

CALL TO PARTIES

Response template

The MAV and local government have collectively identified **42 commitments** sought from all political parties and candidates contesting the November 2018 state election.

These commitments outline how State and local government can work together to grow Victoria's economy, improve liveability and support stronger communities.

The commitments address the differing challenges current facing our rural, growth and urban communities, and how councils can be a key partner to assist the Victorian Government to achieve seven inter-related goals for a better Victoria over the coming term of government:

1. Share Victoria's population growth
2. Transform local service delivery
3. Improve liveability
4. Support resilient and cohesive communities
5. Provide fair and equal opportunities for all
6. Maintain and improve assets for the future
7. Sustain our natural resources.

All 42 election commitments sought by local government will help to secure tangible benefits for Victorian communities across these seven core challenges facing the Victorian Government.

Completed responses can be sent to comms@mav.asn.au before 20 November 2018.

All responses will be published on the MAV's [state election campaign page](#) so councils and community members can assess which party and candidates share their priorities to address Victoria's challenges and provide a better future for all communities.

(1) Share Victoria's population growth

Commitments sought:

1. *Population strategy to better manage growth and opportunities:*
Develop a Victorian Population Strategy 2050 to improve long-term outcomes for regions and reduce the pace of Melbourne population growth, including mechanisms to support infrastructure in rural areas, regional cities and growth areas:
 - a. Partner with regional councils to identify population growth strategies and local infrastructure demand; and
 - b. Provide funding for key infrastructure that will drive population to the regions (such as transport, telecommunications, water and sewerage connections), including a small town sewerage partnership program for councils to implement innovations such as recycled water use for public facilities and creation of wetlands to enhance urban amenity.
2. *Provide services where communities need them:*
Develop a strategic plan to ensure provision of adequate health and community services and infrastructure required by people living in interface / growth areas and rural Victoria, including decentralisation of State services where appropriate.

Greens response: Victoria is a fantastic place to live and raise a family and consequently our population continues to rise. We need to ensure that our population growth is planned for and managed through appropriate transport, telecommunications, water and sewerage infrastructure as well as ensure adequate health and community service delivery. Shifting population growth to regional and rural areas also has the potential to maintain the economic benefits of an increasing population in a more sustainable manner which spreads the benefits to more Victorians while also easing the burden on urban services and infrastructure. The Victorian Greens want to work with local communities to attract new residents, reduce the shift of young people to urban centres as well as assist businesses, government agencies, professionals and families to relocate to regional areas.

(2) Transform local service delivery

Commitments sought:

3. *Digital transformation to meet community expectations:*
A new funding stream to assist digital business transformation strategies in partnership with local government to enhance consistent services across multiple councils and align back-of-house systems to enable sharing of services and cost savings.
4. *System reform for rural councils:*
Establish a fund to provide seed capital for rural councils with financial challenges to drive significant change to their operating model and internal business practices to ensure more efficient delivery of sustainable services to local communities.
5. *Sustainable services and infrastructure investment:*
Work with the MAV to develop an appropriate rate cap indexation model to better reflect

council input costs to deliver community services, and the revenue-raising capacity of various councils.

Greens response: In order to face the modern challenges of local governance, local governments need modern service delivery. But councils can't deliver these services without adequate funding. Councils need consistent funding streams and seed capital to provide ongoing modern service delivery as well as develop and implement significant system changes to operating models in order to deliver more efficient and sustainable service delivery.

The Victorian Greens do not support rate capping. We believe in the autonomy of councils to have authentic conversations with their communities about the services they want and what they are prepared to pay for them.

(3) Improve liveability

Commitments sought:

PLANNING

6. *Champion sustainable, liveable buildings:*
Building on the local ESD Policy success, collaborate with local government to adopt a comprehensive Environmentally Sustainable Development planning policy in the Victoria Planning Provisions by 2019 to improve the sustainability and liveability of all buildings.
7. *Reduce planning complexity:*
Fund more significant 'smart' reforms of the planning system – including a legislative review and digital transformation – to improve accessibility of the planning process for all parties.
8. *Safer, more compliant building system:*
Review the legislative and operational framework of the building system in response to fundamental failures to clarify roles and responsibilities, funding, and improve the compliance and enforcement regime.
9. *Provide more affordable housing options:*
Finalise the outcomes of the inclusionary zoning pilots and enable inclusionary zoning to be utilised more widely by councils across metropolitan Melbourne and regional centres.
10. *Strategic decision-making for renewables:*
Identify strategically desirable areas for different types of renewable energy and develop guidance for councils about balancing planning objectives. Ensure independent advice is available to councils for wind farm noise conflicts by establishing the Environment Protection Authority as the independent noise auditor.

Greens response: As Victoria's population grows, sound, sustainable planning is becoming an increasingly important issue, and local councils are well placed to ensure that planning processes are working for the local community.

The Victorian Greens welcome the successful trial of Environmentally Sustainable Development planning policies in six Melbourne councils and we would like to see a more

comprehensive Environmentally Sustainable Development planning policy adopted into the Victoria Planning Provisions. The Greens want to make sustainability of urban development one of the objectives of our planning system, and will mandate that all new residential and commercial development achieve a minimum 8 star energy rating. To improve ESD in Victoria, we also want:

- All apartment buildings of 5 storeys and above to provide 50% of their roof space for either solar panels or a green roof (garden)
- All new residential and commercial development to have an urban heat island mitigation statement that includes how the development will increase open space and tree cover
- Minimum garden areas at ground floor level in residential zones

We also believe that the planning process needs to be transparent and accessible to all. We support creating fast-track schemes for new urban developments that are sustainable and include affordable housing, and we want to restore the rights of the community to participate in the planning decision-making process by simplifying VCAT and restoring third-party appeal rights where they have been stripped away.

Read the full details of our planning policy here: <https://victoria.greens.org.au/planning>

Planning is also a potential avenue to implement housing affordability measures. We have announced our plan to introduce inclusionary zoning into the Victorian planning system, so that new developers will only receive planning approval if they include a minimum number of affordable homes:

- I. 30% of all new dwellings in large housing complexes (100+ dwellings)
- II. 20% of all new dwellings in housing complexes between 15-100 dwellings
- III. For apartment and townhouse developments of 15 or less dwellings, either 15% affordable housing or the contribution of an affordable housing levy in lieu

Local Government also has a strong role in the implementation of renewable energy generation, especially in regional areas where renewables have the potential to be a new revenue stream for regional communities. The Greens have a fully costed plan to repower Victoria with 100% renewable energy by 2030, and to phase out polluting coal. This will involve significant new investment in renewable energy across Victoria, creating thousands of new jobs and opportunities, especially in regional Victoria.

Further details of this plan are outline at: <https://victoria.greens.org.au/energy>

TRANSPORT

11. Integrated transport options for all Victorians:

Develop and deliver an integrated transport strategy for Victoria, as required under the *Transport Integration Act 2010*, including a freight plan, as well as long-term integrated transport targets for public transport, car transport and active transport; and consideration of demand-management strategies to better utilise our transport infrastructure.

12. Promote active transport options:

Continue to provide funding to councils for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure through continuation of the Safer System Road Funding Infrastructure Program.

13. Improve public transport access and connectivity:

- a. Increase the frequency of rural, regional and metropolitan public transport services where there are identified shortfalls, including on weekends
- b. Review bus routes across Victoria and expand Smart Bus network service areas.

14. *Get children to school safely:*

Provide funding to meet the current 50:50 commitment for the school crossing supervisor program; and adequately resource recommendations arising from the State *Safety Around Schools* review.

Greens response: The Victorian Greens support integrated transport strategies and have an extensive plan to fix Victoria's transport network that addresses the needs of Victorians both now and into the future. We will reverse decades of damaging privatisation by bringing our transport system back into public hands, and create a new agency, Transport for Victoria, Transport Super Agency for better planning and coordination, while ensuring genuine local consultation. The new agency will develop an integrated transport plan for our state, as required under the Transport Integration Act 2010.

Our plan to transform Victoria's transport plan includes:

- **Extending Melbourne Metro** to provide metro rail services to people in the western suburbs and Melton and the south-eastern suburbs beyond Cranbourne
- Begin **planning for the Melbourne Metro 2** rail project now
- **Upgrading some of Melbourne's busiest bus routes** to provide commuters with a quick reliable service in areas that aren't serviced by trains and trams and reviewing all metropolitan bus routes to improve their effectiveness and increase coverage to public transport dead zones.
- **Upgrading all tram routes** in a decade to include level access stops along entire routes, better separation from traffic and traffic light priority, and manufacture of 30 new high capacity trams every year for the next 10 years.
- **Committing \$700m to new tram routes** in suburbs like Williamstown, Sunshine, Brighton, Black Rock, Heidelberg, Ivanhoe, Chadstone, Bentleigh and Ormond
- **Implementing high capacity signalling across the entire train network;** building more high capacity metro trains; and planning for further level crossing removals along key lines
- Building a **Metropolitan Bike Network** across Melbourne, legislating for one meter minimum passing distances, funding a TAC cycling safety awareness campaign and restoring bike classes in schools.

We also have plans to improve transport in Melbourne's [east](#), [west](#) and [southeast](#).

Read our full transport plan here: https://victoria.greens.org.au/transforming_transport

To ensure the safety of our young people the Victorian Greens support a 50:50 funding commitment between the state and local governments to fund the School Crossing Supervisor Program. The Victorian Greens have long voiced concerns about cost shifting that increases the burden of now rate capped councils.

ARTS & CULTURE

15. *Boost Victoria's knowledge economy:*

Provide increased funding to ensure a secure and growing future for Victoria's public libraries:

- a. Recognise cost and population growth and progressively increase operational funding over four years by \$12 million pa
- b. Commit \$40 million over four years to extend the Living Libraries capital program.

16. *Create more socially connected communities:*

Develop strategies for Victoria's nine regions to deliver arts and culture programs in partnership with local government, and establish a new cultural facilities grants program to support all councils in the provision of art galleries, museums, theatres and arts centres.

Greens response: To further enhance the liveability of our communities the Victorian Greens are committed to supporting institutions of arts, culture and learning. Local libraries play an important role in bringing local communities together, providing educational and recreational services and being local repositories of knowledge. The Victorian Greens have a love of libraries and are broadly supportive of funding increases so they can better serve their communities.

The Greens supported the creation of Creative Victoria and the inclusion of principles supporting the arts and creative industries enshrined in the legislation, however it all depends on how well it is implemented, supported and resourced – now and into the future. While it is important to support our flagship arts institutions – like the NGV, government support at the grass roots – to assist smaller, local groups, individual artists and young and emerging artists, is the key to the long-term health of our arts and culture. One of the perennial issues is how to better support artists. Many are not able to support themselves through their art alone. Most have day jobs or if not, live very sparingly. The Greens have a policy at the federal level to allow artistic activities that provide community benefit to be eligible for Centrelink payments and to implement a low-income artist superannuation supplement.

It is also vital that we protect our cultural heritage of our city and state as well as nurture and create new cultural heritage. Many artists and associated industries are being pushed out because of high costs for space and development pressure that is replacing arts producing spaces with residential development. The Greens exploring ways to strengthen Victoria's planning system to introduce planning laws that can preserve areas for arts production, performance venues and connected industries to ensure that artists are not forced out.

(4) Support resilient & cohesive communities

Commitments sought:

DIVERSITY & PARTICIPATION

17. *Sports facilities that respond to community diversity:*

Funding to develop and upgrade sporting and aquatics facilities to cater for the needs of diverse communities, including female focused sports.

18. *Integrated settlement planning for new migrants, asylum seekers and refugees:*

Develop and implement mechanisms to improve settlement planning for newly arriving migrants, asylum seekers and refugees between the Commonwealth, State and local government.

19. *Foster improved employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people:* Fund an economic development project to boost employment and career development opportunities for local Aboriginal communities, and provide partnership project funding to support councils to achieve the objectives of the Victorian Aboriginal Local Government Action Plan.

Greens response: The Greens believe community sports are a vital part of a vibrant, inclusive local community. Unfortunately, women participate in sports at half the rate of men, and people from low income, culturally diverse and Aboriginal communities are also under-represented. Major barriers to participation include lack of women's sports facilities, costs for uniforms and club fees, and socially inclusive teams. The Greens are committed to creating equality and inclusion in our community sports. The first step to achieving that is ensuring that money spent on community sports goes to where it is most needed, not where it is politically expedient. We will launch a parliamentary inquiry into the adequacy of community sporting facilities and clubs across the state to create a transparent picture of where funding is needed.

Read our full plan here: https://victoria.greens.org.au/healthy_communities_through_sport

The Greens also understand that the process of integration for newly arrived people can be challenging, that's why the Victorian Greens have a history of advocating for better processes and support services to help new migrants, asylum seekers and refugees thrive and integrate into the community. Justice for First Nation's peoples of Victoria is also a priority for the Greens. We believe it is the responsibility of all levels of government to come to treaty with the Traditional Owners of the land and to have pro-active policies to address the injustices and inequality experienced by Aboriginal people in their community. The Victorian Greens support educational, social, environmental and economic projects which help to achieve this, including employment programs.

PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

20. Support the 10-year State reform agenda through local initiatives to help prevent family violence, by resourcing of Gender Equality Development officers in councils.

Greens response: The Victorian Greens proudly support all 227 recommendations from the Royal Commission. We see our first and most important ongoing role as keeping the next state government on track in the delivery of all 227 recommendations, irrespective of which party wins the upcoming state election. There are numerous program and funding delivery aspects of this agenda that need close and careful scrutiny, to ensure that change is impactful and lasting, and to ensure at the policy level we don't not make things worse. We support strong local action, such as the 10-year state reform agenda and the resourcing of gender equality development officers.

We believe that family violence represents the state's biggest crime, health, economic and human rights problem. The incidence, prevalence and recurrence of family violence is at crisis levels, and what we need in Victoria is bipartisan political leadership that will build on the platform we have set to lead the country.

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY

21. *Reduce crime and improve community safety:*
Fund Community Safety Officers across local government to support state safety and crime prevention initiatives.
22. *Protect vulnerable communities from gambling harms:*
Regulatory reform to reduce the community harm from electronic gaming machines through machine design; and a greater say for councils on where pokies are located in our communities.
23. *Invest in our youth:*
Invest in youth services and programs that build civic engagement, leadership and respectful relationships, and fund rural councils to employ trained youth workers to support young people facing serious disadvantage.

Greens response:

The Greens' will provide significant increases in funding for crime prevention programs as part of our Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Justice reinvestment is a proven strategy that invests in locally-owned programs such family support, early childhood intervention, housing and employment support, and drug and alcohol services to target the causes of crime and make communities safer in the long term.

Gambling represents a huge threat to the wellbeing and cohesiveness of our communities. Victorians lose billions to gambling every year and the resulting consequences are a huge threat to Victorians and our communities.

Current Victorian pokies licences expire in 2022, after which they can be renewed for another 20-year period. This outrageous extension is thanks to legislation introduced by Labor and supported by the Opposition. The Greens opposed it at the time and will move to replace it with legislation to:

- Repeal the 20-year licence extension.
- Create one new 6-year licence – 2022-2028 – with no new licences after 2028.
- Give Councils veto power over whether to grant a new licence to pokies operators in their community or remove pokies from 2022 altogether.

We will also provide a \$200m fund to assist clubs to move away from harmful pokies and ensure their survival as important community centres.

Furthermore, the Greens will immediately introduce harm reduction measures which will apply to poker machines during the phase out:

- Maximum bet limit of \$1 per spin. A \$1 limit will reduce the amount an adult could lose on the pokies from an average of \$840 per hour to about \$120 an hour.
- A load up limit of \$20. Jackpots of no more than \$500. Limiting jackpots reduces the volatility of the machines and therefore their addictiveness.
- EFTPOS cashout limits of \$200.
- Enforceable limits on amounts that can be lost.

Read our full pokies policy here: <https://victoria.greens.org.au/pokies>

To build cohesive, social communities we need to engage with people while they're young. The Victorian Greens recognise the important role youth workers play in our communities and will continue to support our youth workers to help young people to grow into the amazing people we know they can all be.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

24. *Support councils' role in emergency management:*
Commit to funding local government to implement State legislative and policy changes, through continuing and expanding the critical Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (MERP) beyond its current 2020 cessation.
25. *Ensure community assets can be restored:*
Provide funding support to rural councils to update asset registers and ensure regular inspection programs to meet national disaster funding requirements.
26. *Clarify responsibility for fire hydrant maintenance:*
Amend the *Water Act* to clarify that responsibility for fire plugs rests with water authorities, not local government.
27. *Flood mitigation infrastructure for at-risk communities:*
Amend the *Water Act* to ensure appropriate management and maintenance of flood mitigation infrastructure, and provide a funding program for future council projects.

Greens response: Emergencies and dangerous weather events can strike at any time. We need to be able to respond quickly and effectively not only emergencies themselves but also the initial clean-up and longer term recovery process after. We support council involvement and consultation to ensure their communities are ready when disaster strikes. Roles and responsibilities need to be made clear and councils should be supported so that they can take care of their communities during their time of need.

(5) Provide fair and equal opportunities

Commitments sought:

HOUSING

28. *Increase investment in public and social housing:*
Ensure access to housing that:
 - a. Meets diverse needs, is geographically distributed according to need, and is accessible to people of all abilities
 - b. Addresses the growing problem of homelessness.

Greens response:

Everyone in Victoria should have a safe, secure and affordable place to call home. But our housing system is in crisis, with house prices skyrocketing, a neglected public housing system and 82,000 of us currently on the waiting list for public housing. The Greens know that, in the light of our housing crisis, long-term Government intervention in the housing market is essential to address the out of control price of housing and end homelessness in Victoria.

The Greens will:

- Stop the sale of public housing to private property developers, to ensure that we have enough public land to provide homes for all Victorians

- Build 40,000 new public housing homes over the next 6 years to eradicate the public housing waiting list.
- Build another 40,000 public, community and other affordable houses over the following six years, to ensure everyone can access a secure, affordable home
- Support our community housing sector with an investment of \$200m over the next two years
- Require 30% of new big apartment developments to be public, community or other affordable housing, providing more homes for Victorians
- End homelessness by building more housing and investing in the Housing First approach to homelessness

Read our full plan here: <https://victoria.greens.org.au/housing>

AGED & DISABILITY

29. Retain the strengths of Victoria's in-home care system for people in need:

Develop a joint Victorian Government and MAV position to influence design of the Commonwealth Home Support Program for older Victorians beyond 2020.

30. Meet the needs of people with disabilities:

- a. Continue State funding for the metro and rural access programs to promote access and inclusion for all people with disabilities
- b. Ensure continued funding to meet the community care and health needs of younger people with disabilities who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

31. Safe and inclusive age-friendly communities:

Build on the work of local government in developing communities based on age-friendly principles and provide new funding for initiatives to address the key issues for seniors in community transport, housing and social isolation.

Greens response:

The Greens will always fight for the rights of people living with a disability, and will fight to make sure we all have the support we need. The National Disability Insurance Scheme will make a huge difference in the support available for people with disability. However, not every Victorian who lives with a disability will be eligible for the NDIS, and we are concerned that the state government is withdrawing funding from state disability services as the NDIS rolls out – meaning that some Victorians are struggling to access the services they need.

We will provide \$100m in funding to help fund the gaps in the rollout of the NDIS, including in advocacy, as well as an additional \$200m for community mental health services.

Read our full disability policy here: https://victoria.greens.org.au/a_more_inclusive_victoria

The Greens strongly believe that social connectedness and resilience is fundamentally important to the health and wellbeing of all Victorians, and older Victorians face some specific challenges in relation to this. We're committed to supporting local and community initiatives aimed at connecting older people and communities; effective planning that maximises inclusive social spaces; and world-class public transport that makes it easier to build and maintain social connections. Our election commitments include substantial funding for the key issues you've

highlighted, including significant investment in accessible public transport; 80,000 new or refurbished public, community and other affordable dwellings to be made available over the next 12 years; and establishment of a Housing Ombudsman, which we know is much needed but clearly hasn't been a priority for either of the major parties. Our planning policy focuses on design that enhances communities. The needs of neighbourhoods to be well designed so they enhance communities. We want our neighbourhoods and cities to have open spaces, plenty of trees, be powered by renewable energy and connected through active and sustainable forms of transport like walking, cycling, and public transport. We want certainty for communities in all decision making with genuine opportunities for consultation. We welcome a specific focus on age-friendly principles by local governments and would seek to build on this work at state level.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES

29. Guarantee access to early years' service for families:

- a. Continue the partnership work with local government under the Early Years Compact 2017-27 to provide funding for kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health
- b. Ensure continued funding for 15 hours universal kindergarten for all children
- c. Develop a joint approach to funding development of Kindergarten Central Enrolment
- d. Develop a 10-year facility strategy for kindergarten and MCH services, with capital funding to renovate and build infrastructure identified in the strategy.

30. Integrate government services for communities:

- a. Plan for co-location of kindergarten and early years services on new primary school sites and invest in integrated developments in new and expanding communities.
- b. Optimise usage of school facilities for community capacity building, including opportunities for inclusion of parents and older people.

Greens response: The Greens are committed to working in partnership with local and federal governments to expand (and fund accordingly) high quality and affordable childcare, with a strong focus on scaling up community-run childcare to meet local demand. We strongly support two years of preschool for all three and four-year-old Victorians, which we believe should be fully funded jointly by the Victorian and Australian governments, and provided free of charge to families. We would also support a joint local/state government approach to central kindergarten enrolment, as well as development of a 10-year facility strategy to include MCH services. As VAGO recently stated, this has been a significant gap in relation to MCH services that has led to a lack of clarity in terms of growth areas and demand, and it's one that urgently needs to be addressed.

(6) Maintain and improve assets for the future

Commitments sought:

31. Ensure a safe and reliable road network for all Victorians:

- c. Develop a new funding program for access by rural councils to help fund local road and bridge assets
- d. Increase funding to VicRoads to address key road and traffic issues on the metropolitan and regional road networks

32. *Improve planning for asset requirements:*
 - a. Fund every region to develop a regional freight strategy for local roads
 - b. VicRoads to work with councils on a consistent statewide approach, including funding support, to meet new National road data standards
 - c. Commence the Melbourne airport rail link during this term of government.
33. *Safe introduction of automated vehicles:*
Develop a plan to manage and fund infrastructure required for the introduction of automated vehicles on the Victorian road network.
34. *Better stormwater use for community amenity and reduced water treatment costs:*
Implement a three-year \$30 million state-wide urban stormwater improvement program for councils to upgrade ageing stormwater assets and institute water-sensitive urban design.

Greens response: Our transport infrastructure, both road and rail are critical for keeping Victoria moving and growing. Funding should be provided to ensure roads are maintained to a high standard to ensure both safety and reliability. The Victorian Greens are looking to make Victorian freight far more efficient by significantly increasing the role of freight rail to not only ease congestion by getting more trucks off our road but also make our freight system more efficient and less polluting. We also need to take a forward thinking approach to transport, including taking autonomous transport into consideration and trailing the safety and effectiveness of this mode of transport. Other council infrastructure is also very important. Urban stormwater infrastructure should be upgraded in order to institute water sensitive urban design.

(7) Sustain our natural resources

Commitments sought:

35. *Invest in and support waste reduction and improved resource recovery:*
 - a. Invest accumulated landfill levy income and develop appropriate policy settings to support the development and expansion of our local resource recovery industry and marketplace
 - b. Develop and deliver a statewide waste education campaign targeting waste minimisation and improved recycling behaviour
 - c. Adopt targets across all of state government for the procurement of recycled material
 - d. Advocate for and support the development of greater product stewardship, including adoption of a container deposit scheme in Victoria.
36. *Progress climate change adaptation:*
Develop a Memorandum of Understanding in partnership with local government within the first year of the new parliamentary term to clarify respective climate change adaptation roles, responsibilities and funding arrangements.
37. *Protect our natural environment:*
 - a. Promote the contribution that a healthy biodiversity makes to Victorians' economic, social and environmental wellbeing, and commit to the targets and fund the actions set out in 'Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037'

- b. Ensure water stewardship for drainage on private land through catchment oversight and advice being required to be provided to drainage committees developing drainage management plans.

38. *Eradicate roadside weeds and pests:*

Commit to ongoing funding from the 2019-20 State Budget onwards for roadside weed and pest management; and improved State pest and weed management on Crown land.

39. *Partner with councils to deliver priority water initiatives for their communities:*

Optimise use, management and access to water to improve liveability and amenity by:

- a. Maintaining Integrated Water Management Forums to facilitate catchment-scale partnerships
- b. Resourcing a stormwater community engagement program to educate residents and businesses on improving waterways health and limiting stormwater run-off
- c. \$2 million program over two years for innovations in on-site domestic wastewater management including funding of backlog issues in priority areas, giving councils better regulatory powers, and a community education program to better manage waste systems.

Greens response: More and more studies are emerging revealing the extent and detrimental impact of waste entering our environment. Victoria needs to do its part in reducing its waste and supporting the domestic recycling industry. We need to invest in our domestic recycling industry and educate Victorians to ensure we are working towards a more circular economy. The state government can get the ball rolling by requiring the State Government Purchasing Board to develop clear environmental purchasing guidelines and targets, and provide training in tender specifications and contract management. We also strongly believe in the introduction of a container deposit scheme to get people actively engaged in recycling and create a cleaner waste stream.

Read our full plans here: https://victoria.greens.org.au/compost_not_landfill
https://victoria.greens.org.au/waste_transition_plan
<https://victoria.greens.org.au/plastic>

Local councils play a critical role in on the ground efforts to combat climate change and protect our natural environments. Local councils are well placed to contribute to meeting regional, national and global challenges (such as climate change), and are not merely administrative bodies. We welcome the opportunity to work with local government to adapt to the current effects of climate change and to reduce emissions and promote efficiency to fight climate change in the future and commend the many councils who are already taking important steps to significantly reduce their footprint.

The Greens have announced our policy initiative to create a Victorian Climate Commissioner, as head of a new climate commission. Like the Auditor General, the Climate Commissioner will scrutinize government action, or inaction, on climate change, and give climate change increased prominence within government and the cross portfolio perspective that is needed to adequately address the enormous challenges for our state. The Climate Commissioner will work with local government and communities to comprehensively identify climate change impacts, and make recommendations for the management of these impacts. The Climate Commissioner will work with local government to articulate climate change adaptation roles, responsibilities and funding arrangements.

Further information is available at: <https://greens.org.au/vic/climatecommissioner>

The Greens support the funding commitments made in the State's biodiversity strategy, but think far more is required to adequately protect nature in our state. We have a comprehensive nature protection plan which includes new funding for Parks Victoria and nature conservation on private lands, new strong environmental laws and protection for our native animals and threatened species. We will better tackle invasive species and increase coastal management in the face of changing tides.

Further detail can be found at: <https://victoria.greens.org.au/platform>

The Victorian Greens are also passionate advocates for our waterways. Drainage run off from private land needs to be managed to ensure resulting damage to the environment is minimised and we welcome the chance to work with local councils to achieve such aims and ensure local residents are educated about the effects that their stormwater runoff has on the environment. During a time of climate change more resources will need to be spent on water security. We need to ensure our catchments are protected and our waste water is managed properly to ensure sustainability.

The maintenance of roadside vegetation and particularly crown land has been underfunded for too long. The Victorian Greens have and will continue to advocate for more funding to manage pest plants and animals in a way that is not detrimental.