

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, the Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Solar Homes



Thursday, 21 May, 2020

INVESTING IN RENEWABLES TO KEEP ENERGY BILLS LOW

The Victorian Government has announced a suite of renewable energy projects that will create jobs, save Victorians money and help reduce emissions.

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and Solar Homes Lily D'Ambrosio unveiled a \$15.3 million package of investments that build on the Government's *Solar Homes* program, which is installing solar panels on 700,000 homes across the state and saving households up to \$890 per year.

Sports clubs and community halls will benefit from \$10.3 million for energy efficiency and affordability improvements, including solar installations on public buildings on crown land.

A further \$4 million will fund energy efficiency upgrades for hot water systems and lighting in public housing high-rise properties across Victoria.

The package also includes \$1 million in grants to help regional communities deliver renewable energy projects – such as putting solar panels on child care centres, community buildings or health facilities – through the New Energy Jobs Fund.

This fund will create jobs across the Gippsland, Loddon Mallee, Grampians, Hume and Barwon South West, as Victoria's regions lead the charge in renewable energy.

Applications for the Government's Solar Homes Program have peaked this month, as solar panels deliver savings for Victorians staying home to slow the spread of coronavirus.

More than 79,000 Victorians have installed rebated solar panels, batteries and solar hot water systems since the program began in 2018. If these panels were lined up side-by-side, they would cover the playing field of the MCG almost 125 times.

More information on the Solar Homes program and rebates can be found at solar.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and Solar Homes Lily D'Ambrosio

"Our investment in renewable energy and solar panels will create jobs and help reduce power bills."

"Solar panels delivering significant savings for Victorians – particularly at the moment, with people staying home to slow the spread of coronavirus."