

Media Release

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



Thursday, 28 November 2024

MAJOR MILESTONE TO UNLOCK RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE WEST

The Allan Labor Government is building the state's renewable energy future, ensuring more cheap renewable energy can come online, helping to lower power bills for Victorian homes and businesses.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio today announced the start of construction on Synchronous Condenser (SynCon) in Ararat. The project is critical to stabilising and balancing the energy grid as more wind and solar energy from Western Victoria is connected to the grid.

This is one of 12 projects being delivered as part of the Labor Government's \$480 million Renewable Energy Zone Fund, which is strengthening and modernising the state's grid so more affordable and reliable renewable energy can flow to homes, businesses, hospitals, and other vital services across the state.

The SynCon, located next to the Ararat Terminal Station, is a rotating machine that helps maintain a balance between power generation and consumption, quickly responding to sudden changes in power demand to stabilise the grid.

System stability has traditionally been provided through the inertia that spinning coal and gas turbines deliver. A SynCon provides a zero-emissions alternative and allows more affordable wind and solar to be connected to the grid.

On completion in 2025, the SynCon will unlock up to 600 megawatts of renewable energy generation, providing system strength and maintaining a reliable power grid for the region, as Victoria transitions to 95 percent renewable energy generation by 2035.

The Victorian based renewable construction company, Beon Energy Solutions, is building the SynCon using world leading technology, helping to build Victoria's renewable energy workforce and infrastructure.

For more information visit energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy.

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

"The Ararat SynCon is critical infrastructure that will deliver energy security to homes and businesses in the western region where there is an abundance of wind and solar power."

"We've invested \$480 million to deliver innovative projects that support our transition to renewable energy by upgrading and modernising our electricity grid which will support Victorians with affordable and reliable energy."

Quote attributable to member for Ripon Martha Haylett

"We are supporting the Ararat community and surrounds by strengthening the energy grid to provide affordable and reliable energy straight to homes and businesses."