

Media Release

The Hon Gabrielle Williams MP
Minister for Government Services
Minister for Consumer Affairs
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Monday, 5 February 2024

VICTORIA UNVEILS FIRST ALL-ELECTRIC BUS DEPOT

The Allan Labor Government has opened Victoria's first electric bus depot in Melbourne's north-east – as the state charges towards its nation-leading target of achieving net zero emissions by 2045.

Minister for Public and Active Public Transport Gabrielle Williams and Minister for Climate Action Lily D'Ambrosio announced Ventura's Ivanhoe depot has been converted to accommodate the largest fleet of zero-emissions buses in the state, as part of the Labor Government's \$20 million Zero Emissions Bus (ZEB) Trial.

The 27 electric buses operating from the upgraded depot will transport up to 10,000 people each week covering more than 1.2 million kilometres a year across the northern suburbs, including routes travelling to La Trobe University, Preston Market, Gowrie Station and Northland Shopping Centre.

Works to convert the former depot from diesel to completely zero emission buses included installation of a new transformer on site and upgrading the grid connection to support the 14 dual-gun Tritium fast chargers.

Ventura is the largest bus operator in Victoria and one of six operators across the state taking part in the three-year ZEB trial which will see 52 zero emission buses (50 electric and two hydrogen) rolled out across Melbourne, Traralgon and Seymour.

The trial is helping inform the transition of around 4,500 diesel buses in the state's public fleet to zero emissions. From 2025, all new buses purchased for Victoria's public transport routes will be zero emissions as we move towards net zero emissions by 2045.

Extra funding was also announced in the *Victorian Budget 2023/24* to support the roll-out of zero emission buses as part of new 10-year metropolitan bus contracts. These contracts cover 30 per cent of the metro network and come up for renewal in 2025.

Improving our bus network is part of Victoria's Bus Plan to meet demand, enhance accessibility and performance, while delivering value for money for all passengers.

Quote attributable to Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams

"We're proud to be delivering Victoria's first all-electric bus depot – providing passengers with a smoother and quieter bus ride, and helping the state meet its commitment of net zero emissions by 2045."

Quote attributable to Minister for Minister for Climate Action Lily D'Ambrosio

"Our transport sector is a significant contributor to our emissions and the rollout of zero emissions busses will be critical to achieving our world-leading target of net zero emissions by 2045."

Quote attributable to Member for Ivanhoe Anthony Carbines

"Ivanhoe and the northern suburbs continue to be at the forefront of our transition to a more sustainable future."