

7.1.4 LEADERSHIP

Labor understands the role of government leadership in the adoption of innovative and practical emissions reduction practices for its own assets and Departments.

Labor will:

- establish the Victorian government as a leader in this field;
- work towards all government departments and agencies being carbon neutral by 2025; and
- promote the involvement of the workplace (employees and management) in tackling climate change including by providing for employee representation in respect of environmental issues in workplaces.

7.2 A JUST TRANSITION TO VICTORIA'S AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

7.2.1 VICTORIA'S LOW EMISSIONS FUTURE

Labor understands the need for transition to an environmentally sustainable, reliable and affordable energy system in Victoria. Labor knows there are vulnerable sections of the community that must be protected and supported under the principles of a just transition.

There must be investment in the development of innovative energy technologies and building and supporting the energy industry through policy development and regulation. Victorians will be empowered to manage their own energy use.

Labor will:

- support moving Victoria's generation stock towards renewable and low emissions energy, including household and community renewable generation;
- promote the uptake of electric, hybrid and clean fuelled vehicles, as well as the regulatory framework and support industry and services;
- address barriers to distributed generation and storage;
- investigate other alternative sources of renewable energy and develop these where viable, environmentally sustainable and cost effective such as appropriate energy from waste opportunities;
- ensure that demand management is an essential component of any energy system and expanding its use; and
- ensure that the National Energy Market (NEM) works to the benefit of all Victorians ensuring security and affordability and crucially delivers increasingly sustainable energy.

7.2.2 JUST TRANSITION FOR WORKERS

Victoria's strong economic position and Labor's commitment to social justice will enable a fair and just transition.

Labor reserves the right to intervene in the public interest to deliver an essential service in an affordable, reliable and sustainable manner.

Labor will:

- encourage job creation in new energy industries;
- provide for workers displaced from current energy employers to transition into new energy industries, other energy employers and other industries;
- support redeployment across sites and energy employers, ensuring no forced redundancies, and provide training and placement in new energy generation industries;

- use expenditure on public facilities to promote both a low carbon economy and employment opportunities;
- introduce a Victorian Climate and New Energy Jobs Target of 100,000 new jobs by 2030;
- identify opportunities to use innovative finance to fund large scale low to medium skill employment projects which assist Victoria becoming a carbon neutral state; and
- prioritise the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, to support technological innovation and large scale renewable projects.

7.2.3 JUST TRANSITION FOR CONSUMERS

Labor wants to encourage a swift, secure and just transition to a carbon neutral Victorian economy.

Labor will:

- maintain the Victorian Renewable Energy Target of 25% by 2020 and 40% by 2025 as a minimum;
- establish Energy Storage Targets to keep pace with the increased reliance on renewable energy and achieve energy security for Victoria;
- explore means of supporting low income households to invest in renewable energy generation and storage; and
- support fair and reasonable energy prices for consumers.

7.2.4 JUST TRANSITION FOR COMMUNITIES

Labor will encourage public and community ownership of energy assets where possible.

Labor will:

- explore the effectiveness of providing an appropriate low cost, not-for-profit retail option for consumers who do not have the time and resources to meaningfully participate in the market;
- encourage co-operative and community owned electricity generation and infrastructure projects, including through regulatory support e.g. rights regarding grid connection and rights to enter guaranteed power purchase agreements with retailers;
- phase in and encourage the uptake of direct subscription to off-site solar power for households and other energy users (known as virtual net metering), particularly those who occupy premises which may be unsuitable for solar generation for whatever reason; and
- insure local manufacturing facilities receive priority in supplying materials and goods for publicly-funded renewable energy projects.

7.2.5 ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Labor understands that Victorians want reliable and affordable energy from low or zero emissions energy sources.

Labor will:

- support consumers to develop greater awareness and uptake of renewable energy options;
- maintain environmental guidelines for electricity retailers including annual reporting of energy generation sources and consumption destinations and report this as part of customer billing;
- continue an energy smart homes program in conjunction with Local Councils;
- maintain Sustainability Victoria;
- maintain and monitor a Greenhouse Rating Scheme for commercial buildings;
- assist government departments to identify and harness effective opportunities for reducing energy use in Victorian Government buildings;