

Submission Text: Renewal of public housing in Victoria is of vital importance for the health and well being of the community and environment. The Retrofit Lab is a research collaboration between The University of Melbourne and RMIT. In 2024 we undertook a review of the evidence related to the 'Life-cycle Impacts of Public Housing Renewal in Victoria'. The evidence in this review is highly relevant to the terms of reference for the current inquiry related to a) rationale; and b) impact on residents. Our review of best practice recommends that decisions consider the full life-cycle impacts of renewal options on climate resilience, resident well-being and communities, as well as cost. We consider life-cycle impacts of three renewal strategies: demolish and rebuild, retrofit, and retrofit and infill. The review highlights significant benefits to climate and health outcomes from retrofitting existing homes, and the potential for infill of housing estates to deliver additional new homes. We have included a briefing note and the full report as part of this submission.