

Joint Media Release



Australian Government

Hon Chris Bowen MP
Minister for Climate Change
and Energy



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

Friday, 28 February 2025

LATROBE VALLEY CHARGING TOWARDS RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Allan Labor and Albanese Labor Governments are securing the Latrobe Valley's renewable energy future that will create new jobs and push down energy prices.

Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio announced the start of construction on EnergyAustralia's 350 megawatt (MW) four-hour Wooreen Battery, which will store enough energy to power 230,000 homes over a four-hour period before needing to be recharged.

The battery is located at the old Jeeralang Power Station site at Hazelwood North and generate 80 jobs during construction which will be complete and ready to charging up the grid with cheap renewable energy in 2027.

Building more battery storage means we can create more renewable energy – for every gigawatt of battery storage built, three gigawatts of new renewable energy can come online, which will deliver more cheap electricity into the grid and reduce power prices.

The Wooreen Battery is part of the Allan Labor Government's Structured Transition Agreement (STAs) with EnergyAustralia – which is helping workers and industry prepare for the closure of Yallourn in 2028.

The STAs will focus on helping workers retrain, reskill, and find new opportunities, which includes a tailored worker and supply chain transition programs, a worker transfer scheme. Our expansion of training and apprenticeship programs will also create a new pipeline of skilled workers.

Victoria is the home to big batteries with 12 currently operational, with another 13 under construction or undergoing commissioning, pushing us towards meeting the first renewable energy storage target of at least 2 gigawatts by 2030.

The Wooreen Battery has been made possible through financial backing from the Albanese Labor Government's Capacity Investment Scheme which ensures developers will build enough cheap, clean, renewable energy and storage to replace ageing coal fired generators as they retire.

Victoria is on track to deliver 95 per cent renewable energy generation by 2035. As more large amounts of solar and wind come online, large-scale storage is key to storing renewable energy from these new projects to further drive down bills for Victorians.

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

"The Wooreen Battery will help the Latrobe Valley continue to be the state's energy generation powerhouse and allow for more renewable projects to be built in the area."

"We're making sure our new renewable energy projects continue to drive down bills for Victorian households and create jobs in the regional communities that host them."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen

"It doesn't always rain but we can drink water every day because we store it. In the same way, batteries will store the huge amount of clean, cheap, renewable energy that Australia can generate from its world beating sun and wind resources."

"Switching to clean reliable renewable energy isn't just good for the environment, it's good for power bills, and it's great for good, secure jobs. It's why Labor is supporting the delivery of more of the cheapest form of energy this decade, rather than waiting twenty years for a nuclear scheme that will cost taxpayers \$600 billion, push up bills and flood our atmosphere with billions of tonnes more in emissions."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh

"This battery project will create new opportunities for workers in the Latrobe Valley, helping them to transition their skills to renewable energy."