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COALITION'S GREEN LIGHT PLAN WILL SAVE MONEY, CUT EMISSIONS

The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition will give the green light to cutting costs and reducing emissions under a \$20 million plan to replace old, expensive and inefficient street lights, Coalition Leader Ted Baillieu said today.

"The Coalition's green light plan will begin the process of converting 330,000 1980s-era energy-intensive mercury vapour street lights to energy-efficient fluorescent lighting," Mr Baillieu said.

"The Coalition's plan is a cost-effective way to take practical action to reduce emissions, help the environment and reduce costs for Victorian families.

"Replacing all the outmoded street lights in Victoria will save councils and ratepayers \$7 million a year by reducing electricity bills, and it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 341,917 cars off the road for a year.

"A Coalition Government will work with local councils and the Commonwealth to make Victoria a leader in improved, energy-efficient street lighting," Mr Baillieu said.

Victoria's street lighting system is regulated by the Commonwealth Government, funded by local councils, and was set up by the Victorian Government, so any effective transition to energy-efficient street lighting would need to occur in partnership with all three levels of government.

"Victorian families and businesses are already doing a great job in saving energy and cutting greenhouse gas emissions, but governments also have to play their part and investing in energy-efficient street lighting is a great way to reduce emissions," Mr Baillieu said.

"The Coalition's plan will help to make Victoria's street lights more sustainable and reduce costs for councils and ratepayers.

"In government, we will seek a matching funding commitment from the Commonwealth as part of our plan to invest in projects which are sustainable and support local communities to take positive practical action to help the environment," Mr Baillieu said.

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