

Media Release

The Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning



DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS

Monday, 8 October, 2018

GUIDING VICTORIA WITH SOLAR FARM DEVELOPMENTS

The Andrews Labor Government has approved a major new solar farm north of Shepparton and released draft planning guidelines for the development of large solar farm projects across the state.

Minister for Planning Richard Wynne announced today that he has approved the Congupna solar farm proposal, which will produce 68 MW of clean energy, create around 250 jobs and power approximately 22,600 homes.

The project will be built on non-irrigated agricultural land and drive around \$38 million in capital expenditure. A decision on the Tallygaroopna, Lemnos and Tatura East solar farm applications has been deferred until further strategic work is completed for the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

Minister Wynne also released the draft *Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guidelines* for comment.

The draft guidelines will help inform councils, developers and communities on planning requirements for the large solar farm facilities to ensure they are built in the right locations, are easily accessible to the grid and that proposals give careful consideration to high productivity agricultural areas and sensitive landscapes.

The document was informed by a review of guidelines and best practice standards interstate and internationally. It also includes a Best Practice Guide for Proponents to help developers engage with communities, and minimise the environmental and social impacts of their proposals.

The Labor Government continues to drive investment in clean, affordable energy projects – with Victoria’s first renewable energy auction generating six massive solar and wind projects that will produce more than 900 megawatts of energy and create more than 900 jobs.

The Labor Government is also investing more than \$1.3 billion to put solar panels, hot water and batteries on \$720,000 homes across the state – driving down energy prices for Victorian households.

The *Solar Energy Facilities – Design and Development Guidelines* are open for public comment until 1 March 2019 at www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/solar-energy-facilities-design-and-development-draft-guidelines.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Planning Richard Wynne

“The Congupna solar farm will create more than 250 new jobs and produce 68 megawatts of new, clean energy – helping to drive down energy prices.”

“We’re working with industry and community to make sure solar farm developments deliver the right outcomes for communities, the environment and jobs.”

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

“These new guidelines will provide more certainty to the community, and more confidence to invest in major solar farms like the one at Congupna.”

“We’re creating jobs, driving down power prices and combatting climate change with the biggest investment in renewable energy in Victoria’s history.”

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