

# Climate Action Plan

2021 - 2023



NATIONAL  
TRUST





# We Commit to Change

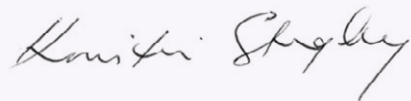
The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (National Trust) is proud to launch our inaugural Climate Action Plan – a timely and much needed plan that will enable the National Trust to contribute tangible and meaningful action to address the climate and biodiversity crisis.

As Victoria's premier heritage and conservation organisation, the National Trust is committed to addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis to ensure the ongoing protection and celebration of Victoria's natural, cultural, social, and Indigenous heritage values.

While the challenge of this crisis is immense, and at times overwhelming, the Board of the National Trust feels strongly that we must play an active role in identifying and implementing solutions.

The Climate Action Plan outlines ways in which the National Trust can strategically use our resources and capacity to improve the energy and waste efficiency of our properties and sites; advocate to government and industry; and share information, skills, and knowledge with our members, supporters, and partners.

As Chair of the National Trust Board, I am proud that the National Trust is joining the global movement to overcome this urgent issue. The challenges and opportunities presented in the implementation of the Climate Action Plan will make us a more relevant, meaningful, and dynamic organisation.



**Kristin Stegley OAM**

Chairman

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

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*The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.*

English Oak at Castlemaine Botanic Gardens, Significant Tree of the Year winner 2021.

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## Our Position

The National Trust understands that the climate and biodiversity crisis is the single biggest and fastest growing threat to people and cultural heritage worldwide.

We recognise that the adverse impacts of the climate and biodiversity crisis require urgent and coordinated action.

As Victoria's leading independent and grassroots voice for heritage in Victoria, we are well placed to advocate for creative and innovative policy, planning, and design solutions that can achieve carbon reduction, in line with our mission to protect and celebrate our natural, cultural, social, and Indigenous heritage.

We are an established community leader, educator, and caretaker of Victoria's heritage. This unique role comes with the responsibility to champion the identification and contribution of meaningful solutions to ensure that our cultural heritage is secure into the future.

We must use our platform to exchange knowledge and information with our members, stakeholders, and partners to create more resilient communities and achieve a safe climate future.

## The Challenge

The increasing concentrations of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), caused by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, are accelerating the climate and biodiversity crisis and contributing to the increased frequency and intensity of severe weather events, such as floods, droughts, and bushfires.

These impacts cause severe damage to our environment and infrastructure, whilst also exacerbating existing pressures, such as rapid urbanisation, resource depletion, and social inequalities.

If new strategies to plan and adapt to these changes are not initiated and actioned immediately, these impacts will have an unprecedented and irreversible effect on our cultural heritage, our connection to place, and our way of life.

## The Opportunity

The climate and biodiversity crisis, while an immense challenge, is also an opportunity to build a more sustainable, fair, and just society.

The solutions to solve this crisis must be coordinated and shared through local, national, and global partnerships.

In addition to our commitment to address the climate and biodiversity crisis, we commit to supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, addressing the ambitions of the Paris Agreement, and endorse the Climate Heritage Network Memorandum of Understanding.

## Our Actions



# Action One: Active Decarbonisation

We understand our role and responsibility to contribute to active decarbonisation, in line with the Paris Agreement goal to limit the rise in global temperature to well below 2°C of warming.

We will take active steps to reduce the carbon footprint of our heritage assets and organisational operations through sustainable consumption, clean energy, and resource efficiency.

“One of the challenges of addressing this crisis is the need to look inward and reflect on the ways in which we can improve our own operations and impact. This is an opportunity to explore creative and innovative solutions that can provide benefits for our organisation and the wider community.

Simon Ambrose  
Chief Executive Officer

No.	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility/ Direction
1.1	Identify and map resources and partnerships required to facilitate a comprehensive emissions audit to measure the collective organisational carbon footprint.	2023	Climate Action Plan Working Group
1.2	Create a greenhouse gas inventory and develop carbon management plan following an emissions audit.	2023	Climate Action Working Group
1.3	Publicise key emission elimination achievements through digital and property-based communication.	2023	Executive Manager, Brand & Marketing
1.4	Incorporate the installation of clean energy into the Asset Management Plans for all properties and sites, including the possibility for microgrids and neighbourhood power sharing.	2021 - 2023	Executive Manager, Assets & Conservation
1.5	Undertake a comprehensive audit of all financial investments. Analyse existing financial investments in clean energy and carbon neutral organisations. Create a plan to increase investments in clean energy and carbon neutral organisations while decreasing investments in companies and institutions involved in the fossil fuel supply and funding chain.	2021 - 2023	Chief Financial Officer
1.6	Undertake a comprehensive audit of the organisation's procurement, use, and disposal of resources to identify unnecessary waste.	2021 - 2023	Climate Action Plan Working Group
1.7	Identify and develop relevant policies for operations, events, and exhibitions to ensure resource efficiency across the organisation both internally and externally.	2021 - 2023	Climate Action Plan Working Group
1.8	Investigate incorporating an optional carbon offset into the NTAV membership price, and investigate carbon offset programs to invest in.	2021 - 2023	Executive Manager, Commercial
1.9	Investigate option to participate in the Victorian Government Land Credit program.	2021 - 2023	Executive Manager, Commercial Executive Manager, Advocacy



## Action Two: Bold Advocate & Activist

We are a trusted voice for heritage in Victoria, empowering government, property owners, corporates, and the community to protect, use and celebrate our heritage.

We are well placed to advocate for creative and innovative policy, planning, and design solutions that can achieve active carbon reduction and sustainable solutions, which will contribute to the preservation of our cultural heritage.

“In order for Victoria’s heritage to be protected, celebrated and understood, we need a healthy and safe climate future so that our cities, towns, and communities can thrive. We will use our independent voice to ensure that industry and government take notice, and that the threat that climate change poses to our shared heritage are addressed.

Felicity Watson  
Executive Manager – Advocacy

No.	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility/ Direction
2.1	Increase involvement in climate and biodiversity crisis related events facilitated by government and other peak industry bodies. Use opportunity to advocate for the role of heritage in identifying strategic opportunities to combat the crisis.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, Advocacy
2.2	Develop a climate and biodiversity crisis position to guide and inform strategic advocacy work.	2021	Executive Manager, Advocacy
2.3	Develop a discussion paper on heritage-based climate action and solutions. Promote as a public advocacy tool and resource.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, Advocacy
2.4	Engage with other peak industry bodies to mobilise all levels of government to act on the climate and biodiversity crisis.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, Advocacy



# Action Three: Empowering Community Leader

We will communicate and engage with our members and supporters to take tangible and meaningful action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crisis.

“The National Trust is at the centre of a passionate community of members, supporters, and partners. As a leading voice for heritage, we have a responsibility and platform to inspire, engage, connect and share resources, skills and research that contributes solutions to the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Georgina Crosling  
Executive Manager – Brand & Marketing

No.	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility/ Direction
3.1	Develop a messaging manual to inform internal and external communications regarding the climate and biodiversity crisis.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, Brand & Marketing
3.2	Explore the integration of climate awareness into all new and refreshed property interpretation, including volunteer training and guided tours. Identify a priority list for implementation.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, Collections & Cultural Projects
3.3	Integrate climate and biodiversity crisis awareness into employee inductions. Investigate professional development and training opportunities to respond to the climate and biodiversity crisis.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, People & Culture
3.4	Provide avenues that encourage all internal and external stakeholders to provide feedback to improve the Climate Action Plan.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, People & Culture



Endeavour Fern Gully, by Annette Ruzicka.



## Action Four: Innovative Custodian of Heritage

We take seriously our role in the conservation, protection, and activation of our heritage properties, places, and collections. We will take active steps to understand, integrate, and share best practice conservation methods and materials that can both preserve our heritage assets and collections, and increase carbon and resource efficiency.

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*The National Trust strives to be a leader in developing and promoting heritage conservation excellence. We are currently working on a strategy to improve the quality and sustainability of conservation at National Trust properties, whilst also embedding traditional trades and conservation skills. The Climate Action Plan is a powerful reminder that the seemingly small changes we make at our local sites can have a huge impact in the movement to address this global challenge.*

Sherredan Maher  
Executive Manager, Assets & Conservation

No.	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility/ Direction
4.1	Identify processes and materials which can achieve emission and waste reduction referencing heritage trade practices. Incorporate findings into Asset Management Plans.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, Assets & Conservation
4.2	Incorporate findings into the Skills Share Program, currently being developed, to demonstrate and advocate for these processes and materials.	2021-2023	Executive Manager, Assets & Conservation



Conservation work for CostumeLAB event at Labassa, courtesy of University of Melbourne.





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