



## THEME 4

# Changing climate and a circular economy

### KEY ISSUES: SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

#### SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

##### CURRENT SITUATION

The MAV recognises we are in a climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government. Victorian councils have a strong track record of working to reduce emissions and increase organisational and community resilience to climate impacts. Improved state-wide policy settings are urgently needed to support this work.

The built environment is responsible for close to a quarter of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. Changes must be made to the Victorian land use planning system to integrate climate change considerations and support the transition to net zero emissions. With communities already directly experiencing climate change impacts, significant investment in adaptation is also urgently needed.

As the level of government charged with collecting and disposing of household waste, local government knows well that our current model of production and consumption is unsustainable. Product stewardship is needed for all waste-producing products to drive meaningful change.

Victorian councils want to partner with the State to design and deliver waste and recycling services that best meet the needs of their local communities.

Councils are diverse in terms of their budget, land size, community capacity to pay, proximity to recycling facilities and other relevant factors. A one size fits all approach to council service design is not viable.

##### WHAT WE NEED FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT

- A commitment to embed climate change as a priority consideration in land use planning legislation and the Victorian Planning Provisions in the life of the next Parliament
- Schedule 1 of the Climate Change Act amended to include decisions under planning, transport, agriculture, and energy legislation

- Establishment of a new strategic partnership between state and local government to accelerate the transition to net zero and to strengthen community resilience, with funding support for councils to reduce and manage climate risks
- Funding support for the implementation of priority urban greening projects
- A commitment to provide councils with the powers and capability to manage public drainage and stormwater assets to withstand more intense storm events and to achieve better use of stormwater and continued innovation in integrated water management
- A commitment to respect and protect councils' autonomy to determine the best recycling service models for their communities considering local conditions and community views
- A commitment to partner with the MAV to advocate for national product stewardship schemes and, where advocacy proves ineffective, introduce schemes at a state level.

##### BENEFITS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- More energy efficient and sustainable development and better protection for Victorians from the impacts of climate change
- Improved whole-of-government approach to considering climate change in policy and programs
- Transition to a circular economy in a way that responds to local needs and circumstances
- Greater application of the polluter-pays principle through the adoption of product stewardship schemes.