

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development



Wednesday, 5 September, 2018

BUILDING VICTORIA'S LARGEST VIRTUAL POWER PLANT

The Andrews Labor Government will help fund Victoria's largest virtual power plant, as part of a major investment in microgrid technology across Victoria.

Minister for Energy Lily D'Ambrosio today announced that \$4.5 million would be provided to Origin Energy to develop a \$20 million cloud-based project that will distribute power from up to 650 customers with solar PV and batteries during peak periods.

The Origin Energy Virtual Power Plant (VPP) will boost grid stability by discharging power from solar PV and batteries located at homes and commercial and industrial sites to reduce their power bills.

The selected customers will receive discounted batteries, demonstrating opportunities for coordinating solar PV, batteries and flexible demand across Victoria.

A microgrid is a small network of electricity users with a local supply of power that can function independently of the electricity grid, delivering energy security, sustainability and cost savings for those in the network.

The VPP will provide benefits to the electricity network and help Victoria reach its ambitious renewable energy targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025.

The Microgrid Demonstration Initiative is providing \$10 million to support eight microgrid projects as part of the Labor Government's \$146 million Renewable Energy Action Plan.

These investments are in addition to the \$1.3 billion Solar Homes program which will deliver half-priced solar panels to 650,000 Victorian households and solar hot water systems to 60,000 homes with no upfront cost.

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

"We're investing in new technologies that will help create jobs, attract investment in renewable energy and bring down power prices."

"We're ensuring Victoria's energy system is affordable, resilient and secure, as we transition to the next generation of energy technologies."