

**Submission
No 24**

INQUIRY INTO APARTMENT DESIGN STANDARDS

Organisation: Knox City Council

Date Received: 29 October 2021

28 October 2021

The Committee Manager
Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002



To the Committee Manager,

RE: Inquiry into apartment design standards

Knox City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a brief submission to the above inquiry. In September 2021, Council adopted the *Knox Climate Response Plan 2021-2031* which sets out a pathway for the Knox community to tackle the serious issue of Climate Change by setting a Net Zero emissions by 2040 target. The plan recognises that Council's efforts alone will not be sufficient to address the threat of climate change. It is imperative that changes occur at other levels of government, within the community, and by major business and industry, in order to reach the target.

In particular the following issues were identified as requiring advocacy to the state and federal governments:

- Electric Vehicle Ready Built Environment, ensuring that every car space in new apartment complexes are ready to support electric vehicle charging in the future. It is anticipated that home charging is likely to be the most convenient and likely charging scenario for vehicle owners and making provision for this now would reduce expensive retrofit costs later;
- Increase minimum building standards to achieve net zero emissions which is estimated to result in thousands of dollars in savings for home owners each year and significant greenhouse emissions reductions; and
- Ensuring all new apartments are fully electric for heating, cooking and hot water purposes and gas is not connected to the premises.

We note that the Victorian State government has also committed to a net zero target and the above interventions are necessary to enable the community to achieve these targets as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of the above matters raised.

Yours sincerely



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Document ID: D21-266155