

Victorian household electrification policy priorities

Household electrification can deliver lasting reductions in energy bills, improve home comfort and reduce emissions. Victoria has established a strong policy foundation. The next government should protect that progress and ensure renters, apartment residents and households facing upfront cost barriers can share in the benefits.

Rewiring Australia asks all parties and candidates to support the following seven priorities.

1 Protect Victoria's existing gas transition measures

Maintain the Gas Substitution Roadmap and implement the scheduled 2027 reforms for all-electric new homes and electric replacement of gas hot-water systems at end of life. Retain a clear timetable so households, installers and industry can plan confidently, and avoid locking more homes into gas infrastructure and future switching costs.

2 Protect and expand the Victorian Energy Upgrades program

Maintain strong VEU incentives for replacing gas appliances with efficient electric alternatives. Expand practical access for apartment and strata households, including shared infrastructure and upgrades requiring owners corporation approval. Simplify participation while maintaining installation quality and consumer protections.

3 Introduce no-interest household electrification loans

Establish a government-backed no-interest loan scheme, drawing on NSW's approach, to help low- and middle-income households cover upfront costs remaining after rebates. Include heat-pump hot water, efficient heating and cooling, induction cooking, solar, batteries and necessary electrical upgrades. Combine finance with existing incentives, appropriate affordability checks and targeted assistance for households unable to take on debt.

4 Enable plug-in solar and batteries

Establish a safe regulatory pathway for the sale, installation and connection of plug-in solar and battery systems. Address rental, planning and owners corporation barriers so renters and apartment residents can install suitable systems, with clear technical standards and proportionate approval requirements.

5 Require home energy-performance disclosure

Introduce mandatory, accessible energy-performance disclosure when homes are advertised for sale or lease. Provide a consistent rating and useful information about the home's efficiency so buyers and renters can compare properties, understand likely running costs and identify opportunities for improvement.

6 Provide land-tax incentives for early rental upgrades

Introduce targeted land-tax incentives for landlords who electrify and improve rental properties before relevant minimum energy standards commence. Link eligibility to verified upgrades that improve tenant comfort and reduce energy costs, with safeguards to ensure public support benefits renters. Incentives should complement enforceable minimum standards.

7 Reduce strata voting barriers

Amend owners corporation rules to lower approval thresholds for appropriate sustainability upgrades, drawing on NSW's approach. Make it easier to approve shared solar, batteries, EV charging and associated electrical works, with fair cost allocation and protections for owners and residents.

Supporting delivery through communities

Rewiring Australia combines research and policy expertise with practical household support through Electric Saul and an Electric Communities Network that includes dozens of volunteer groups across Victoria. We welcome opportunities to work with MPs and government to develop these commitments and help households access their benefits.

We seek your support for these priorities and would welcome advice on which measures your party or office is prepared to champion.