



MAV Climate Position Statement

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Councils and their communities are already experiencing the direct impacts of climate change from more frequent and severe storm, heat, flood and fire events, as well as coastal inundation and erosion.

Many Victorian councils, individually and in partnerships, have a strong track record of delivering nation-leading work to reduce emissions and increase organisational and community resilience to climate impacts, but with the right engagement and support, they can do more.

The MAV recognises First Nations peoples' knowledge, leadership and connection to Country is critical to achieving climate justice.

A trusted partner to deliver place-based solutions

As the closest connection point to community, local government is uniquely positioned to provide independent and relevant information to help build the social licence for rapid climate action.

Councils recognise that the barriers and opportunities for action differ from community to community. Some communities are already bearing the brunt of inaction through their exposure to natural hazards, while others see little immediate benefit in supporting rapid change. For rural and regional councils, whose economies are closely linked to agriculture, climate change is increasing the variability and threats to these businesses. Councils can deliver urban and regional climate priorities through the implementation of place-based solutions.

Strong leadership and significant financial investment are urgently needed from across all levels of government and industry to rapidly decarbonise our economy and bolster community resilience to climate change. This includes the phasing out of coal, oil and gas.

Championing local government action

Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions will require enhanced cooperation between national, state and local governments. As a signatory to the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), Australia has committed to working with subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation and monitoring of climate strategies, including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

We are calling on the Federal Government to recognise the contributions of both national and subnational governments - including councils - through a CHAMP-aligned NDC. This would involve a multilevel governance policy design and investment approach that recognises and invests in the role of local government. By working in partnership with local government, we can improve community acceptance for accelerated change and enable an equitable benefit sharing regime.

With the right resources, councils can enhance and accelerate:

- The physical resilience of assets to withstand the impacts of a changing climate – facilitated by embedding the principles of betterment into State and Federal infrastructure and disaster recovery programs.
- Transition to net zero through actively supporting programs that develop neighbourhood and regional based renewable energy generation at scale
- A just and equitable transition to renewable energy for the whole community
- The mode shift to public and active transport alongside the uptake of electric vehicles
- The economic and social resilience of communities to manage the effects of climate change
- Building community knowledge and support for rapid climate action

- Climate risk-based planning and investment decisions

The MAV is calling on both Federal and State Governments to:

1. Set and meet ambitious, science-derived emissions reduction targets and backed by aligned investment at a Federal and State level that enables rapid and deep greenhouse gas emissions reductions across all sectors
2. Co-design tools that enable councils to measure and report on local government emissions reduction activities across all relevant sectors
3. Embed a multilevel governance approach to climate policy that enables effective collaboration and coordination between all levels of government in Australia
4. Implement equitable, integrated whole-of-government policies and programs that incentivise decarbonisation and support the transition to a net zero economy, including priority support for low-income households
5. Provide policy and legislative frameworks that allow councils to participate fully in the transition to a net zero economy, including best practice standards for negotiating renewable energy zones and delivering community benefits
6. Lead the update of local and regional climate data and hazard assessments to translate into effective policy and mitigation measures, alongside guidance on managing climate risk exposure
7. Provide dedicated funding commensurate with risk for councils to drive change and embed localised mitigation and adaptation action in partnership with their communities