

25 October 2021

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MLA, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
The Hon Shaun Leane MLC, Minister for Local Government
The Hon Danny Pearson MLA, Minister for Regulatory Reform
The Hon Richard Wynne, Minister for Planning and Housing

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
PO Box 500
East Melbourne 3002

By email:

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Dear Ministers D'Ambrosio, Leane, Pearson, and Wynne,

Re: Proposed Planning Reforms

On behalf of their member councils, the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) would like to express our concern regarding the State Government's proposed planning reforms scheduled for presentation to Parliament this November.

The reforms are expected to change how planning decisions are made and how the planning system operates whilst assisting Victoria to recover from the pandemic through accelerating growth. Although improvements to the planning system are welcomed by councils, it is critical that the reform process be underpinned by deep and meaningful engagement with key stakeholders - particularly local governments, which are also local planning authorities and therefore central to the system. Thus far, consultation has been extremely limited and engagement with elected community representatives has not taken place.

Importantly, this review provides a critical opportunity to ensure Victoria's planning system is aligned with the State's legislated emission reduction targets and supports climate resilient communities. It also provides an opportunity to ensure the delivery of zero-carbon infrastructure, building on Victoria's leadership role on taking action on climate change.

The work to identify and develop these necessary improvements to Victoria's planning system is currently being undertaken through an independent review commissioned by the Victorian Greenhouse Alliances and CASBE. This work has identified a raft of reform opportunities that will be provided to the *Inquiry into the Protections within the Victorian Planning Framework* and improve the long term value of proposed planning reforms.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly regarding the review findings and discuss how we can contribute to the Government's reform objectives and the issues outlined above.

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Council Alliances and contacts

- Barwon South West Climate Alliance (BSWCA) Sally Jensen, Alliance Establishment Officer, SJensen@warrnambool.vic.gov.au
 - City of Greater Geelong
 - Golden Plains Shire
 - Surf Coast Shire
 - Borough of Queenscliffe
 - Corangamite Shire
 - Colac Otway Shire
 - Warrnambool City Council
 - Moyne Shire
 - Glenelg Shire
 - Southern Grampians Shire
 - Barwon Water
 - Wannon Water
 - Corangamite Catchment management Authority
 - Glenelg Hopkins Catchment management Authority
 - Deakin University
- Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance (CVGA), Rob Law, Executive Officer, eo@cvga.org.au
 - Ararat Rural City Council
 - Ballarat City Council
 - Buloke Shire Council
 - Central Goldfields Shire Council
 - Gannawarra Shire Council
 - Greater Bendigo City Council
 - Hepburn Shire Council
 - Loddon Shire Council
 - Macedon Ranges Shire Council
 - Mildura Rural City Council
 - Mount Alexander Shire Council
 - Pyrenees Shire Council
 - Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA), Scott McKenry, Executive Officer, scott.mckenry@maroondah.vic.gov.au
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 - City of Glen Eira
 - City of Knox
 - Maroondah City Council
 - Monash City Council
 - Stonnington City Council
 - Whitehorse City Council
 - Yarra Ranges Shire Council
- Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance (GMCA), Carole Hammond, Executive Officer, eo@gbga.com.au
 - Alpine Shire Council
 - Benalla Rural City Council

- Campaspe Shire Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Indigo Shire Council
- Mansfield Shire Council
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Moira Shire Council
- Murrindindi Shire Council
- Towong Shire Council
- Strathbogrie Shire Council
- Wangaratta Rural City Council
- Wodonga City Council
- Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA), David Meiklejohn, Executive Officer, david@naga.org.au
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 - City of Melbourne
 - City of Whittlesea
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 - Manningham City Council
 - Moreland City Council
 - Nillumbik Shire Council
 - Yarra City Council
- South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA), Dominique La Fontaine, Executive Officer, dlafontaine@secca.org.au
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 - Bayside City Council
 - Cardinia Shire Council
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 - City of Kingston
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 - City of Port Phillip
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- Whitehorse City Council
- Whittlesea City Council
- Wodonga City Council
- Wyndham City Council
- Yarra City Council
- Yarra Ranges Shire Council

The submission has been approved through the Greenhouse and CASBE Alliances' formal governance structures but may not have been formally considered by individual members. The submission does not necessarily represent the views of all councils.