

**Victorian Government Response to the  
Parliamentary Inquiry into Climate  
Resilience  
February 2026**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Glossary .....	3
Context .....	4
Victorian Government response .....	4
Climate change risks to Victoria's built environment and infrastructure .....	5
Government responses to climate risk: Governing climate resilience.....	6
Key government responses to climate risk: How to adapt .....	6
Victoria's planning and building systems .....	7
Challenges to ensuring a resilient built environment.....	7
Enhancing the climate resilience of Victoria's built environment.....	8
Enhancing climate preparedness: opportunities for Government .....	8
Enhancing climate preparedness: What can individuals and communities do .....	9
Further areas of inquiry into climate resilience and adaptation .....	10
APPENDIX 1 – Government response to recommendations .....	11

## GLOSSARY

AAP	Adaptation Action Plans
ABCB	Australian Building Codes Board
AMAF	Asset Management Accountability Framework
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DGS	Department of Government Services
DH	Department of Health
DJCS	Department of Justice and Community Safety
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
DRF	Disaster Ready Fund
DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
EC6	Environmental Contribution tranche 6
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria
ESD	Environmentally Sustainable Development
IDM	Infrastructure Design Manual
NatHERS	Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme
NCC	National Construction Code
NDA	National Drought Agreement
TAFE	Tertiary and Further Education
VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
VCOSS	Victorian Council of Social Services
VEU	Victorian Energy Upgrades
VICSES	Victorian State Emergency Services
VPP	Victoria Planning Provisions
YACVic	Youth Affairs Council Victoria

## CONTEXT

On 4 October 2023, the Legislative Council agreed to the Environment and Planning Committee (the Committee) to inquire into, consider and report, by 30 June 2025 (later extended to 12 August 2025) on:

- a. the main risks facing Victoria's built environment and infrastructure from climate change and the impact these will have on the people of Victoria;
- b. how the Victorian Government is preparing for and mitigating the impacts of climate change on our built environment and infrastructure;
- c. the barriers facing Victoria in upgrading infrastructure to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including barriers in rebuilding or retrofitting infrastructure, including but not limited to, issues relating to insurance and barriers faced by local government;
- d. the adequacy of the current Victorian planning system as it relates to its adaptation to, preparation for, and mitigation of climate change impacts;
- e. what more could be done to better prepare Victoria's built environment and infrastructure, and therefore the community, for future climate disaster events; and
- f. whether further inquiries or investigation may be needed into other aspects of climate change adaptation and climate disaster preparedness in Victoria, noting that climate change will have far-reaching impacts on all aspects of Victorian life, including but not limited to biodiversity, human health, primary production, industry, emergency services and more, and that while these areas may overlap with the matters covered in this inquiry, they may also warrant further investigation in their own inquiries.

The Committee delivered its Final Report on 12 August 2025 after obtaining evidence via 286 submissions and reporting consultation with more than 130 witnesses (of which 118 are listed in the Final Report) and holding eight days of public hearings throughout regional Victoria.

This document sets out the Victorian Government's response to the Final Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Climate Resilience.

The Final Report contains 93 findings and 82 recommendations. Of these 82 recommendations, 80 are addressed to the Victorian Government. The remaining two recommendations (5 and 79) are addressed respectively to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office and the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee. Responses to those two recommendations have not been prepared as part of this Government response.

## VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Victorian Government welcomes the Final Report of the Inquiry into Climate Resilience and acknowledges the significant contributions made by the Victorian community through submissions and evidence, including those with direct lived experiences of the impacts of climate change.

The Government is taking tangible action to understand, manage and prepare for the risks and impacts of climate change. Victoria was one of the first jurisdictions in the world to introduce climate change legislation and has established world-leading targets for net zero emissions by 2045.

Victoria's Climate Change Strategy 2026-30 (Strategy), released in November 2025, sets the course for Victoria to continue reducing emissions and strengthening climate resilience over the next five years. The Strategy sets out the Government's climate action priorities to help households with the cost of living and lower costs for businesses, build jobs for the future, put jobs and workers first in the transition to net zero emissions, and protect Victoria's kids, families and communities. The Government is developing the next set of Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs) for 2027- 2031, guided by priorities set out in the Strategy.

The 2025/26 State Budget includes investments of \$264.2 million towards initiatives to respond to climate impacts and improve climate resilience and adaptation. There is \$17.3 million for Landcare and Coastcare volunteers to deliver environmental conservation and help address biodiversity loss. The Government is acting to improve water security in the context of climate-related impacts on

rainfall variability and weather patterns with \$3.8 million to supply water from Victoria's desalination plant for Melbourne, Geelong, South Gippsland and surrounding areas. Communities impacted by recent disaster events are being supported with \$75.8 million towards their recovery from the Western Victoria Bushfires in early 2025. The Government recognises that the impacts of climate change and extreme natural events will continue and is investing \$167.4 million in emergency management services to maintain and build the equipment, facilities and capabilities.

Most recently, new reforms since the Inquiry's Final Report have strengthened Victoria's planning and risk management frameworks. In October 2025, the Government established a risk-based approach to floodplain management with clear responsibilities between state and local authorities. These reforms are in response to the Government accepting key recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria, and to deliver on commitments in Plan for Victoria Action 19: to better communicate and manage flood, bushfire, and climate hazard risks. The reforms introduce a state-led, streamlined processes to implement new flood studies and flood-related planning and building requirements, with updated state floodplain management guidelines to be introduced from June 2026.

In addition, the Government has also progressed reforms to embed climate considerations across the planning and built environment. The Government has introduced nation-leading Minimum Energy Standards for rental homes, to help the approximately one-third of Victorians who rent lower their power bills, and improve the thermal comfort and healthiness of their homes. Amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* through the *Better Decisions Made Faster Bill 2025* will accelerate low-impact planning scheme amendments while ensuring land-use and development respond to climate change. Ministerial Direction No.22 specified climate-related matters that responsible authorities must consider when preparing planning scheme amendments. Other reforms include Amendment VC289 introducing canopy tree protections in planning schemes, and the 'Are you Covered?' insurance consumer awareness campaign to improve property owner's understanding of climate-related risks.

The Government recognises the increasing impacts of climate change and acknowledges that further work is needed to strengthen Victoria's resilience. It welcomes the Inquiry's findings and, in this response, outlines the progress made since the Final Report, the significant work already underway, and identifies targeted new initiatives that will further strengthen Victoria's climate resilience.


This document includes a summary in response to the main chapters and related themes set out in the Final Report, with detailed responses to each of the recommendations addressed to the Government set out in Appendix 1. Of these 80 recommendations:

- 37 are supported in full,
- 40 are supported in principle, and
- 3 are supported in part.

## CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS TO VICTORIA'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Victorian Government recognises the **significant and escalating risks that climate change poses to Victoria's built environment and infrastructure**. Drawing on the Victorian Climate Science Report 2024, the Built Environment Climate Change AAP 2022-2026 and extensive stakeholder engagement, the Inquiry's Final Report highlights the intensifying effects of rising temperatures, extreme heat, bushfires, storms, coastal hazards, inland flooding and drought. The Government recognises that much of Victoria's infrastructure was designed for historic climate conditions and that forward looking climate projections must increasingly guide planning, investment and decision-making to safeguard communities and essential assets.

The Government notes the Committee's analysis of Victoria's risk profiles and the cumulative, compounding and cascading nature of climate impacts. As identified in the Final Report, communities across Victoria are experiencing shorter intervals between disruptive events, slower recovery times and increasing pressure on localised infrastructure systems. The Government shares the Committee's view that strengthening climate resilience requires a focus on place-based adaptation, improved integration of climate data, projections and scenarios, and a shift from reactive responses to climate impacts towards more proactive planning and investments.



As part of Victoria's priorities for coastal resilience, the **Government has completed an updated Cape-to-Cape Resilience Plan** that incorporates the latest environmental data and storm-impact learnings along with extensive community input. The revised Plan was released on 25 December 2025 following final support from the Regional and Strategic Partnership agency partners. Further details are provided in the Appendix in the Government's response to Recommendation 1.

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO CLIMATE RISK: GOVERNING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Victorian Government acknowledges the Committee's review of **Victoria's legislative and policy landscape for governing climate risk and resilience** and the Committee's findings on the merits of a multi-level governance approach. The Government appreciates the crucial roles played by state agencies, local governments and the Commonwealth, and works closely to join up efforts to understand and address climate impacts. Since the Inquiry's Final Report was tabled in August 2025, the Commonwealth has released the National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan, which complement Victoria's Climate Science Report 2024 and AAPs. Victoria is working with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to implement the National Adaptation Plan via an action agenda to be developed by the end of 2026.

The Government further acknowledges that climate risk governance must continue to evolve in response to new scientific information and emerging hazards. Victoria's *Climate Action Act 2017* establishes requirements for the Government to prepare five-yearly Climate Science Reports, Climate Change Strategies, and AAPs, to ensure ongoing improvements in our response to climate change. Further details of the legislation and policy that guide climate action in Victoria are provided in the Appendix in response to relevant recommendations.

## KEY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO CLIMATE RISK: HOW TO ADAPT

Victoria's *Climate Action Act 2017* establishes legislative requirements to support **transparency and accountability for climate action**. The Government notes the Committee's findings about the importance of transparency and accountability for climate resilience, including to promote the visibility of investments made towards climate resilience and adaptation. The Government has embedded climate considerations in budget processes through the budget screening mechanism introduced in 2023/24 that continues to be reviewed and improved. The screening supports departments and agencies to identify and address climate-related implications of proposals through the budget process, including in relation to emissions and resilience.

As part of development the next set of AAPs for 2027-2031, the Government will explore options to **improve the monitoring, reporting and implementation of AAPs** consistent with the Committee's findings (Recommendation 2 and 9). These improvements will build on existing governance frameworks under the *Climate Action Act 2017* that require Ministers to publicly report on the implementation and effectiveness of AAPs.

The Inquiry highlights the importance of embedding First Nations knowledge and practices in Victoria's climate resilience efforts, alongside strengthening proactive bushfire risk reduction. The Government is committed to these principles, as reflected in its responses to Recommendations 6, 7 and 8. The Government response reinforces support for First Nations' land and fire management practices, including cultural burning, accredited training pathways and self-determined participation in adaptation planning, alongside a risk-based approach to fuel management and planned burning to protect communities and the built environment.

Since the Inquiry Final Report was released, the Government has **passed Treaty legislation and is preparing a response to the recommendations of the Yoorook Justice Commission**, to further strengthen how Traditional Owner knowledge, leadership and cultural authority are embedded across Victoria's climate governance and resilience efforts in line with Treaty outcomes.

Further details are provided in the Appendix in response to Recommendations 2 to 9.

## VICTORIA'S PLANNING AND BUILDING SYSTEMS

The Victorian Government acknowledges the Committee's findings on **the central role of Victoria's planning and building systems in supporting climate-resilient communities and infrastructure**.

The Government has delivered major reforms to strengthen statutory requirements for climate resilience via amendments to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and supporting mechanisms. The reforms embed climate considerations in Victoria's land-use and planning frameworks and establish clear expectations for planning authorities to consider emissions reduction targets and significant climate-related risks in planning requirements (Recommendations 10, 18 and 25).

The Government is committed to improving the responsiveness of the planning system to climate risks, including through reforms to floodplain management and land-use planning policy to establish a streamlined, state-led approach to preparing planning scheme amendments, ensuring communities have access to the latest flood risk information (Recommendation 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16). Updates to the Victoria Planning Provisions covering flood and landslide hazards, will support more consistent appraisal of climate risks across the state, complemented by the introduction of Ministerial Direction No. 22, which clarifies the climate-related matters responsible authorities must consider when preparing amendments under sections 12(2A) and 12A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (Recommendations 10, 14 and 18). The *Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025* seeks to ensure timely, proportionate pathways for low-risk amendments and permits, while additional resources and guidance will support local governments and the Minister for Planning to make climate-responsive decisions efficiently (see Recommendation 13, 23 and 25). Community engagement is being strengthened, particularly for hazard overlays, to improve transparency, trust, and local understanding of flood and climate risks (Recommendations 13, 14, 15 and 16).

The Government is also progressing initiatives to embed climate resilience and environmentally sustainable development into building and subdivision standards. The Government is implementing Stage 2 of the Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) Roadmap, which builds on reforms to the Townhouse and Low-Rise Code (VC267), Single Home Code, and forthcoming Mid-Rise Code, to support greener, cooler urban living and uptake of on-site renewable energy, while maintaining affordability (Recommendations 20, 22 and 26). Planning and guidance updates, including standards for tree canopy coverage and vegetation retention, further reinforce climate adaptation at precinct and subdivision levels (Recommendations 24 and 25). Victoria continues to engage with national efforts to harmonise building and housing standards, ensuring reforms align with broader objectives for climate-resilient and affordable housing (Recommendation 19).

The Government will continue to monitor and refine planning and building reforms to ensure they achieve intended outcomes for climate resilience, environmental sustainability, and liveability (Recommendations 22 and 26). By integrating updated planning provisions, building codes, and guidance tools with robust monitoring, targeted community engagement, and streamlined decision-making processes, Victoria is strengthening its capacity to respond to climate risks, while supporting sustainable development and protecting communities for the future.

Further details are provided in the Appendix in response to Recommendations 10 to 26.

## CHALLENGES TO ENSURING A RESILIENT BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Victorian Government acknowledges the significant **challenges local governments and communities face in strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure, energy, transport, telecommunications and local assets**, amid escalating climate impacts and in the context of the transition to a net zero and circular economy.

The Government will continue to work with councils and the Commonwealth on opportunities to support betterment and climate resilient upgrades through disaster recovery frameworks where there is strong evidence of future value (Recommendations 33, 38 and 39).

The Government recognises the critical role of communities in adaptation planning and delivery. Victoria is committed to community engagement in planning and infrastructure projects, including fast-tracked initiatives, with **strengthened state-led engagement occurring through recent flood plain management** (Recommendation 28). The Government will continue to consider timely temporary protections in high-risk coastal and hazard-prone areas in line with established frameworks and engineering advice (Recommendation 29). Work is also under way to **improve regulatory clarity and reduce duplication across planning and building systems**, including through reforms to the



*Planning and Environment Act 1987* and application of climate resilience requirements in building standards (Recommendations 36 and 37).

The Government is **working to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure systems, including energy, transport and telecommunications**. Major reviews are already completed, notably the Electricity Distribution Resilience Review in 2022 and the Network Outage Review in 2024. These reviews continue to guide reforms to improve energy network resilience, inform planning for transmission and distribution upgrades, and ensure accountability for resilience investment (Recommendation 31). Transport system adaptation continues to be advanced through the Transport Climate Change AAP and broader strategic planning and maintenance pipelines (Recommendation 32). The Government also supports stronger telecommunications resilience and is working with the Commonwealth and industry to drive policy reform, investment and improved connectivity in emergencies, alongside considering incorporating consideration of telecommunications infrastructure within future AAPs (Recommendations 34 and 35).

Victoria continues to drive the transition to a circular economy and recognises the importance of **planning for the end-of-life of renewable energy infrastructure**. Research, market analysis and national product stewardship efforts are under way to assess waste generation, identify recycling opportunities and inform investment pathways (Recommendation 30). The Government is working with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions on a national solar product stewardship scheme, whilst working collaboratively with industry in seeking opportunities to grow Victoria's local recycling capability for renewable energy technologies.

Further details are provided in the Appendix in response to Recommendations 27 to 39.

## ENHANCING THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF VICTORIA'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Victorian Government acknowledges the Committee's findings on the need for **stronger standards, smarter investments and more thorough application of climate data** to contribute to the ongoing safety, functionality and resilience of buildings and infrastructure.

For new buildings, the Government is working to ensure minimum standards reflect climate-resilient design. This includes advocacy for the National Construction Code (NCC) to incorporate up-to-date climate data and future climate projections, the integration of a 'climate resilience' objective, along with the Government adopting a new 7-Star Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) and the whole-of-home performance requirements for new residential construction (Recommendations 41 and 44).

For existing buildings and infrastructure, the Government is embedding climate resilience into asset and infrastructure management, and regulatory requirements. Initiatives such as the Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program, Victorian Energy Upgrades program, and Solar Homes program are improving the energy efficiency, liveability, and resilience of existing dwellings (Recommendations 40 and 49).

The Government is building the capability of asset and infrastructure managers by facilitating access to climate projections and information to inform investment decisions including through climate risk assessments and improving cost-benefit analysis for resilient reconstruction (Recommendations 47 and 48). Workforce training and collaboration with the building and construction industry will continue to enhance skills and innovations, supported by initiatives such as the Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy and the Melbourne Polytechnic Future of Housing Construction Centre of Excellence (Recommendations 50 and 51).

Further details are provided in the Appendix in response to Recommendations 40 to 51.

## ENHANCING CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GOVERNMENT

The Victorian Government acknowledges findings on **the importance of coordination and accountability for climate adaptation across all levels of government**. The Government continues to strengthen the legislative and policy frameworks that underpin climate action in Victoria. This includes actions within the Built Environment AAP, enhancing accountability and reporting



through the *Climate Action Act 2017* and *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, and embedding climate justice and equity considerations in planning and adaptation processes (Recommendations 52, 53, 55, 61 and 62). The Government has also published the second Victorian Government Climate-related Risk Disclosure Statement which updates investors, creditors and the public about the Government's approach to managing climate-related risks and opportunities (Recommendation 54)

Recognising **the critical role of communities and volunteers in climate resilience**, the Government is progressing initiatives to support inclusive participation in local resilience building action. This includes targeted programs to support youth engagement in emergency management, strengthen community capability, and provide dedicated support to vulnerable populations through social housing upgrades, energy efficiency programs, and mental health and wellbeing initiatives. Investments in community infrastructure and public awareness activities are being prioritised to ensure local governments and community organisations are well equipped to respond to climate hazards (Recommendations 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64 and 65).

The Government is focused on **enhancing the resilience of critical infrastructure**, including energy, water, telecommunications, and transport systems, through a combination of targeted investment, regulatory reform, and risk-based planning (Recommendations 66, 67, 68 and 69). Programs such as community microgrids, neighbourhood batteries, and water security initiatives are making a real difference to the safety and resilience of Victorian communities, alongside sector-specific approaches and national advocacy to strengthen operational preparedness and reduce vulnerability to climate impacts. Government investment decisions are increasingly being informed by climate risk assessments, evidence-based planning, and equitable allocation of resources.

To ensure **consistent, evidence-based decision making across sectors**, the Government is developing standardised methodologies, tools, and guidance for climate risk assessment and adaptation planning (Recommendations 70 and 71). This includes scenario selection guidance, hazard mapping, and consolidated online resources to support local governments, agencies, and the broader public sector. These measures will underpin statewide adaptation strategies, strengthen coordination across agencies, while embedding resilience, equity, and climate justice considerations in Victoria's long-term adaptation planning.

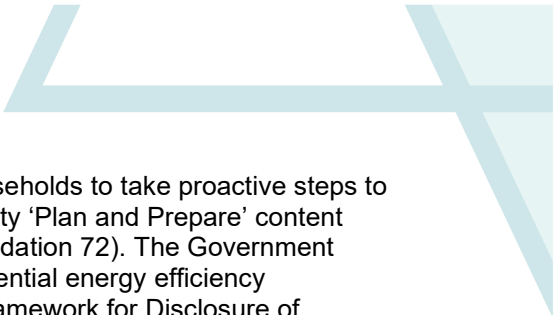
Further details are provided in the Appendix in response to Recommendations 52 to 71.

## ENHANCING CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS: WHAT CAN INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES DO

The Government acknowledges findings about **the vulnerability of Victoria's housing stock to climate change and the importance of strengthening household level resilience**, particularly for low-income households, renters, and those in high-risk areas. Existing homes, most of which were built before modern efficiency and resilience standards, leave many Victorians exposed to extreme heat, cold, bushfire, and flooding. The Government is improving access to information to households to understand exposure to bushfire and flood risks, delivering programs and reforms to improve home energy efficiency, electrification, and resilience, and working with the construction and building industry to enhance climate preparedness and resilience.

The Victorian Energy Upgrades, Solar Homes, and the Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program will deliver tens of thousands of home upgrades by 2027 including insulation, draught-proofing, heat pumps, and electric heating and cooling in public and community housing. The Government is ensuring that minimum standards and regulatory reforms provide tangible benefits for households. From March 2027, **new minimum energy efficiency standards for rental properties, including social housing**, will require ceiling insulation, draught-proofing, low-flow showerheads, and end-of-life electrification of gas appliances. These standards, combined with programs such as the Residential Electrification Grants and Solar for Apartments, will reduce energy bills, improve thermal comfort and health outcomes, and help renters and lower income households better withstand extreme weather events. Landlords will continue to have access to Victorian Energy Upgrades discounts to support compliance with the new standards and improve energy efficiency in their rental properties (Recommendations 75, 77, and 78).

The Government is committed to improving transparency and access to information for households to better understand their exposure to natural disaster risk, particularly bushfire and flood. Natural hazard information and guidance are maintained and enhanced by agencies including the Country



Fire Authority and Victoria State Emergency Service, supporting households to take proactive steps to mitigate climate risks through resources such as Country Fire Authority 'Plan and Prepare' content and Victoria State Emergency Service local flood guides (Recommendation 72). The Government supports Commonwealth led initiatives to improve disclosure of residential energy efficiency information, including support for the Commonwealth-led National Framework for Disclosure of Residential Energy Efficiency Information and ongoing Home Energy Rating trials (Recommendation 74). Natural hazard information and guidance are being maintained and enhanced by agencies including the Country Fire Authority and Victorian State Emergency Service, helping households take proactive steps to mitigate climate risks (Recommendation 72). The Government will continue to investigate options to support individual property assessments in areas vulnerable to natural disasters and to support coordinated approaches such as Multi-Hazard Resilience Ratings Scheme (Recommendations 72 and 76).

The Government is **investing in the education and upskilling of designers, builders, assessors, and tradespeople to upskill the building and construction industry** and support delivery of resilient, high-performing homes to support individual and community level resilience. This includes implementing the NatHERS whole-of-home scheme and 7-Star requirements, as well as electrification and energy efficiency initiatives through programs delivered through Sustainability Victoria, Solar Victoria, and the Building and Plumbing Commission. The Government is providing pathways into careers in retrofitting, energy management, and energy efficiency through the Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy (Recommendations 73 and 80).

Further details are provided in the Appendix in response to Recommendations 72 to 80.

## FURTHER AREAS OF INQUIRY INTO CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION

The Victorian Government acknowledges the Committee's findings on the need for further inquiry into the cross-system impacts of climate change, including **implications for biodiversity, human health, primary production, and industry** in Victoria. The Inquiry's Final Report highlights the importance of clear information and consistent guidance to support councils and communities as they navigate complex decisions relating to climate change, resilience and adaptation including in relation to land use and planning, building and design. Victoria's *Climate Action Act 2017* requires systematic, sector-based consideration of climate impacts and adaptation priorities, with each of the seven AAPs required to identify system-specific hazards, vulnerabilities, and adaptation actions. The Government is committed to continuously **improving the development and implementation of AAPs to incorporate updated climate data and evidence**, while continuing to strengthen partnerships with local governments and regional bodies (Recommendation 81).

Further actions being undertaken include to provide guidance and communication frameworks for councils to engage with communities affected by climate-related rezoning or managed retreat. Targeted coastal adaptation programs, such as the Victoria Resilient Coast Program, Cape-to-Cape Resilience Project, and Adapt West Program, provide grants, capacity building, strategic planning support, and community engagement strategies across 25 coastal hazard projects. Complementing these efforts, statewide guidance on managed transition (retreat) for coastal and marine areas is being developed, supported by the Australian Government's Disaster Resilience Fund. These initiatives are consistent with the Built Environment AAP, equipping councils and communities with the tools and resources needed to make informed, equitable, and sustainable adaptation decisions.

Further details are provided in the Appendix in response to Recommendations 81 and 82.

## APPENDIX 1 – GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government Response has been prepared in accordance with the Victorian Government's 'Guidelines for Victorian Government Submissions and Responses to Inquiries' with five categories of response:

- Support in full - All elements of the recommendation are supported.
- Support in part - Some elements of the recommendation are supported.
- Support in principle - The Victorian Government generally supports the intent or merit of the policy underlining the recommendation but does not necessarily support the method for achieving the policy.
- Under review - Further analysis is required for the Victorian Government to determine its position.
- Not support - The Victorian Government does not support the recommendation.

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
<b>Climate change risks to Victoria's built environment and infrastructure</b>				
1	That the Victorian Government urgently revise the Cape to Cape Resilience Plan to incorporate updated environmental data, recent storm impacts, and local stakeholder input and include short-term engineered protection options alongside longer-term adaptation strategies.	Support in full	<p>The recommendation is supported in full, noting this work has been completed.</p> <p>Following the public consultation period from 23 August to 13 October 2024, the Cape to Cape Resilience Plan (the Plan) was updated based on feedback received. The Plan and supporting materials now incorporate updated environmental data and recent storm impacts, local stakeholder input, and additional options for short-term engineered protection at Inverloch surf beach. The revised Plan was released on 25 December 2025 following final support from the Regional and Strategic Partnership agency partners.</p> <p>Initial on-ground actions in the Plan for Inverloch surf beach are progressing, including repair and upgrades to the geo-bag seawall (late 2025) and major dune reconstruction and beach nourishment (early 2026). Further detail is available on the project website: <a href="#">Cape to Cape Resilience Project</a>.</p> <p>The Cape to Cape Resilience Project advances the Built and Natural Environment AAP objectives, including addressing coastal inundation, sea level rise and erosion risks and adaptation opportunities, planning for long-term community responses to support adaptation, resilience and transition, and delivering on place-based adaptation actions.</p>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
<b>Key government responses to climate risk: how to adapt</b>				
2	That the Victorian Government provide regular, consolidated, and publicly accessible updates on their progress for all climate Adaptation Action Plans. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• development, with key stakeholders, of a set of performance indicators to assess the</li> </ul>	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance of transparently demonstrating progress implementing AAPs to maintain public confidence in Victoria's climate resilience efforts and supports the continuous improvement of updates to the public.</p> <p>The <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i> requires AAPs to be produced every five years given the ongoing need to adapt as the climate continues to change. Public reporting is embedded in the 5-year AAP cycle, with the Act requiring ministers nominated to prepare an AAP to include a report on the implementation and effectiveness of their current AAP in the next plan they prepare. Reports for the current AAPs</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	<p>implementation of Adaptation Action Plans;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Secretary of DEECA being required to monitor and report on all Adaptation Action Plans and related;</li> <li>• annual publication of the results of the assessment and monitoring of Adaptation Action Plans.</li> </ul>		<p>(2022-2026) will be published with the second set of AAPs (2027-2031) to be prepared by 31 October 2026.</p> <p>Interim progress updates and actions taken to implement the plans are published by those departments responsible for AAPs in their Financial and Performance Outcomes Questionnaire to the <u>Public Accounts and Estimates Committee</u>.</p> <p>As the next set of AAPs (2027-2031) are prepared, the Victorian Government will explore options to improve and streamline public reporting about AAP implementation taking into account the findings of this Inquiry.</p>	
3	<p>That the Victorian Government implement a transparent funding framework that explicitly identifies and tracks budget allocations for climate resilience and adaptation initiatives across all relevant departments and programs. This tracking should be reported in updates on Victoria's progress in implementing the Climate Change Strategy.</p>	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government acknowledges that understanding funding for resilience activities can be challenging and would be assisted by clear attribution.</p> <p>The Government is embedding climate considerations in budget processes and investment decisions.</p> <p>In 2023/24, the Government introduced a budget screening process that requires the emissions and climate resilience impacts of budget proposals to be identified in budget bids. The screening process supports the Government to consider climate action implications of all proposed budget initiatives and can influence final decisions regarding how funding is allocated.</p> <p>The Government will continue to review and improve these initiatives to guide and track investments in climate action, including resilience and adaptation.</p> <p>Coordination at all levels of government is important, and the Government will continue to engage with the Adaptation Working Group under the Commonwealth's Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council to identify and pursue best practice approaches to the design and implementation of adaptation initiatives, including appropriate funding.</p> <p>The Climate Action Act 2017 sets out a five-yearly policy planning and reporting cycle and requires that AAPs include a report on the implementation and effectiveness of any previous plans.</p> <p>Further, the Government prepares a whole-of-Victorian Government (WoVG) climate-related disclosure statement at regular intervals. The first statement was</p>	Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF), DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			published in 2022 and was the first of its kind in Australia, with the second statement released in October 2025. The statement sets out the Government's approach to understanding and managing climate-related risks and opportunities in Victoria. The second disclosure statement demonstrates improvements in the Government's understanding of the economic and fiscal impacts of climate change, and entity-level climate risk management, whilst further aligning with emerging international and Australian accounting standards.	
4	That the Victorian Government update the Asset Management Accountability Framework to include climate resilience as a consideration. Alongside this, it should develop resources to equip agencies with the necessary tools, funding, and expertise to safeguard infrastructure against future environmental challenges.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government is supportive of the intent, noting that significant funding is already provided to maintain assets, adapting for climate resilience is a matter of prioritising current asset management practices, and that asset owners would be expected to shift their strategic and operational approach to acquit this recommendation. Where costs are prohibitive to reprioritise existing asset management budgets, additional funding would be the subject of future budgets.</p> <p>Future revisions of the Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF) will consider more targeted sustainability and climate resilience provisions to assist asset owners in planning and managing infrastructure.</p>	DTF
5	That this Committee invites the Victorian Auditor-General to review the Government's implementation of Adaptation Action Plans and Climate Change Strategies to assess whether they are achieving their aims and objectives.	N/A	N/A	VAGO
6	That the Victorian Government ensure First Nations land management practices are firmly embedded in climate resilience efforts, including adaptation plans.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance of First Nations practices to care for Country and supports self-determination including by embedding First Nations land management practices in climate resilience efforts.</p> <p>Traditional Owners Land Management Boards help to ensure joint management of public land. To date the Victorian Government has funded three Joint Land</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>Management Plans for parks and reserves in East Gippsland, Central Victoria, and Barmah National Parks.</p> <p>The Government has embedded First Nations land management practices in the 2022-26 Water Cycle AAP, with grants provided to 15 Registered Aboriginal Parties and non-Registered Aboriginal Party groups to enable self-determined participation in updating the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy. This has helped embed climate adaptation into the management of rivers, estuaries and wetlands across the state. In addition, 14 Integrated Water Management grants were provided to Traditional Owner groups between 2020 and 2024 through the Traditional Owner stream of DEECA's Integrated Water Management Program. Support has also been provided for a trial watering of the Durdidwarrah wetland by the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.</p> <p>The 2022-2026 Natural Environment AAP included the design and trial of adaptation pathways guidance that has been applied in the Otway's Resilient Forests Project, in a partnership between DEECA, the Conservation Ecology Centre and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and a wide range of regional stakeholders.</p> <p>As part of the BushBank program, the Victorian Government allocated \$14.5 million in grants to support Traditional Owners projects designed to address biodiversity loss and climate change, and to enable Traditional Owners to participate in healing Country and carbon markets. An example is the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation's Carbon Farming Project in Beech-Forrest where more than 100 hectares will be reforested as a carbon credit project.</p> <p>The 2025 update of Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land includes the objective of Aboriginal Self-Determination in cultural fire and bushfire management, which will enable the continued incorporation of Traditional Owner knowledge and practice into the overall approach to integrated land and fire management.</p> <p>The Government continues to support the Yoorrook Justice Commission's goals of truth and justice. Yoorrook for Transformation contains 100 recommendations, with a range that intersects climate change and land management issues. The Government is considering the Commission's findings and recommendations</p>	



Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			before delivering a formal response, and will engage with the First People's Assembly in line with the Statewide Treaty and any subsequent Traditional Owners Treaties.	
7	That the Victorian Government mitigate the impact of bushfire on the built environment by appropriately using strategic fuel reduction and planned burns, and fuel load removal to better manage fuel loads.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the significant threat climate change poses to communities, the economy and the environment through more frequent and severe bushfire emergencies. The Government manages bushfire risk through a wide range of interventions, including planned burning, mechanical fuel treatment, construction of strategic fuel breaks, community education, compliance patrols, and rapid first attack to bring bushfires under control while they are still small.</p> <p>Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy, released in 2024, identifies 7 outcomes that Victoria will work towards over the next 10 years, including using the best available science, innovation and knowledge to support evidence-based decisions, and the sector, land managers, communities and industry working together effectively and sharing responsibility for managing bushfire risk across private and public land. The Strategy is supported by a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework to measure progress towards delivering the strategy and to continuously learn and adjust our approach based on evidence.</p> <p>Victoria's risk-based approach to bushfire management means the resources the Government invests in bushfire management are directed where they will have the greatest impact in keeping Victorians safe and protecting the environment. Over the past decade, despite planned burning accounting for only 37 per cent of the total area burnt (compared to 63 per cent burnt by bushfires), planned burning accounted for 62 per cent of the total modelled fuel-driven bushfire risk reduction across Victoria, compared to 38 per cent from bushfires.</p> <p>Importantly, our approach, as outlined in Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy, is underpinned by shared responsibility and brings together land and fire agencies, councils, landowners, and the community to work together to manage bushfire risk.</p>	DEECA
8	That the Victorian Government work with First Nations communities to support First	Support in part	The Victorian Government strongly supports First Nations fire management practices with FFMVic actively partnering with Traditional Owners in the delivery of planned burning on public land, including cultural fire, cultural and bushfire	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	Nations fire management practices, through accredited training programs, to upskill individuals on topics including Indigenous land, fire, and water management and incorporate insurance for cultural burning activities.		<p>suppression activities where appropriate arrangements are in place. This includes the provision of accredited fire training to enable Traditional Owners to participate in fire-related activities.</p> <p>Government is providing Traditional Owners with ongoing funding for self-determined activities to implement cultural fire and care for Country. Activities can include the payment for staff and members to attend accredited training programs.</p> <p>Under current arrangements, organisations including Traditional Owner groups are required to hold their own insurance to participate in planned burning, including where Traditional Owners deliver cultural burning activities. As a result, Government is unable to support the recommendation to incorporate insurance for cultural burn activities. However, Government acknowledges the challenge this presents and is actively exploring potential pathways to better support Traditional Owners in meeting these insurance requirements.</p>	
9	That the Victorian Government review climate governance and oversight mechanisms, including consideration of establishing an independent oversight body, to ensure clear lines of responsibility and accountability for monitoring and implementation of climate resilience strategies.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government acknowledges the Inquiry findings and supports clear lines of responsibility and accountability for monitoring and implementing commitments to build climate resilience including AAPs.</p> <p>Responsibility for implementing and monitoring AAPs is defined in the <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i> with those ministers nominated to prepare AAPs required to report on the implementation and effectiveness of the current plan in the next AAP they prepare. In addition, departments responsible for AAPs provide public updates on progress in their Financial and Performance Outcomes Questionnaire to the <u>Public Accounts and Estimates Committee</u>.</p> <p>The Government will explore options to improve and streamline the monitoring of AAP implementation as part of the development of the 2027-2031 AAPs (see the response to recommendation 2).</p> <p>The Government will consider the creation of an independent oversight body, but notes that the Act enshrines the consideration of climate change in Government decisions and in relevant policies, programs and processes, thereby placing the onus on relevant areas of government to implement and monitor adaptation actions, and that keeping accountability for governance and oversight with the</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			relevant agencies and Ministers has benefits that an independent oversight body would not have.	
<b>Victoria's planning and building systems</b>				
10	<p>That the Victorian Government, through collaboration with key planning stakeholders including councils, improve the consistency of how climate resilience is considered in planning processes at the state government level. This should include considering the need for actions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing a clear statewide framework for addressing climate risks</li> <li>• developing practice notes or guidelines for adaptation which establish clear links between the <i>Climate Change Act 2017</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic).</li> </ul>	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government supports this recommendation in full, noting the importance of clear standards and guidance to support consistent decision making given the challenges posed by climate change.</p> <p>The Victorian planning system, including the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP), implement a broad range of government policies, including climate change, as relevant to land use and development in the built and natural environment. The VPP is a state planning tool kit containing planning policy, strategy and statutory tools on which local planning schemes must be based and updated. The VPP and associated guidelines are reviewed and updated to implement government policy as required.</p> <p>Amendments to the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> made by the <i>Climate Change and Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Energy and Storage Targets) Act 2024</i> (Climate Change Amendment Act) came into effect on 26 March 2025. The updates made two significant changes to support greater consideration of climate change in the planning system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new objective of the planning framework for climate policies and obligations, including consideration of greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and increasing climate change resilience when making decision about the use and development of land at all levels of planning. This is in addition to the existing climate change purpose in the VPP; and</li> <li>• a new requirement that specifies that emissions reduction targets and any significant risk that arises from or is likely to arise from the impact of climate change must be considered by a planning authority when preparing a planning scheme or planning scheme amendment.</li> </ul> <p>On 11 September 2025, the Minister for Planning issued Ministerial Direction No 22 Climate Change Consideration that sets out the scope of responses and what must be considered under the new requirement. These changes were</p>	Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			informed by consultation with peak building, housing and planning bodies, and local councils. The Ministerial Direction is supported by guidance and other supporting resource materials to assist planning authorities respond to it. Further information can be found on <a href="#">DTP's webpage</a> .	
11	That the Victorian Government undertake a review of the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) to specifically examine climate resilience including compliance measures.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government endorses updates to planning standards to support local planning decisions and supports this recommendation in full. The Government works closely with relevant agencies to ensure the VPP and planning schemes reflect current climate resilience policy.</p> <p>For example, on 3 October 2025, the Government announced major changes to how flood risk is planned for and managed in Victoria. The changes will ensure a state-led approach to implementing planning scheme amendments and ensuring communities have the latest flood risk information to help guide appropriate development in flood prone areas.</p> <p>The Government will work with catchment management authorities to implement reforms to the flood-related planning provisions in the VPP and progressively update planning schemes over the next two years with the new planning provisions. State planning responses to climate change will continue to be reviewed and updated consistently with best available science and Victorian Government policy.</p>	DTP
12	That the Victorian Government develop a consistent set of engineering assumptions and modelling standards in relation to climate resilience for overlays.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance of effectively addressing and managing climate risk in new land use and development decisions. The application of land management planning overlays is typically informed by mapping methodology and criteria drawn from national standards. These standards each respond to different hazard types and include variable and fit-for-purpose climate change modelling assumptions.</p> <p>For example, the <i>Australian Rainfall and Runoff: A Guide to Flood Estimation</i> is a national guideline for identifying flood risk. It includes a chapter on climate change considerations outlining how to adjust design flood engineering assumptions and modelling standards to account for increased rainfall due to climate change. Victorian Government agencies implement these standards in preparing new flood studies and planning scheme amendments through flood-related zones</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			and overlay controls. The Government has announced reforms in October 2025 to introduce a state-led, streamlined process to implement new flood studies and flood-related planning and building requirements, with updated state floodplain management guidelines to be introduced from June 2026.	
13	That the Victorian Government work with local governments to expedite the approval process for planning scheme amendments or permits that support greater climate resilience.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government is undertaking a comprehensive reform program to expedite approval processes and supports this recommendation in full.</p> <p>The Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 was introduced to Parliament on 28 November 2025. The Bill will make amendments to the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> to establish clear pathways for planning permits and planning scheme amendments that are proportionate to complexity, risk and the potential impacts of projects. This will allow lower impact amendments and permits to be processed and approved faster, making it more efficient and cost effective for councils.</p> <p>The Government works with local government to ensure planning schemes reflect current climate resilience policy.</p> <p>For example, the Government's announced flood planning reforms will establish a streamlined, state-led planning scheme amendment process to integrate new flood study outputs and mapping into planning schemes. The reforms adopt a similar approach to state bushfire planning.</p> <p>Melbourne Water and regional catchment management authorities will be responsible for preparing and endorsing flood mapping and engaging with communities on proposed flood-related planning scheme amendments.</p> <p>The Minister for Planning will be responsible for implementing these flood-related planning schemes in local planning schemes.</p> <p>The new state-led amendment process will expedite timeframes for implementing climate-responsive flood study outputs into planning schemes and reduce the cost and administrative burden for local councils.</p>	DTP
14	That the Victorian Government ensure adequate resources are	Support in full	The Ministerial Direction No 22 Climate Change Consideration is supported by tools and guidance to assist planning authorities prepare and evaluate a new	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	provided so that the Minister for Planning and relevant government departments can facilitate timely and responsive decision-making with respect to climate change responses, including development and/or approval of climate-related planning scheme amendments.		<p>planning scheme or planning scheme amendment to satisfy section 12(2A) of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>. These are available on DTP's webpage and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• climate change consideration guidelines to support compliance with the Ministerial Direction;</li> <li>• climate change consideration report template to assist in documenting an assessment against the Ministerial Direction; and</li> <li>• climate change policy and resources document listing relevant government policy, VPP clauses and resources.</li> </ul> <p>The Ministerial Direction, guidance and supporting material will be updated as new tools, further evidence or information becomes available to inform decision making.</p> <p>Planning authorities can also use existing climate change guidance materials and tools, such as <a href="#">Victoria's Future Climate tool</a>, to better understand climate risks.</p> <p>The Government will work with catchment management authorities to support implementation of the Government's announced flood reforms and provide appropriate resources to ensure the development and implementation of related-flood planning scheme amendments are facilitated in a timely and effective manner.</p>	
15	That the Victorian Government work with local governments to foster community involvement in overlay updates to improve transparency and public trust in the system. This could be achieved by actions such as targeted public education campaigns to explain the purpose, benefits, and necessity of land overlays, reducing	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the value and importance of local knowledge to inform planning processes, such as the application of new overlays.</p> <p>The flood planning reforms announced by the Government propose a similar state-led approach to bushfire, to ensure that flood risk information is expedited into the planning system. Communities and landholders can then make better informed decisions about their flood risk and that this information is taken into consideration in land use and development decisions in a timely manner.</p> <p>Catchment management authorities will lead community engagement of flood mapping and planning scheme amendments. This will deliver improved and integrated engagement, and community understanding of flood risk including by:</p>	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	resistance and frustration with the planning process.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>removing the double-handling of information that occurred through separate flood study and planning scheme amendment engagement processes; and</li> <li>enabling faster decisions by streamlining decisions to help better meet community needs and expectations in communicating flood risk.</li> </ul>	
16	That the Victorian Government engage local government stakeholders and investigate the feasibility of establishing a centralised approach to updating flood modelling across the state, with a particular focus on ensuring the timely integration of modelling outcomes into planning schemes to reflect current and future flood risks driven by climate change.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government announced on Friday 3 October 2025 a series of priority reforms to strengthen floodplain management and land use planning policy which will acquit this recommendation. This is in response to the Government accepting key recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 floods, and to deliver on commitments in Plan for Victoria Action 19: better communicate and manage flood, bushfire, and climate hazard risks.</p> <p>The priority reforms include aligning accountabilities statewide to make floodplain management authorities responsible for preparing and endorsing flood mapping; and the State via the Minister for Planning responsible for flood-related planning scheme amendments, consistent with the approach to bushfire planning.</p> <p>These reforms will centralise a regional approach to prepare flood models, to ensure catchment-level coordination and effective local engagement; and to centralise a state approach to flood-related planning and building amendments with streamlined administrative processes.</p> <p>This recommendation also aligns with Water Cycle AAP Action 7 – recognising the important interfaces between the water cycle and built environment AAPs, the water cycle system will support the built environment system to reflect fit-for-purpose flood risk data across relevant planning mechanisms.</p>	DEECA
17	That the Victorian Government provide an update on the outcome of its review of Recommendations 13, 15, 16, 35, 48 and 51 in the Final Report on the Inquiry into the 2022 flood event in Victoria and the current	Support in principle	<p>As outlined in the Government Response to the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria, published in February 2025, the government continues to review these recommendations, and there is no further update to these recommendations at this time.</p> <p>Any potential investment associated with these recommendations remains subject to the Victorian Government's standard budgetary and prioritisation processes.</p>	Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), Victorian State Emergency Services (VICSES), DTP



Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	status of implementing the remaining recommendations, and the funding allocated in the state budget to implement recommendations.		The Government continues to consider these matters within the broader context of strategic planning and available resourcing.	
18	That the Victorian Government ensure that Ministerial directions under the new Section 12A of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> are urgently issued so that planning decisions are clear on how they account for emissions reductions and climate impacts, including for planning scheme amendments to rezone for the next 50 activity centres identified in Plan for Victoria.	Support in full	The Minister for Planning issued new Ministerial Direction No 22 Climate Change Consideration on 11 September 2025 under section 12A of the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> .	DTP
19	That the Victorian Government work with other jurisdictions to support a nationally consistent approach to climate resilience in the housing sector that supports both climate resilience and housing affordability.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the benefits of a harmonised approach to climate resilience to avoid duplication and help avoid or minimise future costs to households in affected areas due to the impact of natural disasters.</p> <p>The Government notes the Commonwealth announced in August 2025 that it would work with states and territories to pause future changes to the National Construction Code (NCC) until the end of the National Housing Accord period in mid-2029. During the pause period, no changes to residential standards in the NCC except for essential quality and safety changes will be introduced.</p> <p>The Victorian planning system will continue to deliver its important residential reforms, given its role in ensuring climate resilience for new housing and to support affordable housing.</p> <p>Victoria's residential planning provisions have been updated to build more liveable and sustainable homes. The Townhouse and Low-Rise Code, the Single Home Code and the forthcoming Mid-Rise Code support affordability, efficient</p>	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			decision making and updated standards that contribute to greener and cooler homes and neighbourhoods.	
20	That the Victorian Government expedite the implementation of Stage Two of the Environmentally Sustainable Development Roadmap.	Support in full	<p>Both the planning and building systems have an important role in supporting environmentally sustainable development. The Government continues to work with the Municipal Association of Victoria and councils on the implementation of the Government's <i>Environmentally sustainable development of buildings and subdivisions: A roadmap for Victoria's planning system</i> (ESD Roadmap).</p> <p>The Government has delivered Stage 1 of the reforms and is progressing its commitment to implement the Stage 2 reforms of the ESD Roadmap. Key elements of the ESD Roadmap are included in the Plan for Victoria (2025) implementation plan.</p>	DTP
21	That the Victorian Government review and update the Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) and related engineering standards to reflect projected climate conditions, including increased rainfall intensity, prolonged droughts, and more frequent extreme weather events.	Support in principle	<p>The Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) is a document owned by an association of 45 Victorian local governments and has been in publication since 2007. It has undergone several updates, including the inclusion of sustainable infrastructure guidelines in 2020.</p> <p>The Victorian Government has previously provided funding to support the establishment of ongoing governance arrangements for the IDM in 2010. Since then, the IDM has grown and evolved under the auspices of the 45 council members. Inclusion of any new or updated requirements into the IDM is for these member local governments to determine collectively.</p>	Department of Government Services (DGS)
22	That the Victorian Government monitor the impact of the new townhouse and low-rise code (VC267) on the application of Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) standards, and revise and improve any deficiencies that are identified with the application of the new code.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government supports this recommendation in full as these standards are an important part of enhancing community well-being and reducing the cost of living.</p> <p>The Government will monitor the operation of clause 55 (Townhouse and Low-Rise Code) and consider feedback from stakeholders before deciding whether any changes are necessary.</p> <p>Both the planning and building systems have an important role in supporting environmentally sustainable development. The Government continues to work</p>	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			with the Municipal Association of Victoria and councils on the implementation of the Government's ESD Roadmap and Plan for Victoria.	
23	That the Victorian Government review the Victoria Planning Provisions and <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> to ensure that climate adaptation considerations are embedded in the planning stage at a precinct level, as well as individual buildings.	Support in full	<p>The Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 proposes a new objective for the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (PE Act): 'to ensure development and use of land is planned and designed to respond and adapt to climate change'. Section 60 of the Act requires responsible authorities to consider this objective before deciding on planning permit applications, including applications for subdivision, where relevant.</p> <p>When preparing an amendment to a planning scheme, Section 12(2A) of the PE Act (as amended by the <i>Climate Change and Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Energy and Storage Targets Act 2024)</i> requires a planning authority to have regard to emissions reductions targets and to significant risk that may affect future use and development envisaged by that amendment. This ensures that climate change adaptation is embedded in the planning scheme at the precinct-level.</p>	DTP
24	That the Victorian Government provide clear guidance within the planning system regarding tree canopy coverage and vegetation, with a view to retaining existing canopy trees and vegetation where possible, and achieving at least 30 per cent tree canopy coverage as outlined in Plan for Victoria.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government supports this recommendation in full, recognising that attaining this target is a long-term objective.</p> <p>Amendment VC289 introduced clause 52.37 (Canopy trees) to all planning schemes on 15 September 2025 to require a planning permit to remove, destroy or lop a canopy tree in specific circumstances. The amendment supports part of the implementation of Action 12 of Plan for Victoria to protect and enhance canopy trees. Further details about clause 52.37 and related guidance can be found on the <a href="#">DTP webpage</a>.</p>	DTP
25	That the Victorian Government review the Victoria Planning Provisions and <i>Planning and Environment Act</i> to ensure that climate mitigation is embedded in the planning stage at a	Support in full	The Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 proposes a new objective for the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (PE Act): 'to ensure development and use of land is planned and designed to respond and adapt to climate change'. Section 60 of the Act requires responsible authorities to consider this objective before deciding on planning permit applications, including applications for subdivision, where relevant.	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	precinct and subdivision level, as well as for individual buildings.		When preparing an amendment to a planning scheme, Section 12(2A) of the PE Act (as amended by the <i>Climate Change and Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Energy and Storage Targets) Act 2024</i> ) requires a planning authority to have regard to emissions reductions targets and to significant climate-related risks that may affect future use and development envisaged by that amendment. This ensures that consideration of Victoria's emission reduction targets is embedded in the planning scheme at the precinct-level.	
26	That the Victorian Government continue to monitor the impact of recent amendments to the Victorian Planning Provisions, especially VC267, in relation to Environmentally Sustainable Design, and revise as required to ensure the reforms are working as intended.	Support in full	<p>As with all planning reforms and the VPP provisions, the Government will monitor how effectively they are being implemented by responsible authorities, to ensure the reforms are being applied consistently and achieve their intent.</p> <p>The Government has implemented a range of monitoring and reporting measures and continues to implement a work program of improvements to identify new datasets and metrics to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of Victoria's planning system and state planning policies.</p>	DTP
<b>Challenges to ensuring a resilient built environment</b>				
27	That the Victorian Government explore options for diversifying funding streams for local councils to adapt important public infrastructure to be more climate resilient, including considering providing financial incentives for private investment in resilient infrastructure.	Support in principle	<p>There is a range of State Government funding programs for local government, often with specific or dedicated purposes and criteria aligned with respective portfolios.</p> <p>Programs focussed on infrastructure may include provisions for climate resilient infrastructure, noting that this imperative will vary depending on the municipality or region an activity is situated. This may include incentives for investments by third parties as appropriate.</p>	DGS
28	That the Victorian Government, in collaboration with local councils, ensure consistent community engagement across all projects, including fast-tracked developments, to	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports this recommendation in principle because consultation as part of the development and implementation of initiatives contributes to better outcomes.</p> <p>The Government generally consults local government, communities and peak bodies on projects, including through <a href="#">Engage Victoria</a>. Guidance is also published</p>	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	prevent communities from being left behind. This should include clear communication strategies, targeted support, and funding for local councils to lead adaptation initiatives.		<p>to support changes to the VPP. This information is accessible through the <a href="#">DTP website</a>.</p> <p>For example, the Government consulted with local government and industry during development of Ministerial Direction No. 22 Climate Change Consideration and its associated guidance.</p> <p>On 3 October 2025, the Government announced major changes to floodplain management in Victoria. These reforms include a streamlined engagement process with local government and communities, to be led by catchment management authorities. The state-led approach will ensure consistent application of the state's climate change adaptation policies and requirements in development decisions.</p> <p>In addition to changes made by the <i>Climate Change and Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Energy and Storage Targets) Act 2024</i>, the Government has reviewed the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> to improve its transparency and efficiency. Changes that came into operation on 25 November 2025 include improvements to support timely amendments to planning schemes, review of submissions to proposed amendments and planning permits.</p>	
29	That the Victoria Government initiate temporary protection works at high-risk locations while longer-term adaptation strategies are developed in partnership with local communities.	Support in principle	<p>Temporary coastal protection works are undertaken on advice from a registered civil engineer to protect infrastructure and community safety whilst further engineering advice is sought to investigate and design a longer-term solution that uses an adaptation pathways approach in accordance with the Victoria's Resilient Coast Guidelines (DEECA 2023).</p> <p>Temporary coastal protection works have recently been successfully implemented at Torquay and Silverleaves. Supporting this recommendation is in accordance with the Victorian Government Risk Management Framework (VGRMF) and Victoria's Resilient Coast Guidelines (DEECA 2023).</p> <p>In some circumstances temporary coastal protection measures can increase coastal erosion at other parts of the site or at adjacent locations and therefore requires careful assessment, monitoring and management.</p> <p>Implementing this recommendation is subject to funding availability.</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
30	That the Victorian Government investigate and report to Parliament on the end-of-life of renewable energy products including wind turbines, solar panels and batteries and opportunities for recycling within Australia.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the economic opportunity of the circular economy and undertakes a variety of activities to support and enable recycling of renewable energy technologies.</p> <p>The Victorian Government publishes the Circular Economy Market Report every two years, which identifies investment opportunities in the waste and recycling sector. It highlights key opportunities, gaps and issues, to improve circularity for major and emerging material streams. In the most recent <u>report</u>, renewable energy technologies were identified as emerging material streams presenting recycling opportunities.</p> <p>Sustainability Victoria has forecast waste generation associated with renewable energy assets in Victoria, including solar photovoltaic panels, wind turbines, batteries and electric vehicles. This research will be published to inform investment decisions by both energy and recycling businesses.</p> <p>The Victorian Government supports establishing strong stewardship arrangements for solar panels to improve recycling and material recovery. Victoria is working with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions on a national solar product stewardship scheme. At the August 2025 Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council meeting, Ministers agreed that NSW will lead the development of a regulatory impact statement, while the Commonwealth will work with states and territories to proof a national product stewardship scheme with progress to be reported in early 2026.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will continue work with industry to understand emerging opportunities to grow our local recycling capability and realise more value from renewable energy technologies.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will also continue identify opportunities for the growth of a local recycling industry for renewable energy technologies. This includes an increased focus on recycling and reuse investment opportunities in Victoria's Renewable Energy Investment Prospectus, which is updated on an annual basis.</p>	DEECA
31	That the Victorian Government undertake a review of the resilience and sustainability of	Support in principle	The Victorian Government agrees with the intent and merit of the policy underlining this recommendation but notes that multiple reviews have been completed in recent years on the resilience of Victoria's distribution and	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	Victoria's energy generation and associated transmission, distribution and storage networks, including an assessment of impacts on agriculture and manufacturing.		<p>transmission networks, notably the Electricity Distribution Resilience Review in 2022 and the Network Outage Review in 2024. The Government continues to implement findings from these reviews. Reforms have also been made requiring Electricity Distribution Networks to develop, publish and be held accountable for investments to improve energy resilience in their geographic areas.</p> <p>Energy market bodies monitor the resilience and sustainability of Victoria's energy networks on an ongoing basis – for example, publishing findings in the Victorian Annual Planning Report (Australian Energy Market Operator – and Victorian Transmission Plan (VicGrid). The Australian Energy Market Operator works closely with transmission and distribution companies to support effective planning and operations of grid infrastructure.</p>	
32	That the Victorian Government prepares a road, rail and port infrastructure strategy which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assesses the resilience of this infrastructure to climate change.</li> <li>identifies actions to improve the function and climate resilience of this infrastructure.</li> <li>and includes an implementation plan to undertake works to improve the function and climate resilience of this infrastructure.</li> </ol>	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance of ensuring that transport assets are designed, built and maintained to withstand and recover from the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related events. Climate change presents significant risks to the transport system — including harm to assets, and disruption to operations, which can impact the ability of Victorians to access jobs, education and recreational activities.</p> <p>Many of these risks were identified in the Transport Climate Change AAP 2022 – 2026. The Plan has identified 15 actions to build the system's capacity to adapt to climate change and climate events, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>action 2. Strengthen the transport portfolio adaptation planning and decision-making for transport services, assets and infrastructure;</li> <li>action 3. Strengthen transport assets, infrastructure and services to increase resilience to future climate change impacts; and</li> <li>action 14. Consider how to better incorporate and budget for climate resilience throughout the lifecycle of transport assets and infrastructure, including during renewal and maintenance activities.</li> </ul> <p>The Government also partners with industry to develop Sector Resilience Plans, including for the transport sector. Key elements of the plans inform the Critical Infrastructure All Sectors Resilience Report, which is available through EMV.</p>	DTP



Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>The Government also continues to identify and deliver road, rail and port priorities through the planning, development, and maintenance of an integrated pipeline of projects and strategic initiatives. This ensures coordinated, forward-looking investment that strengthens the resilience of critical roads, railways, and ports.</p> <p>As such, while the Government supports the underlying policy intent of the recommendation, future work will focus on building upon existing frameworks and strategic priorities, rather than developing a new standalone strategy document.</p>	
33	That the Victorian Government work with local councils and the Commonwealth to identify pathways for integrating 'build back better' principles into post-disaster infrastructure funding, to reduce repeated damage and improve long-term resilience.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government will continue to work with local councils and the Commonwealth Government to identify opportunities to build more resilient infrastructure where there is a strong evidence base supporting the need and benefits of the additional investment.</p> <p>Recovery costs for damage to local infrastructure (such as local roads) are generally funded by the State and Commonwealth governments under Category B of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). This assists with the cost of restoring essential public infrastructure to its 'pre-disaster function' – which allows for current building and engineering standards to be applied to make an asset more resilient. Any project savings which reduce costs can also be used to further improve the resilience of the infrastructure. The Victorian Government continues to advocate to the Commonwealth Government to expand Category B Betterment opportunities, which would in turn provide greater opportunity for Victoria to deliver betterment and resilience projects.</p> <p>There is also capacity under the DRFA for damaged public assets to be restored or replaced to a higher standard under Category D, improving their future resilience. Local government (as owner of an asset) must outline the benefits and return on investment of upgrading the infrastructure to make it more resilient under such an initiative. Local councils' road management plans are important in this regard.</p>	ERV

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
34	That the Victorian Government expand the scope of its Climate Resilience Adaptation Action Plans to explicitly include critical essential infrastructure, such as telecommunications infrastructure.	Support in principle	<p>Under the current Victorian Government Adaptation Action Plans, the Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan includes physical structures, assets and infrastructure – including critical essential infrastructure. The <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i> requires the Victorian Government to prepare new Adaptation Action Plans by 2026.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government has constitutional responsibility for the regulation of the telecommunications sector and the adequacy of telecommunications services across Australia.</p> <p>The Inquiry found that resilient telecommunications infrastructure is critical for emergency response, community safety, and disaster recovery. However, vulnerabilities exposed during extreme weather events highlight an urgent need for enhanced backup systems and increased investment in climate resilient networks.</p> <p>The next round of Adaptation Action Plans could include telecommunications infrastructure, subject to recognition that the primary responsibility for these matters lies with the Commonwealth Government, and proposed action on these matters would need to engage the Commonwealth Government.</p>	DGS
35	That the Victorian Government advocate to the Commonwealth Government to fund more resilient telecommunications infrastructure across the State.	Support in full	<p>The Inquiry found that resilient telecommunications infrastructure is critical for emergency response, community safety, and disaster recovery. However, vulnerabilities exposed during extreme weather events highlight an urgent need for enhanced backup systems and increased investment in climate resilient networks.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government has constitutional responsibility for the regulation of the telecommunications sector and the adequacy of telecommunications services across Australia.</p> <p>Recently, the Victorian Government has been central to a national push to increase sector capability particularly during emergencies. The Victorian Government has and will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government for funding programs consistent with the report's Recommendation 35.</p>	DGS

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>For example, the Victorian Government submission to the Regional Telecommunications Review 2024 included advocacy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish a national community connectivity resilience standard to ensure there are appropriate arrangements in place for communities to stay connected for 72 hours without network power supply;</li> <li>• continue funding for resilience programs such as the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program, the Telecommunications Disaster Resilience Innovation (TDRI) program and the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF); and</li> <li>• establish a national telecommunications data platform supported by appropriate regulation and Commonwealth agency resourcing, to provide real-time geospatial data on coverage and availability of telecommunications services for emergency services and other essential service providers in emergencies and outages.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the Victorian Government continues to invest to deliver more accessible and resilient telecommunications services across the state via programs like Connecting Victoria and participation in various Commonwealth Government funding programs. The Victorian Government has worked with the Commonwealth Government and industry to improve the reliability of telecommunications services during emergencies.</p> <p>For example, the Victorian Government has co-funded more than 200 projects to improve the resilience of mobile towers in at-risk locations. The Government has also co-funded 27 new projects in peri urban areas at risk of disaster and supported the rollout of 343 community Wi-Fi facilities at emergency relief/recovery centres across regional Victoria through the Commonwealth Governments' Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program. In March 2025, the Commonwealth Government announced an additional \$14 million to extend these critical community Wi-Fi services. The Victorian Government is working with Commonwealth and Local Governments to prioritise and deliver these services for Victoria's disaster-prone areas.</p>	

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
36	That the Victorian Government undertake a review of planning and building regulations to reduce duplication and inconsistencies related to climate resilience requirements. This should include developing a clear, standardised framework that aligns local, state, and national regulations to provide greater certainty for developers and planners.	Support in principle	<p>The Government is reviewing the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> to improve its efficiency and responsiveness. Changes made to the Act to date include those made by the <i>Consumer and Planning Legislation Amendment (Housing Statement Reform) Act 2025</i> that came into effect on 25 November 2025. This includes changes to the planning framework for amendments to planning schemes and the review of submissions to proposed amendments.</p> <p>Planning and building system standards responding to natural hazards and risk are designed to improve the resilience of new development. These standards are designed to complement, not duplicate requirements.</p> <p>See response to recommendation 41.</p>	DTP
37	That the Victorian Government work with property developers and the building and construction industry to improve climate-resilient building practices. This work should balance upfront costs with long-term affordability and sustainability.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government supports working with consumers, unions and construction industry practitioners to improve climate resilient building practices.</p> <p>Minimum construction standards to address climate related events, such as bushfires and flooding, are developed by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) and given effect through the NCC. In Victoria, the NCC is adopted through the Building Act 1993 and Building Regulations 2018.</p> <p>The Government is working to improve climate-resilient construction practices through statewide reforms to planning and building controls to better manage flood risk. This includes updated mapping and planning controls to carefully assess new development in identified medium- and high-risk locations, with minimum building requirements to manage lower-risk areas. The government will continue to update designated Bushfire Prone Areas in the building system on a rolling biannual basis, and advocate to improve climate resilience as part of the NCC.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will continue to raise awareness by supporting nationally delivered practitioner education undertaken to support increases to building and plumbing standards delivered through periodic updates to the NCC. In addition, the Building and Plumbing Commission will deliver complementary awareness raising activities.</p>	DTP, DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			Opportunities to support greater uptake of adaptive reuse and embodied emissions assessments are part of the building design and approvals process. This will be undertaken through projects such as the development and release of the National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) embodied emissions tool and associated ABCB standard.	
38	That the Victorian Government support betterment in rebuilding infrastructure with climate resilient designs and provide funding to local government to help achieve this.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports the incorporation of climate resilient designs when rebuilding infrastructure and will consider options to provide funding for resilient infrastructure design in future emergency recovery scenarios.</p> <p>Following the 2022 Floods, the Victorian and Commonwealth governments announced a Betterment program to support local governments to restore damaged essential public assets to a more resilient standard. These funds have been used for a range of projects to date, including increasing the size of culverts to cope with future flood events.</p>	ERV
39	<p>That the Victorian Government work with the Commonwealth to reform disaster recovery funding frameworks to:</p> <p>a. Ensure that betterment is recognised as an eligible expense, and infrastructure is not just replaced 'like for like' where appropriate.</p> <p>b. Expand eligibility to include heatwaves, droughts, and other climate-related events in disaster declarations and funding access.</p> <p>c. Support local capacity by providing long-term funding to councils for resilient upgrades to roads, drainage, and community assets.</p> <p>d. Shift funding emphasis toward</p>	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government continues to work closely with the Commonwealth Government as well as other states and territories through existing governance and forums such as the National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting to advocate for continuing DRFA reforms and process improvements.</p> <p>Victoria will continue to seek to maximise opportunities to share recovery costs with the Commonwealth Government under the DRFA, noting that for natural disasters this agreement only applies to damage arising from sudden-onset events, specifically bushfires, earthquakes, floods, storms, cyclones, storm surges, landslides, tsunamis, meteorite strikes or tornados.</p> <p>The Victorian Government does not support recommendation 39 (b). Australia's drought efforts are guided by the 2024-29 National Drought Agreement (NDA). The NDA ensures communities are appropriately supported during abnormally dry periods, while also seeking to align national drought policies and programs. Given droughts fall under the NDA rather than the DRFA, it is not viable for the Victorian Government to seek Commonwealth approval for this to be included in the DRFA.</p> <p>While a proactive approach to mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building is not strictly within the scope of the DRFA, it is within the remit of the Disaster Ready</p>	ERV

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	proactive mitigation, adaptation and resilience-building to reduce long-term recovery costs.		<p>Fund (DRF), which is administered by the Commonwealth Government. Under the DRF, the Commonwealth Government is providing up to \$1 billion in cost-shared contributions over five years (from 1 July 2023) for projects which address the physical and social impacts of disasters on communities.</p> <p>Victoria will continue to work with councils and other key stakeholders to explore betterment and value for money reconstruction opportunities within the requirements of the DRFA and seek to implement process improvements where possible in administering the DRFA and working with the Commonwealth on broader DRFA reforms.</p>	
<b>Enhancing the climate resilience of Victoria's built environment</b>				
40	That the Victorian Government include in its forward planning upgrades to older infrastructure to reflect modern building codes and regulations and ensure that modern climate resilience standards are consistently reflected across the State.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government acknowledges that older buildings and infrastructure constructed to outdated building codes and regulations may be more susceptible to climate impacts.</p> <p>The Government has policies in place to support forward planning for upgrades to existing buildings and infrastructure through the AMAF.</p> <p>To inform forward planning for upgrades to existing public buildings and infrastructure all departments are undertaking climate risk assessments of their physical assets. Using these assessments to inform decision-making will ensure asset improvements are focused where they are most needed.</p> <p>Climate resilient infrastructure and buildings are also addressed in the <i><u>Built Environment Climate Change AAP 2022-2026</u></i>, with incoming updates for 2027-2031. This includes upgrades of existing building stock, with a focus on improvements to housing for low-income and vulnerable Victorians to enhance resilience to increasing heat and other climate-related hazards. The Government is also delivering improvements to the energy efficiency and liveability of older social housing dwellings through the Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program with over 50,000 upgrades across 23,600 properties.</p>	DGS

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>Upgrades to existing building stock being implemented through the new Building Electrification Regulations are further detailed in responses to recommendations 75 and 77.</p> <p>Household upgrades are also supported through the Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) Program and the Solar Homes program, expanded upon in the response to Recommendation 78.</p> <p>To ensure modern building regulations and climate resilience standards are reflected across the State, the Government will continue to work through the NCC updates as outlined in the response to recommendations 19, 41, 43 and 44.</p>	
41	That the Victorian Government ensure that the current regulatory framework and any proposed updates to minimum housing standards support the supply of urgently needed dwellings in Victoria.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government supports in full the need for regulatory requirements and housing performance standards to support delivery of increased numbers of residential dwellings.</p> <p>Minimum building and plumbing performance standards for all new residential and commercial construction in Victoria are developed by the ABCB and set through the NCC. The NCC is given legal effect in Victoria by the <i>Building Act 1993</i>, the Building Regulations 2018 and the Plumbing Regulations 2018. The core objectives of the NCC are ensuring that new buildings meet minimum standards for health and safety, access and amenity and sustainability.</p> <p>Changes to building and plumbing standards in the NCC are undertaken in response to identified performance issue with existing requirements, or in response to state policy needs. When changes are proposed, preliminary impact analysis is undertaken to determine whether an independent regulatory impact analysis is needed which assesses the costs and benefits of any changes.</p> <p>This is in line with best practice approach outlined within the Commonwealth's Regulatory Impact Analysis framework.</p> <p>Where the NCC is modified in Victoria through local regulatory requirements to give effect to Victorian specific policy commitments, the Victorian Government also considers the need for regulatory impact analysis, ensuring that any modifications deliver benefits to the Victorian community.</p>	DTP



Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>In August 2025, the Commonwealth Government announced it will work with states and territories to pause future changes to the NCC until the end of the National Housing Accord period (mid-2029). Any changes to residential standards in the NCC are currently paused, except for essential quality and safety changes.</p> <p>In the meantime, the Victorian Government will work with the Commonwealth to streamline the NCC to make it easier for practitioners.</p>	
42	That the Victorian Government advocate to the Federal Government for building codes and regulations to be informed by up-to-date climate data and future climate projection data.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government strongly advocates for a climate responsive national construction framework, informed by up-to-date climate data and mapping.</p> <p>Victoria's co-funding of the Australian Building and Codes Board – alongside contributions from the Commonwealth, states and territories – is supporting updates to climate data as part of the Net Zero Buildings Research program. This work is being undertaken over the 2025 -2027 period and will inform further updates to the NCC. Further information is available on the National Environmental Science Program climate systems website.</p>	DTP, DEECA
43	That the Victorian Government update minimum standards reflected in building codes and standards to reflect climate-resilient design based on climate projections, with evidence-based future climate scenarios rather than historical climate data and modelling.	Support in part	<p>The Victorian Government supports the need to ensure that minimum standards for building design consider climate resilience and account for future climate scenarios.</p> <p>The Government contributes funding and policy input into the development of new or amended standards in the NCC. In June 2024, all state and territory Building Ministers agreed to include a new objective of 'resilience' into the NCC.</p> <p>Inclusion of this new objective will mean that future updates to the NCC will need to consider 'climate resilience' as an objective, in addition to existing NCC objectives of health, safety, access, amenity and sustainability.</p> <p>The Climate Resilience objective is expected to be included in a forthcoming update of the ABCB Intergovernmental Agreement.</p> <p>Victoria's co-funding of the ABCB – alongside contributions from the Commonwealth, states and territories – is supporting updates to climate data as</p>	DTP, DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>part of the Net Zero Buildings Research program. This work is being undertaken over the 2025 -2027 period and will inform further updates to the NCC.</p> <p>The timing for inclusion of any future updates to reflect climate resilient building standards into future editions of the NCC is subject to agreement by the Commonwealth and all states and territory Building Ministers.</p>	
44	<p>That the Victorian Government update minimum standards for design measures that lead to stronger climate resilience outcomes for built environments and infrastructure. This should include the measures outlined by stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• passive solar design principles</li> <li>• high levels of insulation</li> <li>• effective ventilation</li> <li>• high-performance windows and glazing</li> <li>• external shading</li> <li>• light-coloured roofs and cool roof finishes</li> <li>• air tightness</li> <li>• selection of low-impact materials</li> <li>• water management.</li> </ul>	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government supports the need for minimum building design requirements to support enhanced resilience for new buildings.</p> <p>The Government adopted updates to the NCC to set a new 7-Star Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) and the whole-of-home performance requirements for new residential construction in May 2024. The new requirements represent the first change to building energy performance requirements since the introduction of 6-Star NatHERS requirements in Victoria in 2011.</p> <p>7-Star requirements regulate energy performance and optimise household features such as insulation, glazing and air tightness. Compliance with 7-Star requirements is more easily achieved with optimised orientation, light coloured roofs and external shading. This will ensure new homes are more comfortable during extreme temperature and have optimised appliance requirements to increase efficiency and reduce cost.</p> <p>The NCC updates align with and support recent updates to Clause 54 in the VPP which <u>streamline</u> approvals for townhouses and low-rise development, should certain deemed to comply requirements related to sustainability (including daylight requirements) be met.</p> <p>The Government supports energy performance requirements being strengthened through the NCC to encourage light-coloured roofs and greater use of low impact materials for new dwellings. The Government also notes that many of requirements referenced in this recommendation are delivered through planning scheme requirements - including through statewide and local policy direction.</p> <p>Through the Central and Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy, the Government has also committed to explore options to strengthen water management – such as rainwater tanks, stormwater flow reduction and high efficiency fixtures.</p>	DTP, DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
45	That when the Victorian Government undertakes significant upgrades or renovations to existing buildings, those upgrades include retrofitting to strengthen resilience to climate change risk.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports in principle that significant upgrades or renovations to existing buildings include retrofitting to strengthen resilience to climate change risk. Noting that the scope of government buildings in the DGS property portfolio relates primarily to Victorian public service office accommodation as well as identified specialist accommodation. It does not include schools or hospitals.</p> <p>The Victorian Government Office Accommodation guidelines set the Victorian Government accommodation principals and design benchmarks. In October 2021, an interim addendum was released, intended to complement the guidelines document with updated sustainability goals and objectives.</p> <p>A full review of the accommodation guidelines is currently underway to modernise and strengthen accommodation outcomes in government buildings. The review is expected for release, subject to stakeholder consultation, in 2026. The new guidelines will align current sustainability targets and outline how minimum ESD requirements and climate resilience can be achieved, while complying with the minimum necessary requirements for new buildings and new building works in existing buildings as set out in the Building Code of Australia.</p> <p>A supporting implementation framework defining which capital projects, delivered by DGS, will be subject to these minimum requirements, including thresholds for project type, scale, and value. This framework will provide clear accountabilities for integrating minimum ESD and climate resilience requirements into design, delivery, and post occupancy stages of eligible projects.</p> <p>It should be noted that DGS does not maintain full design and delivery control of all capital projects to Government office accommodation. In scope, leased government office accommodation is within the remit of DGS, while the owned portfolio is prioritised and funded by DTP or respective department.</p>	DGS
46	That the Victorian Government establish a Resilient Homes scheme, similar to those in NSW	Support in principle	The Victorian Government supports in principle the recommendation for a partnership with the Commonwealth to support communities recovering from disasters – however, not this particular method of achieving that outcome, noting	DTF

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	and QLD which are in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, to support communities recovering from disasters. This would include funding support to enhance resilience, raise, demolish and rebuild/relocate homes.		<p>that Victoria already takes action to achieve the same goals through other programs.</p> <p>The recommendation that the Victorian Government establish a Resilient Homes scheme, similar to those in NSW and QLD, is not supported. Both the NSW and QLD programs are focused on reducing flood related damage in specified high risk areas, whereas the report considers broader climate risks. Victoria experiences similar climate change related disaster types to NSW and Queensland, but with a different profile (less widespread flooding and cyclones, and high bushfire risk).</p> <p>Victoria already participates in the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), which provide immediate financial assistance following declared disasters, and the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF), which invests in resilience projects across the state. These mechanisms, combined with the NCC and Victoria's strong regulatory frameworks to manage disaster risks through building standards and planning controls, deliver significant resilience outcomes. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire resilience is addressed through mandatory Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) construction standards and bushfire management overlays.</li> <li>• Flood resilience is managed through planning overlays, the NCC (Part H) and local mitigation projects.</li> <li>• Heatwave resilience is indirectly supported via higher energy efficiency standards.</li> <li>• Residential Tenancy Standards and Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) that will come into effect will further strengthen the resilience of homes.</li> </ul> <p>A new Resilient Homes scheme would risk duplicating current programs.</p>	
47	That the Victorian Government provides stronger support for adaptation projections to encourage certainty for	Support in full	The Victorian Government recognises the importance of up-to-date information and projections on climate change, including to support infrastructure management.	DEECA, DTF

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	infrastructure managers to undertake investment in risk analysis and cost-benefit assessments of reconstruction efforts.		<p>The Government provides information to support climate risk assessments through Victoria's Climate Science Report (2019, 2024) which provides key information about Victoria's key climate indicators under different scenarios. Victoria's Future Climate Tool enables users to explore detailed climate data related to specific climate hazards and locations, which can inform climate risk assessment.</p> <p>All Government departments are building their understanding and assessments to consider the impact of physical climate risks. Information generated through these assessments will help infrastructure managers better understand the risk exposure and vulnerability of their assets and prioritise risks for intervention actions.</p> <p>The Government is developing guidance to support improved consideration of climate change in government business cases. The guidance will outline opportunities and methods to factor future climate projections into cost-benefit analysis.</p> <p>For State owned assets, the AMAF also provides advice to infrastructure managers to manage risk and evaluate costs. The AMAF recommends developing an asset management strategy that considers options for how the asset base can support an organisation's target service delivery, including the costs, benefits and risks of each option.</p> <p>The Government recognises the importance of appropriately targeting betterment and adaptation investments as part of reconstruction efforts. To support this targeted approach the Government will continue to develop a strong evidence base for the need, benefits and costs of upgrading infrastructure.</p>	
48	That the Victorian Government provide clear accountability frameworks and clarify responsibility for infrastructure upgrades and climate preparedness measures.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance of clearly defined responsibilities regarding reconstruction funding and standards to support infrastructure upgrades and strengthen climate preparedness.</p> <p>Accountability for public infrastructure is held by both the Victorian Government and local governments. The AMAF ensures that state-owned assets are appropriately managed at all stages of the asset lifecycle. To support</p>	DTF

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>accountability, Department Secretaries and public sector boards must attest to their agency's compliance with the mandatory requirements of the AMAF.</p> <p>Reconstruction funding arrangements are a key component of climate preparedness and accountability. As part of this arrangement, the Government continues to maximise opportunities to share infrastructure recovery and resilience costs with the Commonwealth Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and Disaster Ready Fund.</p> <p>The Government acknowledges the accountability problem created by the split incentives between property owners and tenants in the rental sector. The Solar for Renters program delivered by Solar Victoria includes an option for renters to agree to contribute up to 50 per cent of the monthly repayments cost of the interest-free loan as a further incentive for rental providers to take advantage of the offer.</p>	
49	That the Victorian Government expand the Victorian Energy Upgrades program and offer rebates for Resilience Rating Assessments for households.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports in principle the intent of this recommendation in that some thermal shell upgrade activities offered under the VEU program, such as weather sealing and insulation, have climate resilience benefits in addition to the emissions reduction benefits that the activities incentivise.</p> <p>Under the <i>Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Act 2007</i>, the purpose and objects of the Act are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and incentivize energy efficiency. The Government commenced a Strategic Review of the VEU program in 2024, which aims to deliver an updated VEU program that is fit for the future and fully supports the government's policy objectives on electrification, energy affordability, emissions reduction targets, and reliability. Activities which incentivise emissions reduction through improving building stock, and which may have co-benefits in relation to improved climate resilience for Victorian households and businesses could be considered in future, subject to Government's response to the Review.</p>	DEECA
50	That the Victorian Government develop a comprehensive and unified framework supporting the State's transition to a climate-	Support in full	In line with the findings of the Inquiry (Finding 62), the Victorian Government has invested \$10 million in a clean economy workforce skills initiative that includes the	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR)

Recommendation	Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
<p>resilient construction industry through further improvements to workforce training and procurement.</p>		<p>development and implementation of the <u>Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy 2023-2033</u>.</p> <p>The transition to a climate-resilient construction industry is being actively supported through a range of workforce training and procurement initiatives.</p> <p>This includes implementing procurement processes to develop local workforces, including through the Local Jobs First policy (which includes the Major Projects Skills Guarantee), and the Government's Social Procurement Strategy 2025-2028 which includes specific priority objectives to support sustainability and climate change policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• environmentally sustainable outputs;</li> <li>• environmentally sustainable business practices; and</li> <li>• implementation of the climate change policy objectives.</li> </ul> <p>The <u>Victorian Tertiary and Further Education (TAFE) Network</u> offers training aligned to all aspects of the clean economy, including in the areas of the circular economy, renewable energy, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Climate resilience in the construction industry is driven by a range of TAFE Network initiatives, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capital project delivery that factors in climate-based risks;</li> <li>• producing a <u>Clean Economy Prospectus</u> as a resource for business and industry that shows how the Victorian TAFE Network supports the development and delivery of skills and training needs for the clean economy; and</li> <li>• establishing a <u>Melbourne Polytechnic Future of Housing Construction Centre of Excellence</u> to address critical challenges faced by Australia's housing construction industry, enabling collaboration between TAFEs and partnerships with industry, employers, unions and universities. The Centre will deliver the skills needed for secure work and careers in the construction sector by uplifting the technical and digital skills of traditional</li> </ul>	



Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>construction and engineering trades in modern methods of construction. The Centre is committed to supporting the Net Zero transformation.</p> <p>The Victorian Skills Authority is undertaking a Clean Economy Skills Taxonomy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• map required skills to current and future needs;</li> <li>• provide analysis on the integration of clean economy skills into the current Vocational Education and Training (VET) and tertiary sector; and</li> <li>• develop a comprehensive, sector-agnostic framework to enable the identification of clean economy skills and knowledge requirements.</li> </ul> <p>Clean Economy Skills Lab and VET renewable energy certificates provide an innovative way of building new and improved educational courses, where TAFEs co-design products and services with learners, industry and teachers; and use rigorous data collection and analysis to make decisions and affirm their approach.</p>	
51	That the Victorian Government work with the building and construction industry and workforce representatives to develop better climate resilience practices.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government will leverage ongoing reforms and engagement activities to work with consumers, unions, and construction industry representatives to develop better climate resilience practices.</p> <p>The Government will work with industry through existing programs, such as implementation of the Building Statement (March 2025).</p> <p>The Government will also leverage established partnerships including those auspiced under Victoria's Housing Statement (2023), such as the Housing Industry Advisory Body, to raise awareness with industry and to support improved climate resilience practices with the building and construction industry and workforce representatives.</p> <p>Further work undertaken by the Government through existing forums such as the Building Industry Consultative Council can be leveraged to support increased industry awareness of climate resilience building practice.</p>	DTP, DEECA, DJSIR

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>As outlined in the WoVG emissions reduction pledge 2026–2030, the Government is supporting the building and construction industry to adopt low-carbon practices.</p> <p>The Government's Recycled First Policy, which requires bidders to demonstrate how they will optimise the use of recycled and reused Victorian materials, now applies to all new major projects and DTP's operational and maintenance projects. This work is further supported by the Victorian Infrastructure Delivery Authority's work with low carbon material, as part of their Transport Infrastructure Decarbonisation Strategy.</p> <p>Through these policies and strategies, the Government is leveraging investment in Big Build projects to deliver more climate friendly projects and drive industry use of climate resilient materials.</p> <p>To upskill both public and private sector workers in low-carbon construction techniques, the Government funds TAFE courses about sustainable design and construction of buildings, as well as building electrification and retrofits. Refer to the response to Recommendation 50 for more detail on this topic.</p>	
<b>Enhancing climate preparedness: opportunities for government</b>				
52	That the Victorian Government clarify the legal tools that will be used to support climate resilient environments and how they will be deployed under the Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022–2026.	Support in part	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the role of legal tools as part of the suite of measures to respond to climate change and supports this recommendation in part.</p> <p>The Built Environment Climate Change AAP 2022-2026 includes an initiative to review legal mechanisms to support climate-resilient urban development (Action 19). The Government's changes to the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> made by the <i>Climate Change and Energy Legislation Amendment (Renewable Energy and Storage Targets) Act 2024</i> came into effect on 26 March 2025. The updates made two significant legislative changes to support greater consideration of climate change in the preparation of planning schemes and planning scheme amendments.</p> <p>Further consideration of other legal tools may be progressed subject to resources being available and as needed.</p>	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
53	That the Victorian Government clarify the legal mechanisms that operate to enforce and deliver accountability on the Built Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans and implement mandatory reviews for existing and future Adaptation Action Plans.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance of accountability in the development and implementation of AAPs.</p> <p>The <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i> is the legal mechanism that ensures AAPs are prepared and reviewed every five years. The Climate Action Minister, as the coordinating minister for the Act, nominates Ministers to be accountable for the preparation of their respective plans.</p> <p>The Act also requires that nominated Ministers include a report on the implementation and effectiveness of previous AAPs at the time new plans are developed.</p>	DEECA
54	That the Victorian Government improve the state's climate legislation framework by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strengthening accountability mechanisms</li> <li>• accelerating the implementation of supporting regulations</li> <li>• improving transparency in monitoring and reporting progress in relation to climate change objectives.</li> </ul>	Support in principle	<p>The <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i> requires periodic reporting to ensure transparency and accountability for the Victorian Government's climate actions. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• requirements for all key deliverables, including 5 yearly climate change strategies and AAPs to be published and tabled in Parliament (s33, s40);</li> <li>• requirement to report on the implementation and effectiveness of each climate change strategy (s30(6)); and</li> <li>• requirement that AAPs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ identify roles and responsibilities (s35(1)(a))</li> <li>○ report on implementation and effectiveness of any previous AAPs (s35(3))</li> <li>○ draft plans be published prior to finalisation for consultation (s37)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Recent initiatives taken to support improved accountability on climate action in Victoria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publication of Climate Change Ministerial Direction No. 22, which sets out scope of the new requirement in the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> for planning authorities to consider climate action when preparing or amending a planning scheme. The directions require planning authorities to produce a Climate Change Consideration Report, a public-facing</li> </ul>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>document which demonstrates how planning authorities have met obligations under the Act; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the second Victorian Government Climate-related Risk Disclosure Statement published on 17 October 2025, which provides an update to investors, creditors and the public about the Government's approach to managing climate related risks and opportunities.</li> </ul> <p>The Government will continue to conduct regular and ongoing review of relevant legislative settings including accountability and transparency requirements.</p>	
55	That the Victorian Government undertake a review of the <i>Planning and Environment Act</i> to strengthen and clarify climate considerations and compliance measures and include provisions regarding climate justice.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government committed to the review of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 in 'Victoria's Housing Statement 2023: The Decade Ahead' and supports this recommendation in principle.</p> <p>The Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025 (the Bill) provides for the inclusion of a new objective for planning in Victoria in the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (the Act) that will '<i>ensure development and use of land is planned and designed to respond and adapt to climate change</i>'. The Bill is currently being considered in Parliament and therefore the objective as drafted may be subject to change.</p> <p>In addition, the new Ministerial Direction No 22 Climate Change Consideration sets out the climate change-related matters to which responsible authorities must have regard when preparing amendments to their planning schemes. The Direction is accompanied by a range of supporting information and guidance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>climate change consideration guidelines to support compliance with the Ministerial Direction;</li> <li>climate change consideration report template to assist in documenting an assessment against the Ministerial Direction; and</li> <li>climate change policy and resources document listing relevant government policy, VPP clauses and resources.</li> </ul>	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			The Act applies to all land in the State. An existing objective of the Act, which must be considered by every responsible authority before deciding on a planning application, is 'to balance the present and future interests of all Victorians'. This objective provides for equity in decision-making on behalf of all Victorians, including with respect to climate change and climate justice.	
56	The Victorian Government work with community organisations and other relevant stakeholders to reduce the barriers to volunteering and to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to volunteer.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance of volunteers in building stronger, more resilient and inclusive communities, and the need for a sustainable volunteer workforce.</p> <p>The Inquiry recommendations and report findings align with the Victorian State of Volunteering Report 2025, which highlighted a decline in rates of formal volunteering and highlighted the impacts this has on the governance and longevity of community organisations, including environmental volunteer groups. It also identified key challenges and barriers to volunteer participation that align with findings of the Inquiry, including volunteer burnout and availability constraints.</p> <p>In the past 10 years, the Government has invested over \$100 million to support the Landcare and environmental volunteering community, with a further \$17 million committed in the 2025-26 State Budget to support community-led priorities.</p> <p>The Government is also continuing to deliver the <i>Victorian Volunteer Strategy 2022-2027</i>, which outlines a plan to improve support for volunteers and strengthen the volunteering sector. Under the Strategy, a new website, Volunteering in Victoria, has been developed in 2025 to make it easier for volunteers and organisations to find government resources and information on getting involved in volunteering.</p> <p>The Government supports the sector peak body, Volunteering Victoria, to build the capacity of volunteer-involving organisations to recruit and retain volunteers, and to recognise and celebrate volunteers and community organisations through the annual Victorian Volunteering Awards.</p>	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
57	That the Victorian Government work with local government, community organisations and children and young people to incorporate youth-specific roles into local emergency management planning.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance of incorporating youth perspectives in local emergency management planning to strengthen inclusivity, community resilience and mitigate the mental health impacts of climate-related stress and anxiety.</p> <p>The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee (the Committee) findings highlight that children and young people bring unique perspectives and innovative ideas to emergency preparedness for local communities. Embedding youth-specific roles and perspectives into local emergency management planning aligns with the <i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i>, which supports community participation in emergency planning, and aligns with the delivery of <i>Our promise, Your future: Victoria's youth strategy 2022 – 2027</i>.</p> <p>Existing Government initiatives (including through the Office of Youth) support and deliver against the intent of this recommendation, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• supporting the youth sector to build capability and develop advice to government on issues impacting young people including through partnerships with youth peak bodies such as the Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic), Centre for Multicultural Youth, and Koorie Youth Council;</li> <li>• funding an upgrade of YACVic's Youth Engagement Resource Platform website including enhancing key information and adding in case studies on how to support youth participation in emergency management planning and response; and</li> <li>• strengthening youth participation in local decision-making through grants to local councils and community organisations (e.g., through the Engage!, Amplify, Future Ready and Victorian Youth Fest programs).</li> </ul> <p>Complementing these initiatives, the Government partners with the Australian Red Cross and the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) to promote community engagement and participation in emergency preparedness. Programs such as the Australian Red Cross Pillowcase Program and VCOSS's Disaster Resilience Network and work with YACVic provide practical pathways for</p>	DFFH

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>communities, including children and young people, to build disaster awareness and resilience at local level.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation, the Government will collaborate with EMV, Local Government Victoria and the Municipal Association of Victoria to develop a Guidance Note by 30 June 2026 for councils and community committees on engaging young people in local emergency management planning. This work will promote and build on YACVic resources including the Young People and Disasters Resource Hub and align with existing provisions under the <i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i>. The Act states that a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee must consult any sector of the community the Committee considers appropriate, and must have regard to any relevant community emergency management plan that is prepared wholly or partly in relation to the relevant municipal district.</p>	
58	That the Victorian Government adequately fund climate resilience adaptations to community infrastructure. The funding should be allocated to both local governments and relevant community organisations or groups with management oversight of community infrastructure.	Support in principle	<p>There is a range of Victorian Government funding programs to local government, often with specific or dedicated purposes and criteria aligned with respective portfolios.</p> <p>There is provision to include funding toward climate resilience adaptation activities for infrastructure where appropriate.</p>	DGS
59	That the Victorian Government continue to adequately support community organisations, particularly those offering mental health, homelessness and legal support services, to ensure people who are the most vulnerable to the effects of	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the Inquiry's findings that vulnerable communities are disproportionately affected by climate change. The Inquiry highlighted the essential role of community organisations in supporting vulnerable communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related events. The Government acknowledges the need to continue providing adequate and sustainable support for community organisations delivering mental health, homelessness and legal support services.</p>	Department of Health (DH), DFFH, Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS)



Recommendation	Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
<p>climate change are adequately supported.</p>		<p>Support for community services is provided across several government departments. This includes the provision of funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• free mental health and wellbeing support programs designed to respond to local needs, including those arising from climate change;</li> <li>• access to climate-appropriate accommodation for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness; and</li> <li>• legal aid for socially and economically disadvantaged communities.</li> </ul> <p>The Government recognises the importance of supporting community organisations in responding to emergency events and has demonstrated the ability to provide responsive services for people affected by climate-related events. Avenues to support non-government organisations and volunteer groups responding to emergency events are incorporated into the State Emergency Management Plan.</p> <p>The Government's commitment to ongoing support and capacity building for community organisations is reflected in key strategic documents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Human Services AAP 2022-26, which includes priority actions associated with social infrastructure, climate resilience, and mental health and wellbeing support tailored to climate change impacts. The next iteration of this AAP will build on these foundations, with consideration to the needs of Victoria's most vulnerable populations; and</li> <li>• Wellbeing in Victoria: A Strategy to Promote Good Mental Health 2025-35, which guides coordinated statewide action to prevent mental illness and promote good mental health and wellbeing. The strategy recognises climate change and climate-related distress as risk factors for wellbeing, while climate action and connection to nature can promote wellbeing. The Wellbeing Strategy's first action plan will be implemented over a 2-year period, with a focus on building the system foundations for effective wellbeing promotion efforts across government, industry sectors and community.</li> </ul>	

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
60	That the Victorian Government conduct a state-level assessment to identify the groups in Victoria are vulnerable to the varied effects of climate change. This knowledge would support climate preparedness and awareness responses at a local and state level.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government acknowledges that climate change has disproportionate impacts for groups experiencing vulnerability and marginalisation, and the need to ensure these communities are identified and appropriately supported.</p> <p>The Government will draw on a range of resources set out below to prepare a statewide assessment of climate hazards and vulnerable groups, including as part of developing and implementing the 2027-2031 AAPs.</p> <p>Evidence shows that women and girls are disproportionately impacted by climate change and natural disasters, which amplifies existing gender inequalities and poses unique threats to their livelihoods, health, and safety. Impacts are even more acute for already marginalised groups, including First Nations, older people, LGBTIQ+, people with disabilities, migrant people, and those living in rural and remote areas.</p> <p>The Government works in partnership with the VCROSS, other peak bodies and local community organisations to consider the impacts of climate change on communities experiencing disadvantage. This supports consideration of those communities' needs in the development of state and local policies and programs to improve climate resilience.</p> <p>The Government prepares and draws on a range of spatial geographic information and social and environmental data to ensure climate action policies and programs are well targeted. Victoria's Climate Science Report 2024 and Victoria's Climate Future Tool provide a common understanding of what climate change means for natural hazards and the risks that Victorians may face across the state. The Cooling and Greening Map tool includes spatial information using the Heat Vulnerability Index and vegetation cover to help identify vulnerability to extreme heat.</p> <p>Further, the Commonwealth Government now provides an <a href="#">Australian Climate Social Vulnerability Index</a>, which is part of the National Climate Risk Assessment released in September 2025. The index is applied to local neighbourhoods and covers all of Victoria. The index will help to better understand relative social vulnerability and marginalisation in relation to climate change.</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
61	That the Victorian Government undertake a review of climate legislation and policies to ensure inclusions of climate justice considerations.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the importance and benefits of considering climate justice in actions to adapt to climate change and build Victoria's climate resilience.</p> <p>The policy objectives and guiding principles of the <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i> require that decisions, policies, programs and processes under the Act, including the five yearly climate change strategies and AAPs should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure intergenerational equity whereby the actions of the present generation increase opportunities for future generations (s26);</li> <li>• provide opportunities for the community to be involved in the decision, policy, program or process (s27); and</li> <li>• support vulnerable communities and promote social justice and intergenerational equity (s22).</li> </ul> <p>These climate justice considerations are complemented by further provisions within other legislation that relate to just participation in climate action, including the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> and <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i>.</p> <p>The Government has also been partnering with the VCOSS since 2018 to support its advocacy and advice to government on the impacts of climate change on communities experiencing disadvantage, and to help inform policies and initiatives that promote climate justice.</p> <p>Upcoming Government initiatives which will seek to further strengthen the government consideration of climate justice in adapting to climate change include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Government's response to the Yoorrook Justice Commission findings, including its recommendation to support a First Peoples Climate Justice Strategy. The Victorian Government will carefully consider the Commission's findings and recommendations before delivering a formal response; and</li> </ul>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>development of the second round of AAPs in 2026 which will consider further opportunities for embedding climate justice in the Government's actions to adapt to climate change and build Victoria's climate resilience.</li> </ul> <p>As part of taking strong action on climate change, the Government is committed to regular and ongoing review of the <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i>.</p>	
62	That the Victorian Government and local government consult vulnerable and marginalised groups in climate resilience and adaptation efforts through co-design projects, such as those facilitated by The South East Councils Climate Change Alliance during its Enhancing Climate Resilience Project.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government recognises the disproportionate impact of climate change on disadvantaged and marginalised groups and the importance of involving these groups in resilience and adaptation efforts.</p> <p>The Government is committed to meaningful, principled and inclusive public engagement to support better decisions and outcomes for Victorians. The <u>Public Engagement Framework</u> aims to strengthen meaningful engagement practice that is inclusive and accessible and by doing so help to build more resilient communities. The <u>Framework for Place-Based Approaches</u> provides guidance for engagement, collaboration and co-design with local communities and groups to develop shared understandings and ensure outcomes meet everyone's needs. These Frameworks share common principles with the Enhancing Climate Resilience project by guiding policy makers to identify and practice co-design where appropriate.</p> <p>The Government will continue to prioritise groups experiencing vulnerability and marginalization, including through place-based and co-design approaches where appropriate.</p>	DEECA
63	That the Victorian Government provide adequate funding to local government and community-based organisations to raise public awareness and build climate resilience.	Support in principle	<p>There is a range of State Government funding programs to local government, often with specific or dedicated purposes and criteria aligned with respective portfolios.</p> <p>There is provision to include funding toward public awareness and climate resilience activities where appropriate.</p>	DGS
64	That the Victorian Government review its practices for raising public awareness and address	Support in full	The Victorian Government recognises the importance of raising public awareness of climate hazards and risk mitigation, consistent with the principle of community	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	the communication gaps identified in this Report.		<p>engagement in the <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i> and the Government's public engagement frameworks.</p> <p>The Government communicates with Victorians on climate change and resilience in a range of ways and regularly reviews and updates approaches to support effective public engagement.</p> <p>Victoria's Climate Science Report 2024 presents the best available scientific evidence on the climate related hazards that affect our state, with a range of resources tailored to different audiences. A new report is prepared every five years to update climate science to ensure the public maintains access to the best available climate science for Victoria.</p> <p>The Government also raises awareness on key issues related to climate change. For example, the 'Are you Covered?' <u>Insurance Consumer Awareness Campaign</u> launched in November 2025 assists property owners to understand their risk and estimate potential costs, compare insurance policies, and get the best value and most appropriate cover for their circumstances. This campaign is being delivered in partnership with councils, emergency management agencies, and industry bodies.</p> <p>The Government is also engaging with communities to amend flood mapping and planning schemes, improving community understanding of flood risk and allowing better informed decision-making (see response to Recommendation 15).</p> <p>Emergency service organisations play a crucial role promoting awareness of actions the community can take to protect life, assets and property. The Country Fire Authority provides the community with tailored communication materials, in a range of accessible formats, in the lead up to emergency prone periods. These campaigns support preparedness, response and recovery. VICSES undertakes around 1,200 local community engagement initiatives each year. Around 30 per cent of those are primarily focussed on emergency weather preparedness for floods and storms across Victoria.</p> <p>The Government will continue to review and update its approach to communication and engagement on climate adaptation as the 2027-31 AAPs are developed and implemented.</p>	

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
65	That the Victorian Government expand access to the Climate Safe Rooms program to provide vulnerable people and people from low-income backgrounds with appropriate refuge from extreme hot and cold weather.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports the intent of this recommendation, noting the Climate Safe Rooms pilot highlighted opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people through targeted energy efficiency upgrades. Significant work is underway in Victoria that builds on the Climate Safe Rooms concept to provide vulnerable people and people from low-income backgrounds with appropriate refuge from extreme hot and cold weather.</p> <p>Victoria's Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program supports a range of cost-effective energy efficiency upgrades for public, community and Aboriginal housing properties. In partnership with the Commonwealth Government's Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative, the Program will deliver over 50,000 upgrades across 23,600 properties in Victoria's social housing portfolio by June 2027 with a total investment of \$209.4 million. Upgrades include the installation of efficient reverse cycle air conditioners (replacing gas heaters), heat pump hot water, ceiling insulation, draught and gap sealing, solar panels and gas abolishment, providing both public and community housing tenants with cost-effective heating and cooling and improving home comfort. This initiative supports the implementation of Action 4 (Pursue opportunities for upgrades of existing building stock, with a focus on improvements to housing for low-income and vulnerable Victorians to enhance resilience to increasing heat and other climate-related hazards) of the Built Environment AAP.</p> <p>The Victorian Government is ensuring renters and rooming house residents (some of whom are low-income households) do not miss out on the financial and health benefits of home efficiency and electrification by introducing minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes. These new standards and uplifts to existing standards come into effect from March 2027 and include ceiling insulation, cooling in the living room, draught-proofing and low-flow shower-heads, and gas heating and hot water systems to be replaced with efficient electric systems when they reach end-of-life.</p> <p>A new heating standard for rooming houses came into effect from December 2025 while phasing in the energy efficiency requirements, ensuring Victoria's most vulnerable are provided thermal comfort and reduced health risks associated with extreme weather.</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			The Government supports households to upgrade their homes to be thermally resilient to both hot and cold weather through the VEU program. The program provides discounts for energy-efficiency products and provides information on accredited providers, who can advise consumers based on their needs. The available actions and associated discounts that support either staying cool or warm in the home include replacing a gas space heater with a reverse cycle air conditioner, draught proofing as well as roof insulation (commencing from 2026)	
66	That the Victorian Government advocate to the Commonwealth Government that it explores avenues to strengthen accountability for climate resilience outcomes in the telecommunications industry.	Support in full	<p>The Inquiry found that communities continue to experience systemic failures in telecommunications when extreme weather events and climate hazards affect infrastructure. Resilient telecommunications infrastructure is critical for emergency response, community safety, and disaster recovery. Regulatory frameworks for telecommunications need to consider incorporating forward looking climate risk assessments.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government has constitutional responsibility for the regulation of the telecommunications sector and the adequacy of telecommunications services across Australia. Recently, the Victorian Government has been central to a national push to increase sector capability during particularly during emergencies.</p> <p>This advocacy has focused on national policy reform and more effective government and industry accountability. Recent examples include the Victorian Government submissions to the Review into the November 2023 Optus Outage (Bean Review) in February 2024 and the Regional Telecommunications Review 2024 in July 2024. Some of the Government's key advocacy themes to the Commonwealth Government include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a national community connectivity resilience standard, ensuring there are appropriate arrangements in place for communities to stay connected for 72 hours without network power supply. This is also a Victorian Government action under the Network Outage Review 2024</li> </ul>	DGS



Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a national telecommunications data platform, supported by appropriate regulation and Commonwealth agency resourcing, to provide real-time geospatial data on coverage and availability of telecommunications services for emergency services and other essential service providers in emergencies and outages.</li> </ul> <p>The Victorian Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government for policy changes consistent with the report's Recommendation 66.</p>	
67	That the Victorian Government increase investment in road and bridge infrastructure upgrades and ongoing maintenance to strengthen the resilience of roads to climate risk.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government agrees with the importance of strengthening the resilience of road and bridge infrastructure in the face of climate risks and supports the policy objective behind increased investment, including leveraging opportunities through the Commonwealth's DRF.</p> <p>Roads and bridges are critical to community safety and mobility, particularly during emergencies such as floods and bushfires. Climate-related incidents have already resulted in significant financial costs and operational disruption to Victoria's transport system, and these impacts are expected to intensify with future climate scenarios.</p> <p>That said, the Government is committed to making targeted, financially responsible and economically viable decisions regarding infrastructure investment. Rather than broadly increasing expenditure specifically to just addressing climate risk, investment will continue to be targeted and prioritised based on risk assessments, asset value and community importance. This approach ensures that limited resources are allocated to projects that deliver the greatest benefits while supporting sustainable long-term outcomes.</p> <p>To this end, the Government has already begun leveraging alternative funding avenues to support climate-resilient infrastructure investments and maintenance. This includes the Commonwealth Government's DRF investment into the Connewarren Lane Flood Resilience Project – a package of climate resilience and risk mitigation measures aimed at future-proofing infrastructure against climate-related events. Similarly, the Government will continue to maximise opportunities to share recovery costs with the Commonwealth Government under the DRFA, noting that this agreement only applies to damage arising from</p>	DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>bushfires, earthquakes, floods, storms, cyclones, storm surges, landslides, tsunamis, meteorite strikes, or tornados.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will continue to explore funding avenues and opportunities, but investment decisions will be guided by evidence, risk assessments and broader infrastructure priorities, rather than a prescriptive increase in funding.</p>	
68	That the Victorian Government expand targeted investment in high-risk areas for energy and water infrastructure.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government has supported the expansion of investment targeted at high-risk areas for energy through the following programs.</p> <p>The Community Microgrids and Sustainable Energy Program has supported the installation of a mix of solar, batteries, generators, and other distributed energy resources for a range of buildings. 17 systems have been installed at essential service, commercial and industrial buildings, and 65 residential systems completed that include 18 heat-pumps in Mallacoota. The energy back-up systems provide a reliable power supply and build energy resilience in at-risk rural communities.</p> <p>The Energy Resilience Solutions program established community energy hubs in 24 towns across Victoria in high-risk areas for severe weather impacts. These hubs are equipped with solar panels, batteries and generators that provide power back up for a minimum 15 hours to keep essential services operating during severe storm events and prolonged power outages.</p> <p>The 100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program has made funding available through a new energy resilience stream which has enabled councils, community groups, and others to install energy backup systems (including a neighbourhood battery) at publicly accessible buildings to improve energy resilience in high-risk areas.</p> <p>The Government's own investment in infrastructure resilience is complemented by regulatory requirements for owners of energy infrastructure to manage risks and improve its resilience. In response to the February 2024 power outages, the Network Outage Review examined the operational response of transmission and distribution businesses to the event, and made 19 recommendations and 12 observations to:</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver step change improvements for future operational response by Victoria's network businesses. This includes creating the right regulatory settings to drive the networks to effectively plan, mitigate and respond to prolonged power outages;</li> <li>• reduce prolonged power outage impacts on Victorian communities, including improvements in supporting the community and infrastructure in areas of elevated risk; and</li> <li>• improve other critical infrastructure operators, like telecommunications and water, in their planning and preparation for business continuity for the first 72 hours of an event.</li> </ul> <p>Victoria's Critical Infrastructure framework, established under the <i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i>, aims to build the emergency resilience of Victoria's critical infrastructure. It adopts a sector-based, all hazards approach, underpinned by risk management planning, continuous improvement, and partnership with industry.</p> <p>Victoria's state-owned water corporations are responsible for planning, investing in, and maintaining infrastructure to deliver water and sewerage services, subject to independent economic regulation by the Essential Services Commission.</p> <p>The Government allocated funds in the 2024-25 State Budget from the sixth tranche of the Environmental Contribution (EC6) to maintain efforts to reduce the vulnerability of the water system to climate-related risks. This funding will support continued implementation of the current Water Cycle Climate Change AAP and development of a new plan for 2027-31.</p> <p>Through the current AAP, work is underway to build water corporation adaptation capability in climate-related hazard and risk assessment capabilities, to support them in strengthening consideration of climate resilience in their water infrastructure planning, design, and investment decisions.</p> <p>EC6 funding has also supported development of the Water Security Plan, which will support the ongoing long-term water security, resilience, and affordability of Victoria's urban water supplies. The Government is currently investigating the best mix of options to address Melbourne, Geelong and the connected regions future water demands. A bi-partisan taskforce has been established by the</p>	

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>minister to oversee this work and report back to the Government on next steps by March 2027.</p> <p>EC6 has also supported oversight and governance of investment in capital projects and business cases and feasibility studies that will improve water security, boost productivity and emergency preparedness, and provide significant regional community benefit.</p> <p>Urban drainage and stormwater infrastructure is the responsibility of local governments and Melbourne Water. The Victorian Government is continuing to invest in integrated water management, providing a holistic and collaborative approach to planning and managing the water cycle and enabling greater use of recycled water, stormwater and rainwater for water security, resilience and liveability. Flood reforms announced in October 2025 will introduce a new risk-based flood hazard rating system for flood studies, including drainage models, to identify areas of high and very high risk. This will enable informed decisions on land use planning, housing growth, critical infrastructure investment as well as community infrastructure on our coasts, waterways and public land.</p>	
69	That the Victorian Government strengthen requirements for worst-performing network segments in relation to energy infrastructure.	Support in principle	The Victorian Government is acting to address the worst-served feeders in the electricity distribution network, which are subject to Recommendations 12 and 13 from the Network Outage Review. This involves short-term reforms to improve the reliability of worst-performing feeders in AusNet's distribution network; and economic and regulatory analysis of reform options to improve reliability, including the possible introduction of a minimum service level standard for Victorian distribution feeders targeted at supporting reliable supply for communities at high risk of prolonged power outages.	DEECA
70	That the Victorian Government develop and distribute a standardised framework and methodology for local government climate risk assessments, including hazard	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government understands the importance of consistent advice to support councils to undertake comparable risk assessments.</p> <p>The Government already provides information and resources to support climate hazard mapping and analysis. The Victorian Climate Science Report 2024 and Victorian Future Climate Tool provide key information about Victoria's climate hazards under different scenarios, supporting localised evidence-based decision-making. The Government is developing climate scenario selection guidance and a</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	mapping, timeframes, and cost-benefit analysis templates.		<p>series of case studies to support the application of this information in risk assessments and asset management.</p> <p>To ensure climate science is consistently applied, the Government will continue to promote materials developed through the Commonwealth Government's Climate Risk and Opportunities Management Program. This growing suite of resources supporting the identification and management of climate-related risks at all levels of government.</p> <p>To further support climate risk assessment the Victorian Government will compile relevant resources online. This will support a more consistent approach and make it easier for risk managers to find key data and guidance for climate risk assessments. It will also seek to complement work by the Victorian Climate Resilience Councils, a program established in 2025 to support Victorian councils to manage and reduce climate change risks impacting their services and operations.</p>	
71	<p>To enhance climate resilience and infrastructure adaptation, that the Victorian Government establish a statewide baseline methodology for climate risk assessments. This standardised approach will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensure consistency in climate risk assessments across sectors and regions</li> <li>• facilitate equitable resource allocation by enabling uniform data collection and analysis</li> <li>• support evidence-based decision-making by integrating up-to-date climate projections into asset management and planning</li> </ul>	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports actions that improve understanding and management of climate risk across the public sector and will continue to build on existing climate science and guidance resources to support evidence-based decision-making.</p> <p>All Victorian Government departments are improving their understanding and assessment of climate risk for their assets, guided by the Commonwealth's Climate Risk and Opportunities Management Program. The Government will continue to promote this approach to all levels of government and will compile relevant resources online (see response to recommendation 70). Pursuing and learning from these evidence-based processes will support equitable resource allocation for climate risk mitigation.</p> <p>Implementation will be aligned with the Victorian Government Risk Management Framework, which sets out the minimum risk management requirements that departments and agencies must meet to demonstrate effective risk management. This approach will also consider intersections with the Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF).</p>	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prevent maladaptation by ensuring localised, scenario-based assessments that reflect unique regional vulnerabilities.</li> </ul>			
<b>Enhancing climate preparedness: what can individuals and communities do?</b>				
72	The Victorian Government should examine ways to provide greater access to individual property assessments to homeowners in areas vulnerable to natural disasters and to assist homeowners develop appropriate mitigation measures.	Support in Principle	<p>The Victorian Government is committed to helping Victorians understand their natural disaster risks and the steps they can take to mitigate these risks. A range of different resources are currently available to support communities, including homeowners, in planning and preparing for natural disaster emergencies. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Plan and Prepare' content on the Country Fire Authority website, includes local area information, as well as resources on bushfire risks in different types of Victorian environments and the steps which can be taken to mitigate bushfire risks in these environments.</li> <li>Local flood guides which are available on the VICSES website, can assist communities to understand, prepare for and respond to their localised flood risk.</li> </ul> <p>The Victorian Government will continue to maintain and evolve these products and will also consider options to assist the roll-out of the Multi-Hazard Resilience Rating Scheme.</p>	EMV
73	The Victorian Government should promote the education of designers, builders and assessors to leverage the NatHERS whole-of-home scheme to generate high performance outcomes.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government has supported the education of designers, builders and assessors to design and construct new 7-star houses using the whole of home scheme through the following programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainability Victoria 7-star homes Program built capability and capacity within the residential building market in preparedness for an increase to minimum energy efficiency standards on 1 May 2024. See <a href="#">7 Star Homes Program</a>   <a href="#">Sustainability Victoria</a>;</li> </ul>	DTP, Building and Plumbing Commission, DEECA, Sustainability Victoria, Solar Victoria

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solar Victoria through its <a href="https://solar.vic.gov.au">Renewable homes construction training   solar.vic.gov.au</a> program provided training on the design and construction of energy efficient homes for 7-Star NatHERs. Over 3,000 participants engaged through this program, which included roadshows, self-paced online training, and tailored energy efficiency modules;</li> <li>Solar Victoria also developed thorough and customised micro-learning resources to support the upskilling of industry. These resources are now freely available to stakeholders via the Solar Victoria website;</li> <li>as part of Solar Victoria's new \$5 million, 3-year electrification training and workforce development program, a new round of roadshows and supporting webinars will be delivered to the construction industry. This initiative targets 1,000 participants and support the industry with Government priorities such as gas substitution, electrification and energy efficiency; and</li> <li>Building and Plumbing Commission (then Victorian Building Authority) also provided support to building designers and practitioners for 7-Star program. Webinars can be accessed through its website along with guidance materials for new and existing homes (renovations) to meet 7-Star. See <a href="#">Energy efficiency requirements   Victorian Building Authority</a>.</li> </ul>	
74	That the Victorian Government should introduce mandatory disclosure of energy efficiency ratings at the point of sale and lease for residential buildings.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports the Commonwealth Government's National Framework for Disclosure of Residential Energy Efficiency Information, which is a collaborative project of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. This project provides nationally harmonised settings for state and territory governments to implement their own disclosure schemes and supports a market environment that encourages disclosure in the residential sector.</p> <p>The Government also notes that the Home Energy Rating trials are now underway (in partnership with the Commonwealth Government). These trials will test policy parameters outlined in the National Framework for Disclosure of Residential Energy Efficiency Information. The Government expects to receive an assessment of these trials in 2026.</p>	DEECA, DGS



Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
75	That the Victorian Government expand funding for home electrification, particularly targeting those on lower incomes and renters.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports this, noting that significant support for home electrification already exists through the Solar Homes program, VEU program and, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, the Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program.</p> <p>Although fossil gas has played an important role in the Victorian economy for decades, it is no longer the cheap or abundant energy source it once was. Helping households switch to efficient electric energy is critical to lowering household bills, meeting Victoria's emissions reduction targets, reducing the health risks of living in homes that are too hot in summer and too cold in winter, and improving resilience to climate-related extreme weather events.</p> <p>Victoria's 2022 Gas Substitution Roadmap (and subsequent Updates) outlines how the Government will use energy efficiency, electrification, biomethane and renewable hydrogen to reduce Victoria's heavy reliance on fossil gas, driving down bills and cutting carbon emissions. The Building Electrification Regulations will commence on 1 January 2027 requiring all new residential and most commercial buildings (except industrial and agricultural buildings) to be built as all-electric. From 1 March 2027, gas hot water systems in existing homes must be replaced with electric appliances at end-of-life. New minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes will also come into effect from March 2027 covering insulation, draught-sealing, shower heads, cooling and end-of-life electrification of gas heating and hot water. The standards will cut energy bills for renters (many of whom are on low incomes or experiencing other forms of disadvantage), reduce emissions and make homes healthier to live in particularly in extreme weather events such as heatwaves.</p> <p>The Government has several programs to assist households – including renters and those on lower incomes – to switch to efficient electric energy: Victoria's Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program will deliver over 50,000 energy efficiency and electric upgrades across 23,600 public, community and Aboriginal housing properties in Victoria's social housing portfolio by June 2027 with a total investment of \$209.4 million in partnership with the Commonwealth Government. Upgrades include the installation of efficient reverse cycle air conditioners (replacing gas heaters), heat pump hot water, ceiling insulation, draught and gap sealing, solar panels and gas abolishment, providing both public and community</p>	DEECA, Solar Victoria, DGS, DTP

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>housing tenants with cost effective heating and cooling and improving home comfort.</p> <p>The VEU program is expanding and evolving to support the Government's commitments to efficient electric energy, helping households and businesses. The Government is ensuring that rental providers can access the full range of VEU activities, including those required under the new rental standards (draft-proofing, efficient electric hot water systems and reverse cycle air-conditioners). A proposed activity for ceiling insulation is in development. The Government is also supporting efficient electric energy in homes through the Solar Homes Program, which provides rebates and interest-free loans to support the installation rooftop solar photovoltaic systems and energy-efficient hot water systems. To address barriers for apartment residents, of which around 50 per cent are renters, the Solar for Apartments program helps owner's corporations to install solar photovoltaic systems. More than 2,000 apartments have already benefited from reduced energy costs through the program. In addition, the Residential Electrification Grants program has supported efficient electric home energy by providing grants to approved providers to deliver solar photovoltaic and efficient hot water installations at scale, reducing upfront costs and lowering energy bills for households.</p>	
76	That the Victorian Government examine how to assist the roll-out of the Multi-Hazard Resilience Ratings Scheme across the state.	Support in principle	<p>As noted in the response to recommendation 72, the Victorian Government is committed to helping Victorians understand their natural disaster risks and the steps they can take to mitigate these risks. A range of different resources are currently available to support communities, in planning and preparing for natural disaster emergencies. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Plan and Prepare' content on the Country Fire Authority website, which includes local area information, as well as resources on bushfire risks in different types of Victorian environments and the steps which can be taken to mitigate bushfire risks in these environments.</li> <li>• Local flood guides which are available on the VICSES website, which can assist communities to understand, prepare for and respond to their localised flood risk.</li> </ul>	EMV

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			The Victorian Government will continue to maintain and evolve these products and will also consider options to assist the roll-out of the Multi-Hazard Resilience Rating Scheme.	
77	That the Victorian Government introduce minimum energy efficiency standards that ensure that minimum levels of insulation are in place in rental properties, including social housing.	Support in full	<p>The Victorian Government has now introduced nation-leading minimum energy standards for the approximately one-third of Victorians who rent.</p> <p>The Government regulated the introduction of new minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes which will be phased in from 1 March 2027. These standards build on existing minimum standards that have been in place in Victoria since 2021. The new standards cover the most cost-effective measures for cutting energy waste in the home – ceiling insulation, draught proofing, and low-flow showerheads, as well as energy efficient hot water, heating and cooling.</p> <p>The standards will require rental properties with no ceiling insulation to have ceiling insulation installed to a minimum value of R5.0 when a new rental agreement starts or when a rental agreement is converted from fixed term into a periodic lease. The new requirements apply to public housing.</p> <p>There is a current exemption for community housing for the new standards while a dedicated regulatory impact statement is being developed for community housing to inform future government decisions.</p>	DGS, DEECA
78	That the Victorian Government undertake to assess the uptake of the Victorian Energy Upgrades program by landlords and explore ways to encourage landlords to make their properties more energy efficient and improve their thermal comfort.	Support in principle	The Victorian Government supports encouraging landlords to make their rental properties more energy efficient. This aligns with the Government's broader commitment to ensure renters and rooming house residents (some of whom are low-income households) do not miss out on the financial and health benefits of efficient electric energy by introducing minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes. These new standards and uplifts to existing standards come into effect from March 2027 and will require landlords to include ceiling insulation, cooling in the living room, draught-proofing, low-flow shower-heads, and gas heating and hot water systems to be replaced with efficient electric systems when they reach end-of-life.	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>The Government is improving access to energy efficiency discounts and rebates through the VEU program. This will enable renters to enjoy healthier living conditions and lower energy bills, while landlords benefit from having properties that are more attractive to rent.</p> <p>To further enhance this support, legislation was passed in May 2025 to clarify that activities, even if undertaken because they have been mandated, can also be supported through the VEU program. This legislative change to the program's additionality requirement ensures that activities required under future laws or regulations can still be supported through the VEU program. As a result, landlords will continue to be able to access discounts for energy upgrades in their rental properties, helping them in meeting new minimum rental standards as these are introduced.</p> <p>The Government is also undertaking a two-year strategic review of the VEU program, with a particular focus on ensuring the program is fit for purpose for the future, more accessible to Victorians, and can enable efficient electric energy upgrades at scale. The review is examining barriers to participation that households, landlords and businesses face. In addition, the Government will introduce ceiling insulation retrofits in a staged manner under the VEU program from early 2026. This new activity will help more Victorians to upgrade their homes and rental properties to be more energy efficient, improving thermal comfort, better health outcomes and environmental benefits.</p> <p>The Government acknowledges the potential value of assessing landlord uptake of the VEU in understanding participation levels. However, the VEU program does not currently collect data on property ownership or occupancy status (i.e. landlord/tenant versus owner-occupier), which limits the Government's ability to undertake such an assessment at this stage. The Government will continue to monitor opportunities to improve the VEU program. In addition, any future consideration of expanding eligibility for discounts and rebates under the VEU program in connection with the minimum rental standards will be informed by further consultation and advice from the Department of Treasury and Finance.</p>	
79	That the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues	N/A	N/A	Legislative Council Legal

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	Committee consider issues about climate resilience of public and community housing as part of its Inquiry into the redevelopment of Melbourne's public housing towers, in line with its terms of reference.			and Social Issues Committee
80	The Victorian Government explore ways to increase attraction and retention in the electrical trades and create pathways for careers in retrofitting, energy management and energy efficiency.	Support in full	<p>In line with the findings of the Inquiry report (Finding 92), the Victorian Government is strengthening attraction and retention in the electrical trades and creating pathways for clean economy careers.</p> <p>The annual Victorian Skills Plan features a clean economy chapter providing insights and data on skills and workforce opportunities and provides progress updates on the implementation of the Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy 2023-2033.</p> <p>Initiatives supporting pathways for careers in the clean economy, which incorporates retrofitting, energy management and energy efficiency, include Apprenticeships Victoria's Priority Apprenticeships Model to deliver more apprentices in priority areas, including the Clean Economy. Apprenticeships Victoria has established place-based teams to deliver the model in both metropolitan Melbourne and two regional hubs. This work is ongoing and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improved access to high-quality VET;</li> <li>• better supports for work experience;</li> <li>• high quality career education; and</li> <li>• work-based learning via work experience, structured work-based learning and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships.</li> </ul>	DJSIR
<b>Further areas of inquiry into climate resilience and adaptation</b>				
81	That the Victorian Government consider further investigation or	Support in full	The Victorian Government recognises the importance of understanding the cross system impacts of climate change in Victoria. Under the <i>Climate Action Act 2017</i> ,	DEECA

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
	inquiry into the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, human health, primary production, and industry in Victoria.		<p>AAPs are to include a summary of risks and vulnerabilities relevant to each system.</p> <p>All seven AAPs identify key climate risks and impacts to their systems and propose actions to address them. The next AAPs for 2027-2031 will continue to identify key issues and risks facing their respective systems. AAPs are developed with respect to the built environment system, the education and training system, the health and human services system, the natural environment system, the primary production system, the transport system, and the water cycle system.</p>	
82	That the Victorian Government provide clear guidelines and a communication strategy for councils to engage with communities affected by climate-related rezoning or managed retreat, including access to planning advice, hardship assistance, and mental health support.	Support in principle	<p>The Victorian Government supports the intent of the recommendation and recognises the need for state and local governments to work together to plan for adaptation to all climate hazards.</p> <p>This recommendation has a broad scope across several portfolios, and implementation will be subject to funding availability and standard budget processes.</p> <p>Key elements of this recommendation are considered in responses to other recommendations including those relating to a communication strategy for councils (Recommendation 63), planning advice (Recommendation 10), hardship assistance (Recommendation 46) and mental health support (Recommendation 59).</p> <p>The Government has developed strong policy guidance on adapting to the impacts of coastal hazards and sea level rise, as outlined in the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020 and reflected in the Victorian Planning Provisions This policy is being actioned through the Victoria's Resilient Coast Program.</p> <p>The Victorian Resilient Coast Program has delivered Framework Guidelines and grants plus capacity building support to local government and other marine and coastal land managers to lead strategic adaptation planning across the state, that builds long-term resilience to coastal hazards. This program includes strategies for how to engage with communities affected by climate hazards. The program is supporting 25 coastal hazard adaptation projects across the state. This includes two adaptation focused regional and strategic partnerships delivering the Cape to</p>	DEECA, DJCS, DTP, DTF, DH

Recommendation		Government response	Commentary	Responsible authority for implementation
			<p>Cape Resilience project in Inverloch and the Adapt West project on the western shorelines of Port Philip Bay.</p> <p>DEECA is also progressing a three-year project, funded through the Commonwealth Government's Disaster Resilience Fund 2, to develop statewide policy guidance to support the managed transition (retreat) of property and assets impacted by coastal existing marine and coastal management framework as set in the Marine and Coastal Policy 2020.</p> <p>These policies and plans to respond to coastal hazards are consistent with the Built Environment AAP that states 'Community relocation or transition might not need to occur for many years, but it is sensible to prepare in advance. Part of this work could involve developing contingency plans, ready for when responses are needed. This includes looking at economic and planning options to support responses and exploring legal and financial tools to ensure the process is fair, straightforward and efficient.</p>	