

# Statement

**The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
Minister for Climate Action  
Minister for Energy and Resources  
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## **COALITION CUTS SQUAD TO AXE PUBLIC OWNED RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Hard-right Liberal leader Brad Battin's incompetent and divided Coalition Cuts Squad have just revealed their first of many cuts.

Brad Battin has used his first policy announcement to cut the SEC – public owned renewable energy made for people, not profit.

Brad Battin will recycle his political hero Jeff Kennett's plan and sell off and privatise Victorian renewable energy infrastructure to private, for-profit companies, at the expense of Victorian families' power bills.

When the Liberals last sold off Victoria's essential services and profits offshore the generators alone made \$23 billion in profit at the expense of Victorian families.

Power bills increased 170 per cent from 1995 to 2012 alone.

A record number of vulnerable Victorians had their power disconnected.

Brad Battin's Liberal Party will shut down renewable energy and send Victorians' power bills through the roof.

We brought back the SEC for good – enshrining state-owned renewable energy in Victoria's Constitution. We will fight to keep publicly owned energy in the hands of Victorians to drive down power bills.

Construction on the SEC's first investment – the 600-megawatt Melbourne Renewable Energy Hub – is now at the halfway point, with 650 people employed delivering this critical project and it's on track to be connected to the grid in 2025, storing enough electricity to power up to 200,000 homes during peak periods.

In November last year, the SEC secured its second project with a \$370 million investment to build the SEC Renewable Energy Park – a massive solar farm and battery in Horsham, capable of generating enough renewable energy to power 51,000 homes and creating 246 jobs.

The SEC is going to build 4.5 gigawatts of new renewable energy and storage projects – enough to power more than 1.5 million homes.

The more renewable energy we build, the more we will drive down Victorians' power bills.

Brad Battin wants to cut Victorian jobs, cut Victorian-owned renewable energy assets and cut Victoria's energy reliability.

Our investment in renewable energy means Victorians have the lowest wholesale energy prices in the country. More battery storage, wind and solar farms will help drive down power bills.

That's why, under an Allan Labor Government, the SEC is here to stay and back the projects that drive down power bills.

From day one, the Coalition Cuts Squad has made it very clear it's getting ready to target the services Victorian families rely on.

The Liberals are divided, the Liberals are extreme, the Liberals will cut.

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