SUBMISSION

First Name
Maryanne

Last Name
Coffey

What organisation are you from?
Clean Energy Council

What do you think are the best value actions listed in the statement that are likely to help improve future air quality?
The statement notes the legislated target of net zero greenhouse emissions by 2050 as well as the target of 40 per cent renewable energy by 2025. The Clean Energy council believes that increasing renewable energy penetration has the biggest potential to make a significant impact on air quality, therefore focusing on net zero emissions through the increase of renewable energy and the retirement of coal powered fire stations is the best value option. Reducing emissions from energy generation is a key enabler for reductions in other sectors such as transport and industry. This therefore ensures that a focus on energy emissions will have the biggest impact at the best value, particularly considering, as the statement clearly notes, that Industry and Motor Vehicles are amongst the main sources of the following pollutants: Particles, Ozone, Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide, Carbon monoxide, Bezene, toluene, xylenes, formaldehyde. Alongside the increased penetration of renewable energy, using a statewide emissions inventory to support industry and community decision-making and to prioritise industries, activities, and sectors for addressing air quality issues would also prove to be good value as it would help increase renewable energy penetration by highlighting the level of emissions produced by fossil fuel energy generation and industry powered by this generation. The CEC also believes that increasing the government's own use of clean technologies and emission reduction practices would be an effective way of increasing air quality in two ways. Firstly, increasing the procurement of renewable energy to meet the state's energy needs would have a direct impact on renewable energy penetration in the state. Secondly, by purchasing electric vehicles for the government fleet the state government could stimulate demand of electric vehicles, an action that would have a significant impact on air quality considering the large amount of pollutants that are a result of motor vehicles. Additionally, the state government could also stimulate demand by investing in electric vehicles for public transport usage, as seen in the ACT through the trial of two electric buses in Canberra. Furthermore, The CEC believes that implementing all the Hazelwood Fire Inquiry recommendations is a crucial action that will have a significant impact on air quality in Victoria.

How would you build on or vary these actions?
The CEC suggests following the recommendations made by the CEC to the Victorian Interim Targets Independent Expert Panel, which suggested the best way to increase renewable energy penetration and reduce emissions. These recommendations were: increasing the renewable energy generation mix, utilising energy storage, promoting electric vehicles and associated infrastructure, establishing a regulatory framework to create policy certainty to sure up investment in renewables, and preparing for the needs of sector going forward. The full submission can be found on the Clean Energy Council website at: https://www.cleanenergycouncil.org.au/policy-advocacy/submissions.html

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?
The CEC recommends focusing on energy generation as a pollution source. This presents the best

value option as large impacts can be made due to the existence of a clear alternative in renewable energy. As well as this, renewable energy acts as a key enabler for emissions reductions in both the Industry and Motor Vehicle sectors and as such, would provide the best value. The CEC also recommends focusing electric vehicles considering the impact of motor vehicles on air quality and the alternative available in electric vehicles.

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?