State Election Scorecard Scores – Legislative Assembly

Eltham District

Policies as at 23 October 2026

Note: Scores are based on consideration of the detailed policies published by the candidates or their parties. Verbatim extracts from the relevant polices (and links to the original documents and webpages) can be found in the separate policy extracts document.

1. Strong Leadership on the Climate Emergency

- ***Very Good***: Clearly recognises the climate emergency and the need for urgent action, with climate action a major election policy priority and a commitment to net zero emissions by 2045 at the latest, with strong interim targets
- ***Good***: Recognises the seriousness of the threat of climate change and the need for action, and a commitment to net zero emissions by 2045 at the latest, but climate action not a major election policy priority
- ***Poor***: Accepts the reality of climate change and the appropriateness of some action, but as a low priority
- ***Very Poor***: Denial of the need for climate action (or no policy)

Party	***Policy overview***	***4 Level***
Rachel Busbridge Greens	Climate action is a policy priority, with clear recognition of the climate crisis and the need for urgent action e.g. 'We are already experiencing dangerous impacts of climate change; urgent, deep, and broad action is required to avoid catastrophic impacts'. No explicit emissions reduction target in 2026 election platform; however, policy aims include 'shifting to, and beyond, a zero greenhouse gas emission economy' and a target of net zero or negative emissions by 2030 for stationary energy. In the 2022 election, proposed an emissions reduction target of 80% by 2030 and net zero by 2035 or sooner.	Very Good
Jessie Weatherley One Nation	Does not recognise the climate emergency and dismisses 'net-zero ideology'.	Very Poor
Maeve Riches Victorian Socialists	Climate action is a policy priority, with clear recognition of the climate crisis and the need for urgent action; e.g. 'The climate emergency is a dire threat to our natural environment and the liveability of our cities … The concentration of greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere means that net-zero emissions will not be sufficient to curtail dangerous warming. Net-negative emissions — actively drawing down atmospheric carbon — will be required …'; supports strong emissions targets: • 75 percent reduction below 2005 levels by 2030 • A zero-carbon economy by 2035 • Permanent net-negative emissions economy by 2040.	Very Good
Vicki Ward Labor	Climate not included in election policy priorities. However, Government policy documents include clear recognition that 'climate change is impacting Victoria now' and the need for action; also state that:	Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	• the Government is 'acting now to safeguard our communities, environment and livelihoods from climate impacts' and • Victoria is a 'global leader … playing its part in limiting global temperature increase to 1.5°C'. Legislated emissions targets: • 2030: 45-50% (currently on track for 42%) • 2035: 75-80% • 2045: Net Zero Targets refer to % below Victoria's 2005 greenhouse gas emission levels.	
Stephen Marasea Libertarian Party	• Climate action is seen as a choice for individuals and businesses, with policies to encourage the creation of a free market in energy. • Renewable energy targets will be abolished, including net-zero goals. • Stated policy of no government interference in the free market; 'no bans, no subsidies'. https://www.vic.libertarians.org.au/affordable_energy	Very Poor
Paul Byrnes Liberals	Climate change is not mentioned in election policy commitments, which contain a number of policies to reverse Government climate policies (e.g. 'scrapping Labor's ban on gas appliances in new homes'); however, policies also include establishing 'urban solar parks' and in 2024 the Liberals did not oppose legislation to establish Victorian climate targets (including net zero by 2045) and have 'no plans' to change this legislation, although they have 'declined to commit to a net zero policy in Victoria' (ABC News, 19 November 2025).	Poor

2. Rapid transition to fully renewable electricity grid

- ***Very Good***: Clear commitment with funding to accelerate the transition to a fully renewable grid, including earlier exit from coal-fired generation
- ***Good***: Maintain current rate of transition to a fully renewable grid, including closure of Yallourn by 2028 and Loy Yang A in 2035 at the latest
- ***Poor***: Support for the transition to a fully renewable grid, but no clear plan or commitment on timing and some policies which will slow the transition
- ***Very Poor***: Opposition to the transition, with policies designed to slow the introduction of renewables and prolong the use of coal and gas (and/or nuclear power) or no policy

Party	***Policy overview***	***4 Level***
Rachel Busbridge Greens	Policy aim for binding emission targets from the stationary energy sector to achieve zero or net negative greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2030; rapid rollout of projects to achieve 100% renewable electricity, with capacity to meet rising demand from electrification of transport, heating and industry. Specific commitments include: • 'Massive' build of publicly owned renewable energy, with an extra $2 billion for the State Electricity Commission • Installing solar panels on schools, public housing estates and government buildings • Fast-tracking planning approvals for wind farms and transmission lines • Ensuring Yallourn's four coal-burning units close as planned in 2028 • Switching off individual units at Loy Yang A earlier than planned (as more renewables come online) and before its scheduled closure in 2035 • A moratorium on all new AI data centres until communities have actually had an opportunity to consider the risks and benefits • Making all data centres use 100% newly built renewable energy, including banning gas turbines and diesel back-up generators, and requiring them to make an additional contribution to help the transition to renewables • Paying for plans by doubling royalties on coal and gas companies, and making big banks and gambling corporations pay their fair share of tax • Local engagement on renewable energy projects and transmission lines, with community benefits programs for local communities and community ownership models. Moved an amendment to increase the Government's renewable electricity target for 2030 from 65% to 100% (February 2024).	Very Good
Jessie Weatherley One Nation	Opposition to the transition and support for continued use of coal; specific policies include: • Cancel VNI West and the Western Renewables Link transmission line projects • Encourage investment into upgrading coal power infrastructure • Keep the Loy Yang A coal power station open beyond its planned closure in 2035 • Disband the Western Renewable Energy Zone and remove its compulsory acquisition powers	Very Poor

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	• Consider High Efficiency, Low Emissions (HELE) coal-fired power stations as 'a more practical alternative' to renewables • End the Victorian ban on nuclear energy • Reverse changes allowing energy companies and government agencies to access private land without the landholder's consent • Classify large-scale wind and solar projects as industrial developments, not rural ones.	
Maeve Riches Victorian Socialists	Believes that 'energy production and distribution must transition fully and as rapidly as possible away from fossil fuels'. Commits to: • Accelerating the transition to a 100 percent renewable energy grid • Major public investment in offshore wind, utility-scale solar and wind, grid-scale battery storage and pumped hydro as well as exploration of geothermal power • Accelerating the closure of all remaining coal-fired power generation, with Loy Yang A to close no later than 2030 rather than its current scheduled date of 2035 • Taking Victoria's energy infrastructure back into public ownership • Developing the offshore wind industry and local solar panel, wind turbine component and battery manufacturing • Funding research into marine and tidal energy, long-duration energy storage, and the viability of green hydrogen for specific industrial applications where electrification is not yet feasible • Expanding the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative to provide community-scale energy storage, prioritising low-income areas and communities with poor grid reliability. • Banning new data centres and requiring existing centres to meet mandatory standards on energy use and renewable energy sourcing • Stopping the establishment of a nuclear power industry in the state	Very Good
Vicki Ward Labor	Legislated renewable energy targets (March 2024): 1. Renewable electricity generation targets: • 65% by 2030 • 95% by 2035 2. Energy storage capacity targets: • At least 2.6 GW by 2030 (780 MW operating and 1.8 GW of utility scale storage committed, not including households and neighbourhood batteries) • At least 6.3 GW by 2035 3. Offshore wind energy targets: • At least 2 GW by 2032 • 4 GW by 2035 & 9 GW by 2040 Estimated reduction in emissions of 19 Mt CO2-e in 2030. Current Government actions/policies for new renewable generation and storage capacity include: • Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) auctions (2017 & 2022): further 623 MW renewable capacity and up to 365MW/600 MWh storage when fully operational • Victoria-Australian Government Renewable Energy Transformation Agreement (RETA): approx. 5 GW generation capacity & 1.7 GW of	Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	4-hour equivalent storage under Federal Capacity Investment Scheme • Renewable Certificate Purchasing Initiative (purchase of large-scale generation certificates): brought forward investment in 2 new wind farms & 2 new solar farms • Bringing back the SEC: initial $1 billion investment towards delivering 4.5 GW of new renewable generation and storage projects by 2035 (819 MW to date); retailing to government & will expand offer to medium & large business Current Government actions/policies to modernise the electricity transmission grid include: • Long term strategy - Victorian Transmission Plan; 2027 version under development (25 year plan) • Established VicGrid to deliver new transmission & optimise existing grid • $480 million for Renewable Energy Zone Fund • Six Renewable Energy Zones declared (June 2026); consultation proposed for a seventh • Projects under development include Marinus Link Stage 1, Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West), Western Renewables Link, and the transmission infrastructure required for the first 2 GW of offshore wind in Gippsland • Cost of the Western Renewables Link to be reviewed, with no compulsory acquisitions until review completed (end of 2026); however, the Labor Government has denied it is backing away from plans to build the Link • Seven additional priority programs proposed Other related Government actions/policies include: • Off-shore wind auction (Request for Proposal) for 2 GW of off-shore wind opened August 2026 (closing August 2027) • Port of Hastings planned as the main location for the construction and assembly of offshore wind infrastructure • Recent battery projects include SEC's 20 MW Compressed Air Battery in the LaTrobe; grants provided for 139 Neighbourhood batteries in 3 funding rounds (closed February 2026) • Household subsidies provided for distributed energy resources (next scoring category); 'vision' is to prepare grid for DER • Plan for 2.5 GW of distributed storage by 2035 and 4.7 GW by 2040, supported by 3.1 GW of gas-fired power generation • Interconnectors (including Marinus Link & VNI West) to provide firming capacity • Plan for up to 16 GW of distributed solar by 2040 • Support for microgrid development, including $10 million microgrid demonstration initiative • Closing coal generation: Yallourn in 2028 (4 years early) and Loy Yang A in 2035 • Requirement for data centres to match new demand with new renewable energy supply and storage, plus meet connection costs and network upgrades (commitment not yet implemented)	

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
Stephen Marasea Libertarian Party	Opposition to the transition, with policies designed to remove 'inconsistent government interventions' encouraging the introduction of renewables, and to repeal the ban on nuclear power. Specific policies include: • Enforce 'no bans, no subsidies' policy, allowing competition to drive down costs for energy sources. • Abolish renewable energy targets, including net-zero goals • Repeal the ban on nuclear energy in Australia. • Protect public land from destructive wind and solar developments that harm natural environments. https://www.libertarians.org.au/energy	Very Poor
Paul Byrnes Liberals	Stated aim is to strengthen the energy network and improve grid reliability, focusing on 'low cost outcomes'. Propose establishing new Urban Solar Parks to encourage solar and battery installations on commercial and industrial rooftops to supply as much as 25% of demand. However, promise 'more gas, fewer poles and wires', with a number of policies which would slow and/or divert the transition: • Establish an Energy Security Requirement for Victoria to identify commercial proposals to deliver energy security (especially through more firming capacity); 'technology agnostic', but 'expected that gas-fired generation will be the most likely to provide the bulk of the necessary firming capacity' • Cancel the VNI West transmission line project and halt and review the Western Renewables Link project and consider the Victorian Energy Policy Centre's 'Plan B' (see below) • Review the Renewable Energy Zones • Repeal laws allowing compulsory acquisition of land for transmission line projects; restore the rights of affected landholders to appeal major planning and infrastructure decisions at VCAT • Extend wind turbine buffer zones to 2 km • Audit agricultural land to identify and protect the best farming country from transmission lines and other major infrastructure • Scrap the ban on gas appliances in new homes. • 'Throw open the door for gas exploration' with the aim of 'ensuring reliable gas supply' for Victoria. Voted for the legislation establishing the Government's renewable energy targets (February 2024). The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and consultants engaged by VicGrid and Environment Victoria have assessed the VEPC Plan B alternative to VNI West and all conclude continuing the VNI West project is the superior option. See also this analysis (in Renew Economy) of renewable generation projects at risk if VNI West is cancelled.	Poor

3. Generous support for household electrification

- ***Very Good***: Significant increase of the existing household assistance provided for energy efficiency and electrification and strong regulation to drive gas substitution
- ***Good***: Maintain the existing household assistance provided for energy efficiency and electrification and the current regulations to promote gas substitution
- ***Poor***: Supports some household assistance for electrification and energy efficiency, but not regulation to promote gas substitution
- ***Very Poor***: Commitment to cease existing household energy assistance provided for energy efficiency and electrification and repeal existing gas substitution regulations (or no policy)

Party	***Policy overview***	***4 Level***

Rachel Busbridge
 	
Greens
	Proposes significant additional assistance for household electrification and energy efficiency, with specific initiatives including:
	• Introduce 'Greens Power Vouchers' of $1500 for owner-occupiers and $3000 for renters, for use on:
	  • Home solar panels/batteries
	  • Home insulation
	  • Efficient electric hot water systems
	  • Reverse cycle air conditioning
	  • Induction cooktops
	  • Draught-proofing
	The voucher program is in addition to the rebates available under the existing schemes.
	• Free accredited in-home energy assessments of rental homes to identify potential savings and what changes require landlord approval.
	• Double coal and gas royalties and cancel all subsidies and tax exemptions for fossil fuel projects to fund $3000 Greens Power voucher
	• $500 million funding for the voucher program, rebates on electric vehicles and energy assessments for renters
	In addition, supports:
	• higher energy efficiency standards for all buildings, with a particular prioritisation of public, not-for-profit and private rental housing, as well as government-owned buildings
	• a fair feed-in tariff and removal of barriers to grid connection.
	
	The Greens voted in favour of legislation to extend the life of the VEU program to 2045 (May 2025).
	
	The Greens support stronger regulatory action for gas substitution (e.g. proposing mandatory end of life replacement of gas heaters).
		Very Good

Jessie Weatherley One Nation	Committed to scrapping subsidies and the ban on household gas connections.	Very Poor
Maeve Riches	Proposes additional support for household electrification and energy efficiency, with specific commitment to: • Expand subsidies to support household solar installation for renters and low-income households	Very Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
Victorian Socialists	• Invest in rooftop solar for all public housing, schools and community facilities • Expand the Neighbourhood Battery Initiative to provide community-scale energy storage, prioritising low-income areas and communities with poor grid reliability No explicit commitment on regulation for gas substitution, but this is implicit in strong support for household electrification.	
Vicki Ward Labor	No commitment to additional support for home electrification and energy efficiency, but significant Government support programs have been introduced; current programs include: 1. Gas Substitution Roadmap: • Gas connection removal fees capped • Minimum thermal star rating for new residential buildings 7-stars • All new homes requiring a planning permit all-electric; extends to all new homes and most new commercial buildings from 1 January 2027 • Existing homes must replace gas hot water systems at end-of-life with an efficient electric alternative from 1 March 2027 (discounts available) • Residential rental properties must meet new minimum energy efficiency and electrification standards from 1 March 2027 (insulation cooling new lease) ; additional requirements from 1 July 2027 (draught-proofing new lease) and 1 July 2030 (cooling all homes) 2. Solar Homes Program: • Household rebates for solar panels (up to $1,400), hot water heat pumps (up to $1,000) • Rental provider rebate for solar panels (up to $1,400) on a maximum of two rental properties per year • Solar panel rebates for not-for-profit community housing organisations (up to $1400 per tenancy) • Rebates of up to $2,800 per apartment (up to $140,000 per property) for apartment buildings etc. 3. Residential Electrification Grants Program: • Grants to approved providers for projects with solar energy and energy efficient hot water products in homes at scale 4. Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program • Discount to replace a gas space heater with a reverse cycle air conditioner (up to $1,610) • Discount for upgrade to a heat pump hot water system ($630 & up to $1,960 with a Solar Homes rebate) • Household discounts for an induction cooktop ($140), heat pump clothes dryer ($70); double glazing (up to $210); weather sealing (apartment up to $140, house up to $700); water saving shower-head ($70); high efficiency fridge or freezer ($70); in-home energy monitor display ($70); high-efficiency television ($70). • Discounts for ceiling insulation (houses with un- or under-insulated ceilings; expected to reduce cost by 30-50% (from 1 October 2026)	Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	5. Energy Efficiency for Social Housing Program • Partnership with Commonwealth for energy efficiency upgrades to 23,600 social housing homes (5,000 all electric) continuing to 2029; grants of $18,000 on average per property 6. SEC's Easy Electric • A one-stop-shop to help households switch from gas to electric appliances, providing free advice and vetted installers Passed legislation to extend the life of the VEU program to 2045 (May 2025).	
Stephen Marasea Libertarian Party	Remove all subsidies and assistance to households for energy efficiency and electrification. Repeal existing gas substitution regulations. https://www.vic.libertarians.org.au/affordable_energy	Very Poor
Paul Byrnes Liberals	No reference to existing or future household support for electrification or energy efficiency in 2026 policies. Proposes scrapping the 'ban on gas appliances in new homes' to 'restore energy choice', claiming this will ease cost of living pressure. Voted against legislation to extend the VEU program to 2045 (May 2025) on the basis that the scheme is 'riddled with rorts', but rejected the claim that the Coalition is 'opposed to or [that] we will abolish the energy upgrades program'.	Poor

4. No new fossil fuel mining or infrastructure

- ***Very Good***: No new or expanded fossil fuel exploration or mining, no gas import facilities and disincentives (e.g. higher royalties) for any continuing fossil fuel projects
- ***Good***: No new or expanded fossil fuel exploration or mining and no gas import facilities
- ***Poor***: Supports new conventional gas mining or exploration (i.e. excluding fracking) and/or gas import facilities to meet perceived shortfalls as part of a documented plan to transition from gas
- ***Very Poor***: Support for new fossil fuel exploration and mining (with or without support for fracking) or no policy

Party	***Policy overview***	***4 Level***
Rachel Busbridge Greens	Would 'end coal and gas' and 'block all new fossil fuel projects in Victoria'; specific commitments include: • Banning off-shore oil and gas drilling • Stopping drilling near the 12 Apostles • Stopping Viva's gas import terminal • Banning political donations from fossil fuel corporations • Doubling coal and gas royalties • Ending subsidies and tax exemptions for fossil fuel projects Introduced a bill to end all new offshore oil and gas drilling in Victorian waters.	Very Good
Jessie Weatherley One Nation	Supports continued exploration for commercial offshore gas reserves so Victoria maintains long-term supply. Proposes that Victorian household and industrial gas demand will be met first (with only the surplus exported), but will 'not run a rigid reservation that damages local producers'. 'Victoria has the resources. What has been missing is a government prepared to put Victorian households and manufacturers first.'	Very Poor
Maeve Riches Victorian Socialists	Would prohibit the development of all new fossil fuel projects (onshore and offshore) and: • Reverse the current offshore gas exploration program • Make environmental approval for any new resource development contingent on full greenhouse gas emission neutrality • Increase royalties on coal, oil and gas to a flat 35% • End all planned waste to energy schemes and ban the creation of future waste incinerators.	Very Good
Vicki Ward Labor	Polices include the Gas Substition Roadmap, which aims at 'a gradual move away from expensive fossil gas', focused on electrification and reducing gas demand; aims to reduce demand for gas by 44 PJ annually by 2035 (equivalent to around 85 per cent of Victoria's industrial demand in 2024). However, also supports new investment in exploration and production of gas to 'to prevent forecast fossil gas shortfalls and ensure reliable supply for both industrial sector and gas-powered electricity generation'; specific action/policies include:	Poor

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	• Facilitation of new gas development via accelerated assessment of projects (Development Facilitation Program) • Facilitation of LNG import proposals and approval of the Viva Energy terminal (Geelong); Vopak Energy Terminal environmental approval under consideration • Facilitation of off-shore gas storage (via 2026 regulatory amendments) and approval of the Golden Beach's gas production and storage project • Approval of new gas projects including Beach Energy Enterprise Field (2022) and Amplitude Energy's Annie Gas Field (2026) • Support for new production from Woodside's Gippsland Joint Venture • Support for numerous gas exploration campaigns (ConocoPhilips, 3D Energi, Korean National Oil Corporation (KNOC), Amplitude Energy, ADZ Energy and Lakes Blue Energy) • Opening applications (February 2026) for off-shore petroleum exploration permits in Otway and Gippsland Basins (currently under assessment) • Restarting the onshore conventional gas industry in 2021 (retaining the ban on fracking) • Developing a renewable gas scheme, proposing a market-based certificate scheme to support production	
Stephen Marasea Libertarian Party	Solution is to 'free the energy market' • Stop strangling coal, gas and uranium development with endless red tape. • End all energy subsidies – renewable or traditional energy. Let the market decide. https://www.vic.libertarians.org.au/affordable_energy	Very Poor
Paul Byrnes Liberals	Will 'throw open the door for gas exploration': • Within 60 days of being elected, launch a statewide Request for Proposal process, inviting gas producers to identify Victoria's best conventional gas opportunities and how quickly they can responsibly bring them into production. • Instead of governments deciding where exploration should occur, allow industry to put forward the strongest proposals, assess them under Victoria's existing laws and environmental safeguards, and get the best projects moving. • At the same time, slash unnecessary red tape by streamlining State environmental approvals • Form an Energy and Resources Cabinet sub-committee to oversee the process of examining proposals and prioritising the issuing of permits in line with current Victorian law and requirements. 'The result will be simple: more local gas, delivered sooner'.	Very Poor

5. Stronger protection of nature, including native forests

- ***Very Good***: Significant additional funding to protect and restore the natural environment and new initiatives including:
    - Expanding the workforce for protection/restoration of nature
    - Closing loopholes allowing continued logging of native forest
    - Expanding areas of protected native forest
    - Strengthening partnerships with First Nations peoples in restoration and care of Country
    - Ramping up control of invasive species
- ***Good***: New initiatives to protect and restore the natural environment, including at least 4 (of 5) of those listed above.
- ***Poor***: Limited new initiatives to protect and restore the natural environment, including at least 3 (of 5) of those listed above.
- ***Very Poor***: Less than 3 of the new initiatives above to protect and restore the natural environment (or no policy)

Party	***Policy overview***	***4 Level***
Rachel Busbridge Greens	Propose a '$2 billion seed fund to reverse cuts to nature protection and fund First Nations-led work protecting and restoring Country'; other specific commitments include: • Provide secure, long-term jobs for environmental protection and restoration with long-term investment across budget cycles • Close legal loopholes allowing continuing logging of native forests and repeal laws that would enable future governments to bring back native logging on public land • Ban logging in native forests on private land • Outlaw processing of Australian native forest timber in Victorian mills • Empower the EPA and Office of Conservation Regulator to investigate the possible use of fire management as an excuse for logging • Create permanent legal protections, and new national parks and reserves, to protect forests in the Central Highlands and East Gippsland, with Traditional Owners' rights and management central • Invest in controlling invasive species like rabbits, feral cats, and fire ants and reclassify feral deer as a pest • Ensure threatened species are listed and get a real recovery plan through the $2 billion nature fund • Overhaul wildlife law to ban duck hunting and reform the hunting permit system ('which allows massive numbers of native animals to be killed') • Redirect funding for promotion of hunting to protection of species and habitat • Purchase the remaining land to establish the Western Grassland Reserve using the $2 billion nature fund • Establish genuine First Nations led protection and restoration for what remains of these grassland ecosystems. • Restructure the environment department and put nature and First Nations knowledge first • Rewrite planning laws to strengthen environmental protection • Support urban rewilding and greening initiatives that reconnect city residents with nature • Target 40% tree canopy coverage in urban areas.	Very Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	In Parliament, the Greens: • introduced a Bill to close logging loopholes (July 2026) • voted in favour of a motion calling for greater transparency regarding timber removal on public land and genuine protection of forests and wildlife (September 2026) • voted against legislation to abolish the Victorian Environment Assessment Council and the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council (March 2026)	
Jessie Weatherley One Nation	Commit to 'manage Victoria's natural environment properly for the benefit of local communities, agriculture, tourism, and future generations'. However, propose 'rebuilding' the forest industry, based on 'selective harvesting, not clear-fell', with 'native timber thinning, planting, harvesting, processing and local manufacturing' and incentives including 'local wood first' in Government procurement and a 5 year GST exemption; cite the Tasmanian Forest Practices Plan as a possible industry model, but propose review and research 'before locking in the rebuild model', which is to be designed as 'low-cost and self-funding' with 'monitoring and transparency at every stage'. Other commitments likely to have a negative impact: • Reintroduce proper fire breaks and back-burning as core bushfire prevention tools. • Allow controlled firewood collection in appropriate areas • Defend public access to national parks and state forests • Oppose the Great Forest National Park and any proposal that locks out hunters, four-wheel drivers, trail bike riders and horse riders, climbers, and fossickers from state forest Support better control/management of invasive flora and fauna species, including support for deer hunting 'for both recreational and pest control management'. Commits to reinstating '35 fisheries roles cut by Labor', and note the lack of money and resources to maintain forests (but make no specific commitment to provide additional resources). No reference to First Nations peoples.	Very Poor
Maeve Riches Victorian Socialists	No explicit commitment additional funding or workforce, but this is implied by support for strong action to protect and restore nature: • Safeguard, preserve and rehabilitate the natural environment and native animal habitats to the greatest extent • Protect, restore and expand Victoria's natural carbon stores • Defend and extend the end of native forest logging • Establish large-scale programs of reforestation, restoring native grasslands and wetlands, and protecting blue carbon ecosystems in coastal and estuarine areas • Rehabilitate Victoria's waterways and rebuild sustainable soil composition, reversing the land degradation, water pollution and biodiversity loss driven by agribusiness	Very Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	• Expand programs that draw on Indigenous people's knowledge of land management No explicit reference to control of invasive species, but this is implied in policy to 'preserve and rehabilitate the natural environment'.	
Vicki Ward Labor	No commitment to additional funding and no new initiatives proposed; however, the Government has recently (October 2026) created 3 national parks, 2 conservation parks, and 7 new and expanded regional parks in the state's central west and is committed to 'empowering Traditional Owners to heal and care for Country'. Other existing Government programs/actions include: • Future Forests Program (to 2028): $40 million to regenerate 1,200 hectares of native forests, manage pests, improve fire ecology and support research on ecological thinning to improve climate resilience • BushBank Program: $77 million (leveraging private investment) to restore over 20,000 hectares of native vegetation by 2035, enhancing biodiversity, storing carbon, and creating economic opportunities for Traditional Owners • Support for the planation estate and farm forestry ($190 million), including the $120 million Gippsland Plantations Investment Program, the Victorian Plantations Support Program ($10 million) and the Trees on Farms Program • Long-term planting programs aim to plant millions of trees across private and public land, boosting the agricultural sector and restoring the great outdoors • Long running collaborative program to control weeds and pests on public land • Increased funding ($1.7 million) for deer control announced September 2026 • Ongoing actions in LULUCF sector 2026-30 to reduce emissions by at least 0.3 Mt CO2-e in 2030 • Cultural Landscapes Strategy: long-term pathways for Traditional Owners to lead the planning and management of Country in line with their cultural obligations to care for Country Also proposes to 'engage with the Australian Government and others to support carbon markets and the emerging nature repair market that offer access to private funding'. However, it should be noted that there are significant issues with both the principles and operation of carbon markets. In Parliament, Labor: • voted against a motion calling for greater transparency regarding timber removal on public land and genuine protection of forests and wildlife (September 2026) • legislated to abolish the Victorian Environment Assessment Council and the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council (March 2026) • reduced total departmental funding for nature by $535 million in the 2026/27 State Budget, including a $3 million cut of Parks Victoria's budget.	Poor

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
Stephen Marasea Libertarian Party	No mention of initiatives or funding to protect and restore the natural environment, except for 'preventing the destruction of natural environments and wildlife caused by wind and solar farms built on public land solely to meet renewable energy targets.'	Very Poor
Paul Byrnes Liberals	No commitment to additional funding for protection and restoration of nature in 2026 plan, and no specific new initiatives proposed; no explicit reference to native forests. However, believe in 'conserving, protecting and sustaining our natural environment and national heritage' and commit to: • Safeguarding public lands from degradation to preserve their beauty for the next generation • Prioritising the core maintenance functions of Parks Victoria • Making parks accessible and enjoyable and protect public land • Implementing 'proactive, science-backed land management practices' that meet fire mitigation targets and control feral pests while protecting native flora and fauna • Doubling prescribed burning, aiming for target of 5% of treatable public land annually • Expanding cultural burning in partnership with Indigenous Victorians. However, it is questionable whether a fixed prescribed burning target is consistent with First Nations' cultural burning, and there is good evidence to suggest that prescribed burning based on such a target is not the best strategy to reduce bushfire risk, and it may even heighten that risk and harm biodiversity. In Parliament, the Liberals: • voted against legislation to end native forest logging (June 2024) • voted against the creation of three new national parks (November 2025) • voted against a motion calling for greater transparency regarding timber removal on public land and genuine protection of forests and wildlife (September 2026) • voted in favour of legislation to abolish Victorian Environment Assessment Council and the Victorian Marine and Coastal Council (March 2026).	Very Poor

6. Effective action to reduce transport emissions

- ***Very Good***: Suite of new initiatives with significant new funding to accelerate the reduction of transport emissions, including:
    - Promotion of electric vehicles (e.g. additional charging infrastructure, consumer incentives, transition to electric public transport)
    - Promotion of public transport use (e.g. fare reductions, improved services)
    - Promotion of active transport (e.g. improved infrastructure)
    - Promotion of lower emissions freight transport (e.g. shift to rail, electric freight vehicles)
- ***Good***: Policies to reduce transport emissions in at least three of the areas above
- ***Poor***: Policies to reduce of transport emissions in at least two of the areas above
- ***Very Poor***: Limited or no policies to significantly reduce transport emissions

Note: Currently committed major infrastructure projects excluded from scoring.

Party	***Policy overview***	***4 Level***

Rachel Busbridge
 	
Greens
	Electric vehicle commitments include:
	• Rebates of up to $3,000 for purchase of electric cars, bikes and two-way chargers via the 'Green Power Voucher Scheme'
	• Support for business to increase availability of workplace vehicle charging
	Further policy aims include:
	• Government buildout of widespread non-proprietary electric vehicle recharging infrastructure.
	• Require all new state government cars to be fully electric (or hybrid where not practical).
	• Transition public transport to 100% electric services powered by renewable energy sources, including bus and coach services and regional trains.
	
	Public transport commitments include:
	• Permanently free public transport
	• Improve tram frequency to at most 10 minutes from 7 am to 10 pm
	• Initial investment of $225 million for additional accessible tram stops
	• Improve train frequency to at most 10 minutes from 7 am to 10 pm where infrastructure allows
	• Duplicate the Upfield line to provide 10 minute service frequency
	• Invest $270 million to progressively reform the bus network to create a fast and frequent grid across Melbourne
	• Invest $245 million to improve regional train and bus service frequencies
	
	Transport planning and infrastructure commitments include:
	• Resource and empower Infrastructure Victoria to produce a 30 year Integrated Transport Plan
	• Depending on the priorities in the Plan, expected improvements in infrastructure include:
	  • increased capacity on regional rail lines to address overcrowding
	  • a second Melbourne Metro tunnel
	  • reconfiguring the city loop
		Very Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	• electrifying the line to Melton and building bypass tracks for V/Line • fixing the Altona Loop • improving platform interchange at Caulfield • building more stations on the way to Wyndham Vale Active transport commitments include: • Commit 5% of the existing transport budget to construction of a network of bike routes (Strategic Cycling Corridors) in Melbourne and regional centres • Improve coordination of scooter and bike-hire schemes • Restrict scooters to bike lanes (keep footpaths clear) • More bike racks on regional buses • More bike parking at stations and bus stops • 30 km/h speed limits in residential streets, around schools and in high use pedestrian areas Freight policy aims include: • Significantly increase the role of rail relative to road in moving freight; planning to prioritise rail freight, including port logistics, long-distance freight and empty container movements • Increase intra and inter-state freight movements by reform of regulations and incentives and augmenting interstate rail infrastructure (including standardising the Victorian freight rail network and connecting major logistics sites by rail) and increasing the volume of stand-alone country rail freight services • Ensure freight transport modes compete fairly, and bear all their direct and indirect costs.	
Jessie Weatherley One Nation	No reference to promotion of electric vehicles or active transport; some very limited commitments on rail transport (passenger and freight) including: • Cancelling the Suburban Rail Loop • Finishing the freight and commuter track duplication across regional Victoria • Supporting the full completion of the Melbourne-to-Brisbane Inland Rail project • Electrifying the Melton line. • Completing the Airport Rail Link	Very Poor
Maeve Riches Victorian Socialists	Believe that 'transport systems must be environmentally sustainable' and that 'fossil fuel reliant vehicles and freight must be phased out'. Also believe that 'transport infrastructure should be built, owned and operated by public bodies'. No explicit funding commitment, but significant new funding is implied. Electric vehicle commitments include: • Electrify Victoria's transport system and commit to 100 percent electric new car sales by 2035 • Build a comprehensive public fast-charging network across the state including regional and rural areas	Very Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	• Electrify the public bus fleet • Initiate a scheme to subsidise low- and moderate-income motorists to upgrade to electric vehicles. • End all subsidies and concessions for fossil-fuel vehicles • Provide incentives for electric vehicles to be manufactured at the old Ford factory site in Geelong Public Transport commitments include: • Make all public transport permanently free, funded by ending private operator contracts and redirecting the current subsidies • Improve services by establishing a turn-up-and-go model on all high-frequency routes, with key lines running overnight, and establishing a high-frequency orbital bus network • Significantly upgrade regional rail services, replacing coach substitutions with genuine train services, increasing frequency on all regional lines, and extending rail to regional centres currently unserved • Construct new and extended public transport routes to improve access and frequency in suburban growth corridors • Ensure all public transport infrastructure, vehicles and services are fully accessible to people with disabilities, with a funded upgrade program Active transport commitments include: • Build a connected, protected cycling network across metropolitan Melbourne and major regional centres, completing missing links • Prioritise protected bicycle paths and lanes over street parking, ensuring protected lanes continue through intersections • Introduce a free bike share scheme for the Melbourne CBD and inner suburbs • Invest at least $140 million per year (approximately $20 per person) in cycling infrastructure • Expand secure bike parking at public transport hubs • Upgrade pedestrian infrastructure across Victoria, including footpaths, crossings, lighting and shade, with priority given to areas near schools, hospitals and public transport stops Transport planning and infrastructure commitments include: • Evaluate the likely health and environmental effects of all major transport infrastructure projects in planning stages, with any identified negative effects to be considered in assessing the suitability of the project	
Vicki Ward Labor	No new policy or funding commitments on electric vehicles, active transport or freight in 2026 election policies; limited new public transport initiatives. However, extensive current (continuing) Government policies/actions as follows: Electric vehicle policies include: • Target 50% of new light vehicle sales to be ZEV by 2030 (target set in 2021) • All Victorian Government passenger cars and vans to be ZEVs by 2035	Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*

	• All new bus purchases to be ZEBs (from July 2025); metro trains and trams already 100% renewables powered
	• One third of metropolitan public transport buses to transition to ZEBs between 2025 and 2035
	• Trial (2-3 years) of regional ZEBs from late 2026
	• Supporting delivery of the National Electric Vehicle Strategy and advocate for strong fuel efficiency standards
	• Expand the public EV charging network, identifying and removing barriers to a healthy private market, and making EV charging accessible, affordable, reliable and safe
	• Improve the electricity tariff framework for public charging to support private investment and lower charges
	• Make connection of new public EV chargers to the network faster, cheaper and more transparent via regulatory change
	• Remove any remaining barriers to kerbside EV charging (pole mounted)
	• Support national collaboration to accelerate vehicle to grid availability
	• Continued roll-out of fast-charging stations at key tourist destinations and regional towns (via Destination Charging Across Victoria grants)
	
	Public transport policies include:
	• Increase public transport services (2026-27 Budget), including:
	  • $673.6 million to deliver 25 locally built X'Trapolis 2.0 trains
	  • $77.5 million to deliver additional train services and new 'turn-up-and-go' services for the Cranbourne, Pakenham and Sunbury lines (part of a $727 million Metro Tunnel package)
	  • Almost $100 million to expand bus hours, weekend services and new and upgraded routes
	  • Continuing investment in public transport network including the Suburban Rail Loop, Melbourne Airport Rail Link, Sunshine Superhub, level crossing removals, new metro trains and trams
	• Public transport free for under 18s and for seniors on weekends (from 1 January 2026)
	• New initiatives including:
	  • Duplication of the Upfield line (funded by deferring 8 level crossing removals)
	  • Confirmation (with Federal Government) of start of construction of Airport Rail Stage 2 including new Keilor East station to be completed by 2031
	  • Cap on fares of $30 per week for 2 years from 1 January 2027; however, the effect on promoting public transport likely to be minimal, as combined with a similar $30 cap on road tolls.
	
	Active transport policies include:
	• Remove barriers to active transport by focusing not only on infrastructure but also behaviour change, integrated transport systems, safety and accessibility
	• Partner with local government and others improve coordination, to promote more trips by active transport	

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*

	• Embed active transport as a core component in the planning and delivery of suburbs and towns
	• Target of 25 per cent of all trips being active by 2030
	• More than 410 kilometres of walking and riding facilities have been delivered with hundreds of kilometres still to come
	• Embed active transport into major projects, including North East Link (34 km) and Suburban Rail Loop (3500 bike parking spaces and 15 km paths)
	• 70 km new paths as part of the Level Crossing Removal Project
	
	Freight transport policies include:
	• Continued focus on facilitating the increased uptake and long term viability of Low and Zero Emissions Heavy Vehicles (LZEHVs) to reduce freight emissions
	• Establish an $8 million freight sector innovation fund for small-and-medium transport companies to buy and operate low and zero emission fleets.
	• Endorse the Drive to Zero Memorandum of Understanding as a sub-national government
	• Partner with industry and local authorities on new low emission and low impact delivery zones to reduce local transport emissions and traffic congestion
	• Support shifting freight from road to rail by:
	  • Developing an extended freight rail network that includes a Port Rail Shuttle Network and the Port Rail Transformation Project
	  • Rezoning land in the inner-west to encourage the logistics industry to locate closer to existing rail links
	  • Planning and developing interstate freight terminals including the $12 million Western Intermodal Freight Terminal co-funded with the Australian Government.
	  • Leasing the Footscray Road Old Melbourne Market site to the Port of Melbourne for container storage and logistics businesses
	• Support international efforts towards lower emissions from commercial shipping and improving information exchange, including to support the introduction of alternate low and no carbon fuels	

Stephen Marasea Libertarian Party	No policies to significantly reduce transport emissions. Stated policy to cancel the Suburban Rail Loop – an 'irresponsible debt bomb'.	Very Poor
Paul Byrnes Liberals	No reference to policies or funding to promote electric vehicles or active transport or to reduce freight transport emissions in 2026 election policies. However, committed to invest $1.7 billion to deliver 25 new hybrid electric trains for the Melton and Wyndham Vale lines; the trains will: • be able to operate on existing electrified and non-electrified lines across the suburban network • not preclude electrification of the Melton and Wyndham Vale lines. • free up 25 three car set V/Line trains to be deployed across the regional network, delivering more seats for regional passengers	Very Poor

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	Also committed to: • delivering more trains and more seats for passengers across Victoria, including Gippsland (5 V'Locity sets), NE Victoria (5 sets), N Victoria (5 sets), W Victoria (4 sets), SW Victoria (5 sets) plus one set in reserve • delivering a new Keilor East Train Station by 2031 • supporting major events with free public transport for events	

7. Greater community protection from climate change impacts

- ***Very Good***: Comprehensive climate adaptation plans backed by significant new funding for implementation and covering (at minimum):
    - Stronger and more consistent consideration of climate risk in planning processes
    - Stronger building and infrastructure standards to increase climate resilience
    - Enhanced urban greening/cooling, including a minimum 30% tree canopy target
    - Additional support for preparation/recovery for high risk communities (including possible buy back of affected homes).
- ***Good***: Climate adaptation plans covering at least three of the areas above
- ***Poor***: Recognition of the need for climate adaptation action, but with limited plans and no funding commitment
- ***Very Poor***: No recognition of the need for climate adaptation action

Party	***Policy overview***	***4 Level***
Rachel Busbridge Greens	A range of policies to protect the community from climate impacts with substantial additional funding; commitments include: Support communities affected by climate disasters (fires, floods, extreme weather) by: • Establishing a $1 billion 'climate adaptation and mitigation seed fund' for affected communities • Forcing polluting companies to pay for clean-up for affected communities (including for marine impacts) • Legislating to make fossil fuel companies liable for climate damage and enabling affected people to sue the companies for financial damages Rewrite planning rules to: • Strengthen environmental protections and support urban re-wilding and greening • Require more green space in cities and towns, to reduce heat wave impacts, improve mental health, manage stormwater and support biodiversity • Establish a 40% urban tree canopy target • Strengthen housing sustainability requirements related to heating and cooling Supported recommendations of the Legislative Council report on Climate Resilience, but stated that the 'the problem is not a lack of plans - it is a lack of action', and proposed further recommendations including: • Adoption of a 'polluter-pays' principle • Investigation of buy-back of homes in areas at high risk from climate impacts • Improvement of planning provisions to achieve standards in line with those recommended by the 28 CASBE councils.	Very Good
Jessie Weatherley One Nation	No explicit reference to climate adaptation, but supports: • Reintroduction of proper fire breaks and back-burning as core bushfire prevention tools • Strengthening early warning systems and floodplain management.	Very Poor

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
Maeve Riches Victorian Socialists	A suite of policies for community protection from climate impacts; limited explicit reference to funding, but significant additional funding implied: • Develop a comprehensive urban heat adaptation strategy — including mandatory tree canopy targets, green roofs and walls, shading requirements in new developments, cool corridors in areas of high heat stress, and publicly funded cooling centres accessible to vulnerable communities • Require all new public buildings and public housing to be built to standards that protect residents from extreme heat without reliance on air conditioning; retrofit existing public housing stock to the same standard • Mandate developer responsibility for ensuring 30 percent canopy tree coverage in all suburbs and impose a developer levy to fund urgent planting to at least double the canopy tree coverage in western suburbs • Increase green space, canopy tree coverage and the number of linear parks and urban farms • Extend the 'Green Wedges' within Greater Melbourne and permanently prevent any rezoning, so as to protect crucial farmland, wetlands and native green spaces, including the restoration and expansion of native grassland reserves in the city's west • Develop a managed retreat framework for communities facing unacceptable risk from rising sea levels, flooding and fire, with full financial support for affected working-class residents, no forced relocations without genuine community consent, and particular attention to renters and low-income households with no capacity to relocate • Introduce a properly funded, paid fire and emergency service for rural Victoria • Retrofit low-income rural housing in bushfire-prone areas to meet Bushfire Attack Level standards, paid for by fossil fuel companies	Very Good
Vicki Ward Labor	No new policy or funding commitment for community protection from climate impacts in 2026 election policy priorities. Supported 37 of 80 recommendations of the Legislative Council Inquiry into Climate Resilience in full, 40 in principle and 3 in part (based on concerns relating to technical legal/process issues). Released Draft Adaption Actions Plans for 2027-31 in January 2026, stating they are 'informed by' the Legislative Council Inquiry and the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 floods. The plans cover 'eight state-wide systems vulnerable to climate impacts' (updating the existing seven plans for 2022-26) and are due for finalisation in 2027: • Stated intentions of the plans are to ensure climate change is considered in decision-making, draw on the latest climate science, ensure provision of information & training and directly reduce risks for vulnerable people, assets and the natural environment • No commitment to provide any additional funding needed for implementation of the plans • All the plans include a commitment to embedding First Nations land management practices and leadership into climate adaptation	Good

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*

	Further climate adaption actions in the plans include:
	• Built environment adaptation:
	  • Planning and building reform to ensure decisions respond to future flood, bushfire landslide & coastal risks
	  • Advocate with the Commonwealth for reform of the National Construction Code and telecommunications infrastructure to increase climate resilience
	  • Provision of accessible advice to households to improve the climate resilience of homes
	  • Promotion of urban cooling and greening, including tree canopy standards for commercial, industrial and non-residential developments and guidance on urban heat reduction strategies
	  • Delivery of a 'Get Ready' program to assist communities manage extreme weather risks
	  • Strengthen emergency management by reviewing processes and funding for relief and recovery, identifying opportunities to support community-led preparedness and recovery, increase First Peoples' inclusion in emergency management
	  • Advocate with the Commonwealth for increased funding to reduce risks and support recovery
	
	• Education and training adaption:
	  • Expand support for government schools to manage the psych-social impacts of climate disasters, improve knowledge of and access to data about climate risks in schools
	  • Support schools and early education to manage impacts heat and other extreme weather on health, wellbeing and learning
	  • Build on existing risk assessments of infrastructure and incorporate climate risk in new development planning
	  • Deliver resources to support teaching about sustainability and climate change
	  • Invest in education for climate-ready careers in tertiary, secondary and TAFE sectors
	
	• Energy adaptation:
	  • Improve energy resilience of existing homes to protect the vulnerable via energy efficiency standards for rentals, adding ceiling insulation to the VEU program and upgrades to public, community and Aboriginal housing
	  • Implement recommendations to improve extreme weather resilience of energy infrastructure
	  • Strengthen emergency management frameworks to ensure climate risks are considered and the obligations of energy companies
	  • Provide better energy resilience information to households
	
	• Health and human services adaptation:
	  • Enhance surveillance of climate-sensitive health outcomes and improve preparedness and response	

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*
	• Support continuity of care during extreme events via digitally enabled models of care • Build capacity to support mental health and well-being related to disasters and anxiety about climate change • Assess and reduce the exposure of social housing to climate risks • Improve the climate resilience of existing social housing, extending the existing upgrade program • Embed climate resilient design into planning and delivery of new social housing • Strengthen preparedness for climate related health emergencies • Identify public health infrastructure at risk and improve resilience • Develop a climate adaptation toolkit for design and delivery of health infrastructure • Improve supply chain resilience for health good and services Other adaptation plans and actions cover: • Natural environment • Primary production • Transport • Water cycle Victorian Planning Scheme provisions were updated to include a 30% urban tree canopy cover target in 2025.	
Stephen Marasea Libertarian Party	No recognition of the need for climate adaptation action.	Very Poor
Paul Byrnes Liberals	No explicit reference to community protection from climate risks (or funding) in election policy commitments. Have committed to bushfire preparation by doubling prescribed burning, aiming for target of 5% of treatable public land annually, and expanding cultural burning in partnership with Indigenous Victorians. However, it is questionable whether a fixed prescribed burning target is consistent with First Nations' cultural burning, and there is good evidence to suggest that prescribed burning based on such a target is not the best strategy to reduce bushfire risk, and it may even heighten that risk and harm biodiversity. In response to the Legislative Council's Climate Resilience Inquiry, expressed support for 'efforts to strengthen Victoria's resilience in the face of continued climate change' and supported 'the majority' of recommendations (without identifying which); identified 7 areas as 'neglected or mismanaged' in the current response and recommended: • 'a coordinated response to coastal erosion that integrates site-specific engineered solutions combined with ecosystem-based adaptation as appropriate' • scrap the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) and reinstate the fairer Fire Services Property Levy to fund the CFA	Poor

Party	*Policy overview*	*4 Level*

	• inform stakeholders of the cost versus benefit of climate resilience initiatives
	• adopt the Bushfire Royal Commission recommendation for fuel reduction of 5% of treatable forest and abandon the current 'Safer Together' policy; incorporate First Nations' management where appropriate
	• improve transparency of planning and building regulation changes and reduce costs and delays associated with 'uncoordinated environmental rules'
	• increase oversight and regional community involvement in renewable energy planning:
	  • reinstate right of appeal to VCAT for renewable energy projects
	  • ensure independent planning panel for major transmission & generation projects
	  • reinstate the 2 km wind turbine buffer
	  • repeal legislation allowing forced entry on private land for electricity transmission work
	• commission independent research on the potential microclimate impacts of large scale solar developments
	• develop a climate-resilient infrastructure strategy for road, rail and port systems
	• ensuring that levees on crown land are restored where there is community benefit	