



Beyond Zero Emissions
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Premier of Victoria
Climate Change Green Paper Submission
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Submission to the Victorian Government Climate Change Green Paper

Victoria's response to climate change must be quicker and deeper

At Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE) we feel that the Victorian Government Climate Change Green Paper ("the paper") provides inadequate policy guidance for a meaningful response to climate change.

Take a position on GHG levels. The paper currently takes no position on an appropriate level of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere to avoid catastrophic, runaway climate change. Any sensible climate change policy, at its core, needs a position on where we are aiming with greenhouse gases. Our position is that current GHGs have already overshoot safe levels, and Victoria's actions need to be in that context.

Policy recommendation: Victoria's response to climate change needs to be consistent with the goal of reducing atmospheric greenhouse gas levels to below 300 ppm CO₂e.

CCS should not be depended upon. The paper expects Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) will be available as a cost effective way to reduce emissions. The evidence shows that CCS is highly unlikely to be ready, let alone affordable, in the time frame required.

Policy recommendation: Emissions-reduction policy should exclude CCS as a viable option.

Commence phase out of coal. The paper assumes that coal can continue its central role in energy generation in an emission-constrained world. On-going coal use is fundamentally at odds with any meaningful response to climate change. BZE will soon release a plan describing how to substitute all our coal-based energy with renewables by 2020.

Policy recommendation: Victoria should immediately commence a phase out of coal use, with a State Government led plan on how this will be achieved. Effort must be focused on providing new job opportunities for communities currently dependent on coal, such as investing in manufacturing in the Latrobe Valley.

Renewables. The paper assumes that sources of renewable energy will provide only a marginal contribution to the total energy supply by 2020. Renewable energy technology is mature and ready to provide cost-effective base-load power.

Policy recommendation: Victoria should immediately commence a comprehensive plan to re-build our energy infrastructure using wind and base-load solar, with the aim of reaching 100% renewable energy by 2020.

Energy Efficiency and the built environment. The paper makes no strong or specific recommendations about improvements in energy efficiency and the built environment. Our position is that zero-emission, water-efficient buildings are both necessary and practical.

Policy recommendation: Victoria should commit to a comprehensive greening of our housing stock.

Policy recommendation: Victoria should quickly adopt a building code for zero-net-carbon homes.

Emissions from land-use and deforestation. Agriculture and logging are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Victoria.

Policy recommendation: Victoria should immediately end the logging of old-growth forests

Policy recommendation: Victoria should have a plan to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions through the improvement of agricultural practices and the reduction of animal product production and consumption.

We urge you to do the right thing by the people of Victoria and adopt these recommendations for the White Paper.

Yours faithfully,

Beyond Zero Emissions

<http://beyondzeroemissions.org/>