

**First Name**

John

**Last Name**

Gare

**What organisation are you from?**

Lighter Footprints community action group

**What do you think are the best value actions listed in the statement that are likely to help improve future air quality?**

To bring greenhouse gas emissions down it is vital to stop burning coal and gas to generate electricity. Professors David Karoly and Clive Hamilton, in their 2016 'Special review on Australia's climate goals and policies', state that "it is clear from the carbon budget recommended in the First Report of the [Climate Change Authority] Special Review that electricity emissions must fall to zero by 2035". Utility scale generators lie within the authority of the state government and must be encouraged to cooperate in an orderly but expedited phaseout of all remaining coal-fired generators in Victoria on a timescale consistent with the availability of electricity capacity from renewable sources. The minimum period of 3 years notice of closure will facilitate the transition with due provision for workers reemployment and the establishment of new industrial developments to take advantage of low cost energy. The Andrews state government is to be commended on its VRET Renewable Energy Target scheme aiming to deliver new renewable energy capacity of up to 1500MW by 2020 and up to 5,400MW by 2025. An early opportunity for useful greenhouse gas emissions reductions will come from replacing petrol and diesel fuels with electricity in motor vehicles on Victoria's roads. As suggested in the Air Quality Statement it is expected that as green energy becomes increasingly available the state government will embark on active programs to increase its own use of clean technologies and emission reduction practices. These should include the conversion of government vehicle fleets from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles. A project which the government might well consider promoting widely has been initiated by the Moreland City Council. It involves converting city garbage trucks to fuel cell power fuelled by hydrogen. The light weight and efficiency of hydrogen as a fuel makes possible large weight savings in fuel and vehicle body design with consequent significant increases in the load capacity of the trucks in service. Fuel cell electric garbage trucks will see the end of diesel noise and pollution at depot and on the road. There is scope for state government action to support increased use of electric vehicles on Victoria's roads. Overseas experience has shown that incentives in the form of vehicle registration and stamp duty concessions, undertaking new charging infrastructure roll-outs and time limited priority access to bus lanes on state roads are all effective in making the purchase and operation of electric vehicles less expensive and therefore more attractive to private users. Another approach to reducing pollution due to motor vehicles is to improve public transport, preferably with improved electric train services and bus services operated by electrically powered buses. The economic merits of local manufacture of trains and buses have long been recognised in Victoria and would be expected to lead to further development of associated industries.

**How would you build on or vary these actions?**

The writer has followed the work of the Federal Government's Ministerial Forum on Vehicle Emissions and would strongly support advocacy by the w Coupled with the accelerated introduction of zero emission electric vehicles this measure would finally commence significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector. Analysis conducted for the Ministerial Forum has shown that this will be accompanied by savings in operating costs for vehicle users compared with current operating costs for internal combustion engined models.

**Do you have any suggestions for further actions?****Are there any air quality actions you believe should be avoided? Why?****Are there particular areas of air quality (either pollution sources or geographic regions) you**

**think the government should target for improvement? Why?**

**Are you able to provide any data or information that will help government assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of air quality management actions?**

**Do you have other suggestions on how to secure a clean air future?**