

A healthy climate supporting resilient communities

Significant initiatives

- **Cooling our public housing towers**
\$6.9m in 2023-24 (\$141.4m/4 yrs) to install air-conditioners in all 42 of Victoria's public housing high-rise towers.
- **Delivering climate action**
\$5m in 2023-24 (\$20m/4 yrs) to support climate change policy capability to deliver the Government's climate action agenda.
- **Clean air for the western suburbs**
\$5m in 2023-24 (\$20m/4 yrs) for improved air quality for Melbourne's inner west communities.
- **Strengthening critical Victorian community information services**
\$3.3m in 2023-24 (\$10.3m/4 yrs) to continue emergency management information services including the VicEmergency platform.
- **Driving down gas bills for businesses and households**
\$1.2m in 2023-24 (\$5.1m/4 yrs) to continue the Government's Gas Substitution Roadmap to drive down fossil gas use.

What's good

- Continued support to deliver climate action and reduce gas use in Victoria is important to keep up the existing momentum. The Budget includes support for delivering climate action through legislating Victoria's 2030 and 2035 interim emissions reduction targets, as well as net zero by 2045. It also includes support for delivering the next Climate Change Strategy, which sets a roadmap for Victoria to meet its emissions reduction commitments, and continuing the Gas Substitution Roadmap, which is a plan for the state to phase out gas use.
- Installing air-conditioners in public housing high-rise towers will help renters keep safe from extreme heat. The towers get dangerously hot during heatwaves, which make people sick and force many to sleep outside to keep cool.
- The western suburbs of Victoria have less green space, more highways and more

What's missing

- Climate action is becoming more urgent by the day. This Budget comes days after the World Meteorological Organisation [announced](#) that global temperatures are likely to reach record levels in the next five years. So, while we are pleased that the government is investing in the policy architecture for delivering climate action (important plans and strategies), we are disappointed that – for this year – the amount of funding for implementation doesn't match the Government's genuine policy ambition. In a tight fiscal environment, this Budget reduces spending on climate action by 43%. Spending in 2023-24 will amount to \$15.7m, compared to \$27.6m in 2022-23, at a time when Victorians require support more than ever to reduce emissions to enable the state to meet its ambitious climate targets.

heavy industry, which equates to reduced air quality for residents. This Budget commits funding towards improving air quality in the area through sealing unsealed roads and modernising trucks that travel through the area to reduce pollution.

- The VicEmergency website and app are useful tools for communities to stay informed about local disasters and keep safe. Funding to continue the platform is welcome and ideally will also be used to make the information more accessible, including by providing translations for culturally and linguistically diverse people.
- Victoria's Adaptation Action Plans represent an important step forward for climate resilience across seven systems (including the Health and Human Services sector), but the Plans need dedicated funding for implementation. Victoria is already beginning to feel the impacts of climate change, most recently through the 2022 floods. These impacts will continue to increase in frequency and severity over the coming years, no matter how much we reduce emissions. Victorians need certainty that our communities will be able to effectively and equitably adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Funding to keep Victorians safe from disasters is heavily weighted towards the response and recovery phases, but the community sector needs funding to build people's resilience **between** emergencies. Looking ahead, VCOSS would like to see investment in an ongoing resilience workforce that can hit the ground running when disasters strike, and funding for preparedness programs co-designed with CALD communities involving translated materials and hands-on training.