reaches well beyond the farm gate.

We need to lock the gate to these dinosaur industries permanently as we transition to renewable energy. The policy that will secure the farm is also the one that will help prevent dangerous climate change.

VICTORIAN FARMS UNDER THREAT

Gippsland and parts of the Otways and south western Victoria are blanketed in exploration and development licences for onshore gas and coal.

In Gippsland, there are eighteen exploration licences for coal seam gas and four for tight gas and shale gas.

Lakes Oil and the company now known as Ignite Energy conducted 23 fracking operations between them in Gippsland before the 2012 moratorium.

In the south west of Victoria there are ten exploration licences for gas – mostly tight gas and shale gas.

Bacchus Marsh is threatened by a huge coal mine proposal. High impact exploration has included test drilling close to homes.

WHAT IS FRACKING?

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is a mining process used to unlock methane gas from rock formations deep underground. The process involves pumping a slurry mix of sand and drilling fluids at extreme pressure to depths of up to two kilometres.

The pressure creates fractures in underground rocks formations, which are propped open with sand. Most of the liquid is pumped back up again, together with gas that was released from the rocks by the fracking.

There is no way of predicting or controlling the fractures, or the effects of subsidence and seismic activity, each of which contribute to the problem of 'fugitive' gas leaking into the atmosphere.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas. The impact of 'fugitive' (leaking) emissions has not been measured. CSG could be just as bad for the climate as coal.

COAL MINING AND GAS DRILLING A PERMANENT BAN ON FRACKING, ONSHORE GAS AND NEW COAL MINES



FIVE THREATS TO WATER

Water is a scarce resource in Victoria. Onshore gas drilling poisons our water in five ways.

1. CSG drilling produces large quantities of salty coal seam water, which is contaminated from toxic chemicals that naturally occur in the coal seam, as well as the chemicals used in fracking.
2. Fracking can open new links between freshwater aquifers and saline aquifers, causing contamination.
3. Fracking uses large quantities of fresh water.
4. Cracks and seismic activity from fracking can lead to water dropping through the fissures, drawing down the water table and causing dams and bores to dry up.
5. Methane gas bubbling up through dams and rivers leads to contaminated and even flammable water.

WHAT IS UNCONVENTIONAL GAS?

In Victoria, 'unconventional' gas is divided into three categories, based on the geology of where it is found: Coal Seam Gas (CSG), Shale Gas and Tight Gas. It's basically the same gas – methane – just at different depths below ground and in different types of rock.

CSG is found in pores and cracks in coal deposits, under high pressure, held in place by toxic water. It is deeper underground in the Otways than in Gippsland.

Drilling for CSG produces a lot of toxic water byproduct, because the mining company pumps out the water that was holding the gas in place. Once the water is pumped out, the environment that keeps the methane underground is disrupted.

Not all CSG mines use fracking. So a moratorium on fracking won't protect our farms from coal seam gas.

Tight gas and shale gas deposits are typically more than 1000m below ground, so they have to drill through many layers of saturated geological formations like fresh water aquifers, saline water aquifers and shale oil deposits before they get to the gas deposit.

Fracking is always used in tight gas and shale gas drilling, because the gas is locked in dense rock.

GREENS' TRACK RECORD

The Greens support a permanent ban on all onshore gas drilling, fracking and new coal mines, as part of a complete transition away from fossil fuels.

We have a strong voice at state and federal level across the country against coal and unconventional gas industries. We will continue our campaign alongside community campaigns like Lock the Gate to bring an end to the threat of destruction across rural and regional Australia.

Senator Larissa Waters helped to bring about the water trigger and greenhouse gas investigations.

Victorian Greens leader Greg Barber MP has used Freedom of Information requests, parliament debates and community meetings to shine a light on the potential damage to Victoria if the industry is allowed to go ahead, and the clean energy alternatives.

OTHER PARTIES

The Liberal state government moratorium on new onshore gas permissions (not existing licences or coal mining) is due to expire in July 2015, after the election. The Premier has introduced legislation that will only be needed if fracking resumes. He has also ruled out any moratorium or ban on new coal mines.

Labor say they will extend the moratorium until after a parliamentary inquiry, however the last Labor government approved 73 exploration and fracking licences without consultation.

In Federal parliament, Liberals, Nationals and Labor voted against Greens "lock the gate" laws. Pressure from Greens, country independents and the community led to a "water trigger" for Commonwealth intervention on coal and coal seam gas projects that are likely to have a significant impact on water resources. But the old parties all voted against the new water trigger applying to tight gas or shale gas.

The Abbott government is currently trying to hand off the water trigger powers to the states or local government. They don't care about the threats to water in Victoria or the reality of climate change.



PRINCIPLES

The Australian Greens Victoria believe that:

1. All people have a right to clean air, fresh water and unpolluted soil.
2. Waste as a by-product of industry and individual living should initially be minimised and ultimately eliminated.
3. The transportation of hazardous waste must be minimised, and the Australian community must be fully informed about its location, disposal and transportation.
4. Cleaner production technology, reducing unnecessary packaging and waste generation, recycling product and packaging waste, and diverting organic waste from landfill are crucial for protecting our environment.
5. Governments must practise waste avoidance in their own operations.
6. Waste should be treated as a resource and reused in a way that achieves the maximum economic and environmental benefit to improve the recovery of organic waste from current levels via appropriately managed commercial composting facilities.
7. Manufacturers, distributors, and retailers to be required to adopt extended producer responsibility, taking financial and/or physical responsibility for a product at the end of its life.
8. The full social, environmental and economic costs must be measured and factored in to decisions about creating, managing and disposing of waste.
- d. working with manufacturers, distributors and importers to provide sustainable waste and e-waste re-use and recycling facilities, including re-use and recycling strategies that meet minimum health, safety and environmental standards;
2. To reach agreement with other states to implement national producer-run take-back and recycling schemes for problematic wastes, with at least 75% recovery – with penalties for failure.
3. Legislation to require a deposit-refund system for drink containers.
4. Legislation to phase out non-recyclable packaging.
5. Legislation to ban the free distribution of plastic bags and support plastic bag free initiatives.
6. To improve the recovery of organic waste from the current levels.
7. An improvement in the mandatory standards of waste disposal and storage, and the proper enforcement of them.
8. To strictly enforce higher penalties for the illegal disposal of waste.
9. The establishment of a government procurement framework aimed at the verifiable reduction of the environmental impact of equipment and consumable goods used by government.
10. Better regulation of landfill sites to limit material accepted, and increasing landfill levies with funds raised used to discourage waste disposal to landfill.
11. Funds raised from landfill levies to be directed to better, wide ranging recycling services to enable more materials to be recycled across regions and reduce roadside dumping.
12. All local governments encouraged to provide recycling and green waste disposal services to all properties (both residential and commercial) for non-industrial scale waste.
13. Manage existing and landfill sites better, including by ensuring maximum possible methane capture, improving the environmental standards for operating landfills, and banning unstabilised organics from landfill.
14. The elimination of the incineration of materials producing toxic emissions.
15. Ensure the Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009 and the National

AIMS

The Australian Greens Victoria will work towards:

1. The elimination of dumping wastes in landfills by 2020 and, in the shorter term:
 - a. implementing a State phase out of the use of landfills for the disposal of unsorted waste;
 - b. documenting and monitoring the generation of different waste streams, with a focus on hazardous materials, with the aim of keeping all stockpiles and newly generated hazardous waste to a minimum;
 - c. identifying non-recyclable and hazardous material to be phased out of use; and



Environment Protection Measures for the Movement of Controlled Wastes between States and Territories are strictly enforced.

16. Establish treatment facilities using the latest in waste disposal science, close to industry which produces such waste and/or can use the treated waste, and away from residential and environmentally sensitive areas.
17. Ensure all toxic waste material plants operate at the highest safety level, and are regularly monitored and audited by appropriate Government authorities.
18. Require the Government Purchasing Board to develop clear environmental purchasing guidelines, and provide training in tender specifications and contract management.
19. Require the Government to set green purchasing targets.
20. Ensure official Government and Government sponsored events are Waste Wise, with provision for evaluation and continual improvement.
21. Prohibit the export of hazardous waste and e-waste unless similar health, safety and environmental standards exist in the importing country.



PRINCIPLES

The Australian Greens Victoria believe that:

1. Access to clean and adequate water is fundamental to life.
2. Victoria's freshwater resources are coming under increasing pressure as a result of climate change and growing human demand.
3. The health of Victoria's catchments, rivers, wetlands, groundwater systems and estuaries underpins the health of our environment, communities, agriculture and industry.
4. We have a responsibility to restore, maintain and protect Victoria's rivers and freshwater environments as part of our natural heritage and future prosperity.
5. As a scarce and fluctuating resource, Victoria's major water supplies must be publicly owned and managed through a system of regulated water allocation.
6. Victoria's water management strategies must be environmentally and economically sustainable. Their objectives must include the preservation or improvement of ecosystem health.
7. Pricing regimes for all water uses should be structured to reflect scarcity, true delivery costs and to encourage efficient use, while ensuring that essential use to meet human needs is affordable for all.
8. Local communities, including local aboriginal people, must have the opportunity to participate in water catchment planning and management.
9. Government should not profit from the supply of water.
3. A water allocation framework that provides legal recognition of and protection for all environmental water, including a positive obligation on decision-makers to ensure that an environmental water reserve be maintained to preserve the environmental values and health of water ecosystems.
4. A water allocation framework that explicitly recognizes Aboriginal cultural values and native title rights, provides legal recognition of and protection for cultural flows, and provides statutory roles in water governance for Traditional Owners.
5. Restricted extraction from groundwater systems unless an independent hydrogeological assessment verifies that recharge rates will not be exceeded and extraction would be sustainable.
6. A water allocation framework which is transparent, subject to regular independent review and resource assessments, based on best available scientific analysis, to check on the health of water resources (including long term decline in water availability), and determine what actions must be taken.
7. Planning and management of the equitable use of Murray Darling Basin water resources that limits extraction to environmentally sustainable levels, maintains the health and resilience of the river and its ecosystems, and supports sustainable food production and rural enterprises for the long-term viability and wellbeing of basin communities. At a minimum we must meet our obligations under the current Murray Darling Basin Plan.
8. Return of water to environmental flows through improved water efficiency measures for irrigated agriculture and buy back of water entitlements in severely degraded and over-allocated systems.

AIMS

The Ecological Health of River and Groundwater Systems

1. A statutory framework which requires environmental outcomes to be met to protect water sources and their dependent ecosystems, consistent with the National Water Initiative, including a permanent prohibition on new large-scale dams on Victorian rivers.
2. A comprehensive, adequate and representative system of reserves for Victoria's unique and high conservation value freshwater ecosystems.
9. Rigorous environmental impact assessments, prior to commencement, for schemes involving re-insertion of waste-water into an aquifer.
10. Action to address threats to Victoria's freshwater systems such as land clearance, mining, drilling and exploration, erosion, sedimentation and pollution.
11. Improved riparian quality and connectivity, by amending Crown water-frontage grazing licenses to reward responsible management.
12. Adequately resourced waterway rehabilitation and farmer extension programs that encourage ecologically sustainable water management.



13. The elimination of all polluting and untreated sewage ocean outfalls, and the reporting of all existing sewage discharge on the National Pollution Inventory.
14. Prioritise environmental needs in the re-allocation of water entitlements freed up by the de-commissioning of coal-fired power plants as Victoria transitions to renewable energy.
15. Supporting irrigation communities to adapt to reduced water availability, by integrating structural adjustment and regional development funding into effective transition strategies.
16. The treatment and/or storage of wastewater from industrial, domestic and agricultural recycling via systems as isolated as reasonably possible from the possibility of environmental leakage, which are as close to the source as possible
17. supply augmentation options such as desalination and new dams.
24. To ascertain the most efficient means of securing a sustainable water supply for Victoria and Melbourne's future through independent review of all studies already undertaken or currently being undertaken on this matter.
25. An increased community awareness of the large quantities of water used in water intensive industries.
26. Public ownership and control of major water infrastructure systems.
27. Victoria to adopt targets for reduction in water consumption and increase in recycling and reuse.
28. Comprehensive minimum water efficiency standards for new residential, commercial and government owned buildings and industries as well as new domestic and commercial appliances.

Water Conservation and Provision

17. Maintained and updated programs for monitoring and removing toxicants from water supplies.
18. Integrating Victoria's groundwater and surface water regulatory regimes to create a single system governing the extraction and allocation of all water uses throughout the water cycle.
19. To ensure all bulk surface and groundwater supplies for commercial, industrial, agricultural and private discretionary use are priced to encourage sustainable levels of consumption as well as to reflect the true environmental and social costs of extraction.
20. To introduce mandatory targets for water corporations, enforceable by financial penalties, that result in a reduction of extraction of water from bulk surface water and groundwater to sustainable levels.
21. Monitoring and reporting of water quality to ensure that Victorian drinking water consistently meets or exceeds World Health Organization (WHO) and National Drinking Water standards.
22. To ensure that sustainable water use is a compulsory element of planning in Victorian water reform legislation and agreements, including for new developments, mining, infrastructure and agricultural projects.
23. Urban water resource management that is consistent with integrated water cycle management principles, prioritising water efficiency, recycling, re-use and rainwater harvesting over expensive, environmentally damaging



With successive governments failing to properly manage and reduce waste, it's the community who is getting dumped on. The Greens will implement a Cash for Containers scheme to increase recycling and reduce waste, and we will fight against expansion of landfills in urban areas.

All people have a right to a clean environment.

However, currently Victoria is heading in the wrong direction. Since 2000 Victoria has increased its annual waste generation by nearly 50% and litter remains a major problem.

One in five litter items on the streets are bottles and cans, and only 49% of these items are being recycled. A Cash for Containers scheme would significantly improve can and bottle recycling, reduce waste, reduce waterway and climate pollution, and generate jobs.

Not only do we need to reduce waste going to landfill, we need to better manage landfills to reduce negative impacts on the environment and on local communities.

We are concerned that the Napthine Government's plans for major landfills will expand their environmental footprint and adversely impact local communities. There have also been a number of unreasonable proposals put forward for landfills, including waste mountains in suburban areas.

This election the Greens are standing for:

- a [Cash for Container](#) scheme for Victoria;
- limitations on the size, height and life-spans of landfills to rule out proposals with significant negative local impacts; and

- creation of primary waste management infrastructure hubs outside the urban growth area of Melbourne, with existing urban landfills to become secondary hubs if they adhere to restricted operational policies.

With better management of waste, we can enjoy a cleaner environment, and benefit communities and our economy.

WASTE REDUCTION

The Greens believe individuals and companies must take more responsibility for the amount of waste that is produced. We are committed to removing existing waste from the environment and minimising the creation of new waste.

Today, the amount of waste generated as part of everyday living and a by-product of industry is growing. The Greens believe much more can be done to reduce the amount of waste we generate through cleaner production processes, building products to last, reducing unnecessary packaging, better recycling products, waste recovery and diverting organic waste from landfill.

This would help protect our environment, reduce the impact of landfills on local communities, and generate jobs and economic activity in resource recovery.



DON'T DUMP ON COMMUNITIES

Many old landfills are now surrounded by urban areas and no longer suitable for expansion. Instead, they need tighter environmental protections, limited life-spans and amenity improvements.

Yet, the Napthine Government has proposed to turn existing landfills at Ravenhall, Wollert and Werribee into Waste Management and Resource Recovery Hubs, which could see them expanded, both in terms of size and infrastructure on-site.

There has been no consultation with the community by the government on this decision and no proper assessment of the potential impact on local environments and communities around existing landfills.

The proposed expansion of these landfill sites has been met with strong community opposition. The expansion is inappropriate given they are now surrounded by urban areas. Further, as part of the expansion, waste mountains of up to 24m above ground level are being considered, and in the case of Werribee, have been approved. This will degrade the amenity and increase the odours in the area.

To better plan for waste management into the future, including avoiding poor planning decisions and local controversy, we need a transparent assessment as to the number and location of landfills required.

As there will be continued demand for landfill into the foreseeable future, primary waste management infrastructure hubs must be established outside the urban growth area of Melbourne, with existing urban landfills to become secondary hubs if they adhere to restricted operational policies.

Limitations on the size, height and life-spans of landfills are required to reduce the impact on local communities. There should be clear and transparent criteria by which landfills might become hubs.

All these decisions should be made with meaningful community consultation. Transparency and consultation is

essential to avoid unacceptable impacts on local communities.

The Greens will ban waste mountains and other proposals with significant negative impacts.

CASH FOR CONTAINERS

Plastic bottles and cans account for about one in five pieces of litter in Victoriaⁱ.

To deal with the ongoing problem of bottles and cans littering our streets, South Australia and the Northern Territory have implemented very successful Cash for Containers schemes. It's time Victoria joined them.

Cash for container schemes provide 10 cent refunds on bottles, cans and cartons. The refund provides an incentive not to litter and returns cash to individuals, community groups and schools who recycle.

Despite the clear community benefits, the beverage industry led by multi-national companies like Coca-Cola and Lion have fought tooth and nail against such schemes. These billionaire companies have intimidated the old parties into putting the community second behind corporate profits.

The Greens are not intimidated and we will continue to act in the best interests of the community and the environment.

The Greens have long campaigned for a Cash for Container scheme in Victoria, including introducing legislation in 2009 and again in 2011. While the Labor Government voted against it, we have not given up.

A Victorian Cash for Container scheme would save rate payers approximately \$48 million a year, earn \$15m a year for charities, attract \$124m in private investment to Victoria, and create over 1,300 green jobsⁱⁱ.

With such a scheme we could increase recycling of drink containers from 49% to an estimated 83%ⁱⁱⁱ, divert more than 124,000 tonnes of materials from landfill per year, reduce

WASTE MATTERS

THE GREENS' PLAN FOR WASTE REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT



greenhouse gas emissions by 456,000 tonnes of CO2 each year and reduce plastic in our waterways – reducing harm to marine animals^{iv}.

Since then community support for a scheme has remained high. The Greens are committed to cash for container legislation in Victoria, to help clean up the state, create jobs and protect our environment.

For more detail on this commitment, see our [Cash for Containers policy](#).

OTHER PARTIES

In 2011 The Victorian Auditor General found that ineffective planning, leadership and oversight had resulted in inadequate co-ordination of implementation and limited progress in reducing municipal waste.

Despite the *Towards Zero Waste* policy being in place since 2005, both Coalition and Labor governments have failed to reduce waste going to landfill.

i The Age, <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/litter-data-recycles-case-for-bottle-and-can-refund-20130410-2hly.html>.

ii Boomerang Alliance, Economic and Social Analysis of the Impacts of the Boomerang Alliance Model –Victoria October 2013.

iii Office of Colleen Hartland, Turning Rubbish into Community Money, 2011.

iv Boomerang Alliance, Economic and Social Analysis of the Impacts of the Boomerang Alliance Model –Victoria October 2013.