

# Media Release

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
Minister for Climate Action  
Minister for Energy and Resources  
Minister for the State Electricity Commission



Thursday, 24 October 2024

## NEW SOLAR PROJECTS TO POWER BENALLA AND WANGARATTA

Construction kicks off at one of Victoria's largest solar farms which will be able to supply enough cheap renewable energy to power every household in the Rural City of Benalla and Rural City of Wangaratta twice over.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio today announced construction will start on the 250 megawatt (MW) Goorambat East Solar Farm and visited the nearby 99 megawatt Winton Solar Farm to celebrate its completion.

The Goorambat East Solar Farm will create around 250 jobs, with significant regional benefits during construction and operation, including a community benefit fund of \$75,000 per year for at least 25 years.

The solar farm will be up running in 2026 and is ENGIE's first solar energy generation project in Victoria since the closure of its Hazelwood coal fired power generator in 2017.

The Winton Solar Farm, developed by Fotowatio Renewable Ventures has recently completed its commissioning and is now providing cheap, renewable solar power into Victoria's electricity grid.

The Winton Solar Farm can generate enough power for 52,000 homes and created 200 jobs during its construction with support from the Allan Labor Government's first round of Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET1) auctions.

The Labor Government delivered five projects under VRET1, bringing forward 800 MW of new renewable capacity, enough to power more than 570,000 Victorian households.

Victoria's renewable electricity generation hit 39 percent last year thanks to the 82 large scale renewable energy projects operational to date – delivering 5.5 gigawatts of energy.

Renewable energy is the cheapest form of new build energy generation and as more comes online it will deliver cheap and reliable power to Victorians.

Victoria is on track to transition to 95 per cent renewable energy generation by 2035 which will help create 59,000 jobs.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio

*"Victoria's future is renewable and the more renewable energy generation that comes online the more downward pressure is put on power bills for Victorians."*

*"It's great to see companies like ENGIE invest in renewable energy generation projects in Victoria following the closure of their Hazelwood coal fired power generator in 2017."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

*"Our investment in renewable energy will help keep the lights on as we transition to 95 percent renewable energy by 2035 and create more jobs and lower power prices for all Victorians."*

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