



Minister's foreword

The energy sector pledge demonstrates how the Victorian Government is leading a historic transition to renewable energy, securing affordable and reliable energy for Victorian households and businesses and leading the transition to net zero emissions.

The pledge shows we're delivering the policy, planning and legislation to drive investment in renewable energy – and it's working.

Since 2019–20, Victoria's renewable electricity capacity has doubled, including an additional 2.8 gigawatts (GW) of wind capacity, 3 GW of rooftop solar and almost 1 GW of large-scale solar.

Renewables are the cheapest form of electricity, helping us maintain lower wholesale gas and electricity prices.

Victoria's energy transition gives real cost-of-living relief to everyday Victorians and more comfortable and climate-resilient homes to more people.

It offers opportunities to support the selfdetermination of Traditional Owners and more equitable benefit-sharing for communities and landowners. Renewable, reliable energy is the backbone of our economy: it drives new industries, innovation and growth, and creates huge new job opportunities. Victoria's energy workforce is projected to grow by 60% to 67,000 workers in 2040, led by this transition.

In 2022, Victoria released the first Gas Substitution Roadmap in the nation, and in 2023 and 2024 we released Updates – to help secure the energy supply for Victorian households and businesses, and slash their costs.

In 2025, Victoria introduced new requirements to deliver energy-efficient rental properties as well as phasing-in efficient electric hot water systems in households when existing gas hot water systems reach end of life commencing from 2027.

The path to net zero is led by the energy sector, with a strong focus on fairness, and an insistence that households come first.

Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio

Minister for Climate Action Minister for Energy and Resources Minister for the State Electricity Commission

Overview of energy sector emissions

The energy sector is Victoria's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions. The sector accounted for about 65% of the state's total emissions in 2023.

Of these emissions:

70%

are from burning fossil fuels to make electricity used by households and businesses.

26%

are from burning fossil fuels (mainly gas) for heating, hot water and cooking in homes and businesses.

4%

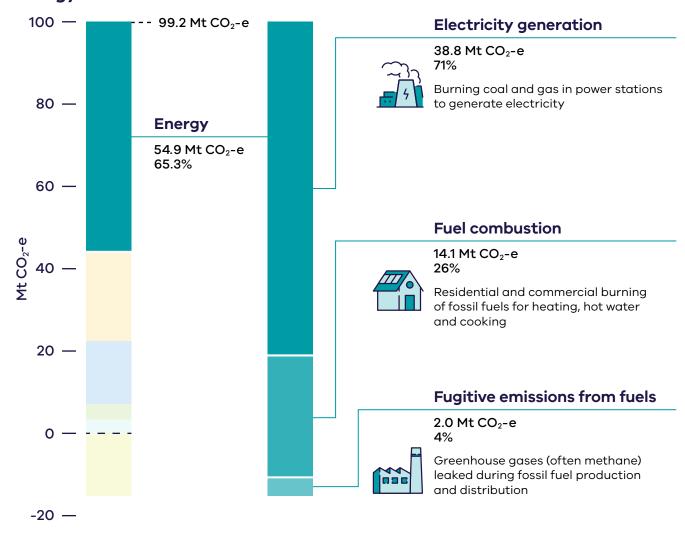
are from leakage (fugitives) during the extraction and delivery of fossil fuels.

Emissions from the energy sector have decreased by 35% since 2005, from 84 Mt CO_2 -e down to 55 Mt CO_2 -e in 2023 (million tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent).

This was driven by strong renewable electricity growth, more energy-efficient manufacturing and lower fossil gas use.

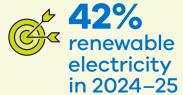
Reflecting our focus to move away from fossil fuels, energy emissions will continue to fall over the next five years as Victoria advances its transition to renewable electricity, accelerates the switch from gas to electric heating and appliances, and further improves the energy efficiency of homes and businesses

Energy sector emissions in Victoria in 2023



Figures represent latest emissions data from 2023. Numbers may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Achievements



for target of 40% renewables by 2025.









put in place to improve energy efficiency, comfort and running.



with reduced energy bills from the VEU program since 2009.



with reduced energy bills from the VEU program since 2009.



on average per year for households from VEU upgrades.



for orderly closure of Yallourn coal-fired power station in 2028 and Loy Yang A in 2035, enabling a clear investment environment for renewable energy.



with rooftop solar systems since 2018.



delivered through the Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program since 2021.



for Victorian Government operations.



Emissions reduction pledge 2026-30

The Victorian Government continues to lead ambitious reforms across the energy sector. We're accelerating our transition to a clean, net zero future by driving down greenhouse gas emissions while securing affordable, reliable energy for all Victorians.

Transitioning to more renewable energy sources is not only a major contributor to meeting Victoria's emissions reduction targets, but it also unlocks significant economic and social benefits.

We're committed to harnessing all the opportunities that a clean energy transformation brings, to help Victorians thrive.

As we move away from ageing coal-fired power to a diverse mix of renewable energy, we're optimising policy and legislative settings to provide investment certainty, drive innovation and facilitate an inclusive and fair transition

We're planning and coordinating the generation, storage and transmission infrastructure we need to deliver reliable, affordable and safe renewable energy.

We're empowering all Victorians to participate in – and benefit from – the energy transition through switching to more efficient electric energy, delivering real energy bill savings and cost-of-living relief.

Flagship initiatives, like the Victorian Energy Upgrades program and Solar Homes Program, the SEC 'one-stop-shop' and new regulatory reforms are driving upgrades to efficient electric energy, cutting emissions and saving households and businesses money. These actions are ensuring all Victorians can benefit from energy efficiency upgrades and modern electric appliances – making homes warmer in winter, cooler in summer and cheaper to run all year round.

We're growing an inclusive and diverse energy workforce, ensuring Victoria has the skills and capability to deliver the energy transition. We're identifying the skills and training needed to support Victoria's growing renewable energy workforce and ensuring Victorians benefit from the education, training and job opportunities.

Together, the actions in this pledge will drive a significant reduction in emissions across our state over the next five years. With the strong Victorian Government leadership set out in this pledge, it's estimated that these actions will reduce emissions by 19 Mt CO₂-e in 2030.

But our work doesn't end here. Building on our progress and momentum, we'll continue to lead an ambitious and necessary agenda for Victoria's clean energy future.

Emissions reduction actions 2026-30

Enabling the renewables big build

We're leading a historic transition in our energy system – designing one that's fit for the future, resilient and ready to support a thriving low emissions economy and the needs of many generations to come.

To keep the lights on and reach our 95% renewable energy target, we're unlocking around 25 GW of new rooftop solar, offshore wind, onshore renewables and energy storage over the next decade.

We're powering ahead with our big renewable energy build and creating and maintaining the right conditions for renewables investment.



Victoria's renewable energy targets

Approximately 25 GW of additional large and small-scale generation and storage capacity is required over the next 10 years.

This is estimated to attract \$35 billion of private investment and add about \$9.5 billion to annual Gross State Product.

We've legislated nation-leading targets:

- renewable electricity targets of 65% by 2030 and 95% by 2035
- energy storage targets of at least 2.6 GW of capacity by 2030 and at least 6.3 GW by 2035
- offshore wind energy targets of at least 2 GW by 2032, 4 GW by 2035 and 9 GW by 2040.

Achieving our ambitious renewable energy targets will drive economic activity across the state through the establishment of new energy industries and more local jobs.

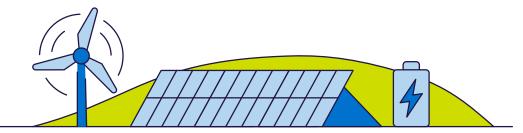
Victoria has met every renewable energy target it has set so far.

Secure new renewable generation and energy storage capacity

The Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) auctions – VRET1 in 2017 and VRET2 in 2022, and Bulgana Green Power Hub project – announced in 2017 – were instrumental in achieving investment certainty by granting long-term contracts for new renewable generation projects, including wind, solar and storage projects across Victoria.

We are driving new investment in renewable energy and storage projects through the Victoria-Australian Government Renewable Energy Transformation Agreement (RETA). The RETA secures at least 11 terawatt-hours (TWh) (or approximately 5 GW) of renewable generation capacity and 1.7 GW of 4-hour equivalent storage to Victoria under the Australian Government's Capacity Investment Scheme.

Similarly, the Renewable Certificate Purchasing Initiative brought forward investment in two new wind and two new solar farms in Victoria by providing long-term contracts for the purchase of large-scale generation certificates (LGCs). LGCs are tradable products created by eligible large-scale renewable energy power stations in Australia and represent the amount of renewable electricity generated by these facilities. The certificates surrendered to the Clean Energy Regulator have offset 100% of Melbourne's Tram Network electricity use since 2018.





SEC Victoria

The Victorian Government has taken the historic step of bringing back the SEC, to put power in the hands of the people.

The SEC is a government-owned renewable energy company to accelerate investment in renewables.

It has been allocated **an initial \$1 billion investment** towards delivering 4.5 GW of new renewable generation and storage projects by 2035.

The SEC will continue to develop options for future investment in long-duration energy storage projects to help maintain renewable energy supply and allow greater uptake of renewables into our energy system.

In 2025, we announced that the SEC will now retail to government, supplying 100% renewable electricity to power government sites including schools,

to power government sites including schoo hospitals, offices, trains, trams and water corporations since July 2025.

The SEC will expand its retail offer to provide competitive, 100% renewable electricity retail solutions for medium and large businesses. It will also offer demand management and behind-the-meter solutions to reduce reliance on the grid and help businesses meet their emissions-reduction goals.

SEC projects

To date, the SEC has invested in 819 MW of new generation and storage capacity – almost 20% of its 2035 target – including the Melbourne Renewable Energy Hub and SEC Renewable Energy Park in Horsham.

Together, these projects will deliver enough energy to power around 250,000 homes and create more than 400 jobs during peak construction.





A planned and orderly transmission network

The **Victorian Transmission Plan** is a long-term strategy for modernising the electricity grid. It ensures we build energy infrastructure where it's needed – delivering reliable and affordable energy – and that the benefits are shared among landholders and local communities.

We've established **VicGrid** to facilitate the timely delivery of new transmission and optimise existing grid infrastructure via the \$480 million Renewable Energy Zone Fund.

Improve planning and approval processes for renewable energy projects

We're streamlining planning and approval processes for timely outcomes and investment certainty, with robust community engagement and consideration of social, environmental and economic impacts in renewable energy projects.

We have enhanced planning and accelerated approval processes in several ways:

 The Biodiversity Planning Guidelines and a Renewable Energy Development Handbook in May 2025.

- The Development Facilitation Program (DFP) in March 2024 to give renewable energy projects an accelerated planning pathway. Since then, 17 projects have been approved, totalling \$4.6 billion in investment and securing 1.3 GW of new generation capacity and 3.2 GW of new storage capacity.
- Making the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) process more efficient and transparent, providing investors with an outcome in 18 months or less.

Support the self-determination of Traditional Owners and First Peoples

As we transition to net zero, we remain committed to a fair and inclusive transition that supports the self-determining rights of Traditional Owners and First Peoples. We're putting Traditional Owners and First Peoples at the centre of decision-making processes for issues and opportunities that directly affect them, and ensuring there are opportunities to benefit from renewable energy development.

The First Peoples' Adoption of Renewable Energy Program provided \$960,000 to build greater capacity and capability in Traditional Owner Corporations and their communities to engage the renewable energy sector in an empowered and self-determined way. To date, 11 formally-recognised Traditional Owner Corporations have been awarded funding for projects including developing a renewable energy statement and dedicated staff to lead on renewable energy initiatives.

Empowering households and businesses to lower energy bills

Reduce the carbon footprint of homes and businesses

Since the release of Victoria's last Climate Change Strategy in 2021, we've released the first-in-the-nation Gas Substitution Roadmap, to help more households and businesses switch from fossil gas to efficient, electric appliances, and lower their bills long term.

We're reforming planning and legislation to prevent locking in new, expensive gas infrastructure and decades of higher emissions and energy bills. The 2022 Gas Substitution Roadmap and the 2024 Update guide households and businesses through this transition.

Initiatives already in place include:

- Gas connection abolishment fees capped at \$220 by the Australian Energy Regulator, and ensuring the costs of new connections can't be forced on existing network users.
- All new homes requiring a planning permit will be built all-electric

- The minimum thermal star rating for new residential buildings is now 7-stars (National House Energy Rating Scheme) according to the National Construction Code (NCC) 2022.
- Strengthened energy-efficiency requirements for homes are estimated to save new homeowners an average of \$183 on energy bills each year¹.

Initiatives which will commence soon include:

- From 1 January 2027 all new homes and many new commercial buildings² will be built all-electric.
- From 1 March 2027, existing homes must replace gas hot water systems at end-of-life with an efficient electric alternative, like a heat pump.
- From 1 March 2027, residential rental properties must meet new minimum energy efficiency and electrification standards.
- The proposed NCC 2025 will update energy efficiency requirements and mandate solar uptake for new commercial buildings.

All-electric homes lower emissions and save on bills

New homes

Going all-electric on a new home saves around \$880 a year, increasing to around \$1,820 a year with solar installed.

Built today, a new, all-electric home has 6% lower emissions than a dual-fuel (electric and gas) home, saving 0.3 tonnes of CO_2 -e in the first year. Over 10 years from 2025 to 2035, emissions will be 23% lower, saving 8.2 tonnes of CO_2 -e.

Yearly energy bills for a typical new, all-electric 7-star detached home (without solar) are around \$2,070, compared to \$2,950 for a dual-fuel home.

Existing homes

Going all-electric saves households around \$1,700 a year, increasing to around \$2,000 a year with solar installed.

In 2025, converting a dual-fuel home to allelectric lowers emissions by 19%, saving 1.3 tonnes of $\rm CO_2$ -e in the first year. Over 10 years from 2025 to 2035, emissions will be 38% lower than a new dual-fuel home, saving 21.5 tonnes of $\rm CO_2$ -e.

By switching to all-electric with solar, households can reduce energy bills by around 60%. Yearly energy bills for residents of an existing detached home are around \$3,420, compared to \$1,730 after complete electrification.

¹ Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS)

² Excludes industrial, manufacturing and agricultural buildings

Supporting energy upgrades for Victorian homes and businesses

The VEU and Solar Homes Programs are nation-leading programs to help Victorians switch to efficient, electric energy and slash the cost of living.

The **Solar Homes Program** supports Victorian households to reduce their energy bills and emissions with rebates and interest-free loans for rooftop solar and efficient hot water systems. Since launching in 2018, the program has supported over 324,000 rooftop solar systems for owner-occupier homes, rentals, apartments and community housing, and over 70,000 hot water systems. This includes support from the **Residential Electrification Grants Program** for up to 1,775 rooftop solar systems and 720 hot water systems in all-electric homes to eligible households.

At 1 July 2025, the Solar Homes Program had reduced emissions in the National Electricity Market (NEM) by an estimated 2.7 Mt CO₂-e and installed more than 2.3 GW of new solar generation capacity.

To accelerate the switch to efficient electric energy, the **Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU) program** offers homes and businesses discounts and rebates on a wide range of activities including:

- efficient electric appliances for space heating and hot water
- electric induction cooktops
- · weather sealing and window glazing.

The VEU also supports business upgrades, including:

- commercial and industrial motors, heat pumps and gas efficiency upgrades
- bespoke projects like solar or building upgrades.

From early 2026, the VEU will re-introduce support for ceiling insulation, further lowering energy demand for heating and cooling in Victorian homes.

We're reviewing the VEU to ensure it remains effective, inclusive and responsive to our evolving energy needs, and can accelerate the switch to efficient electric energy at scale.

Between 2026 and 2030, the VEU program will deliver upgrades that represent appliance lifetime savings around 7.2 Mt CO₂-e in Victoria, the equivalent to taking 2.1+ million cars off the road for a year.



The VEU program is the largest and most comprehensive program of its kind in the country.

Since 2009, the VEU program has supported over 2.4 million households and 180,000 businesses to reduce their energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions.

VEU energy efficiency upgrades save households around \$192 on average on their yearly energy bill, and save small to medium businesses \$5,314. Some businesses have saved as much as \$74,000 a year on energy costs.

The VEU program targets in 2025 and 2026 are expected to create a net present value of more than \$1.5 billion in energy system savings. This means bill savings for everyone – with households saving \$150 over the next 10 years.



Better energy for renters and social housing

One-third of Victorians are renters, and they need cost of living help more than anyone right now.

That's why from 1 March 2027, nation-leading minimum energy efficiency standards for rental homes and public housing will commence in Victoria. Standards will require draught-proofing, efficient shower heads, energy-efficient cooling and heating, and ceiling insulation. Additionally, gas hot water systems at end-of-life must be replaced with efficient electric alternatives.

We will accelerate compliance with new minimum energy efficiency standards in public and community housing. We'll also review the exemption for community housing properties in the new rental energy efficiency regulations by December 2026.

The **Solar for Community Housing Program** is supporting a clean energy transition for some of Victoria's most vulnerable residents by partnering with community housing providers to install rooftop solar panels to help alleviate cost-of-living pressures for low-income Victorians.

The Energy Efficiency for Social Housing Program will deliver over 50,000 upgrades across 23,600 properties, including replacing gas appliances with efficient electric alternatives, draught and gap sealing, ceiling insulation, gas disconnections and rooftop solar. The Victorian and Australian governments are contributing \$209.4 million through this program and the Australian Government's Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative. In April 2025, the Australian Government announced an additional \$120.3 million for Victoria to deliver energy improvements to a further 8,000 public and community housing properties.

Helping households to navigate the energy system

We're providing simple and accessible information to help Victorians take practical steps to save money on their energy bills, reduce their energy use and switch to efficient electric energy.

The SEC's 'one-stop shop' provides trusted, independent advice to help households make electric upgrades to their homes. It offers tailored plans to help households reduce their energy costs and emissions with energy-efficient electric appliances, through a digital platform and over the phone. It uses simple information about the home to estimate upfront costs, annual bill savings, return on investment, availability of government discounts and rebates, and connection to trusted and verified SEC suppliers and installers.

Over 15,000 households have already used the one-stop-shop pilot, with the tool to be launched statewide in 2026. It's forecast to help over 100,000 Victorian households make electric upgrades to their homes and save on their energy bills over the next 15 years.

Victorian Energy Compare is Victoria's only free and independent website to help consumers find and switch to better energy offers. In 2024, households who used the website to switch to a better offer saved \$240 per year on average. It also helps Victorians understand their energy use, and helps them to use energy more efficiently.

Neighbourhood Batteries for community energy storage

Victoria has rolled out a range of programs to support neighbourhood batteries.

The \$10.92 million **Neighbourhood Battery Initiative** has supported many neighbourhood battery models in Victoria, from inception to implementation through staged grants. Implementation projects funded in the third and final round of the program are underway, with completion expected in 2025–26.

The **100 Neighbourhood Batteries Program** is Victoria's flagship community energy program, and supports community-owned renewable energy projects. Round 1 funded 25 batteries, Round 2 funded a further 65 batteries and Round 3 funding will be awarded in early 2026.

The First Peoples' Solar and Storage Initiative, co-funded by the Australian Government, is providing energy generation and storage projects on Country, in partnership with Registered Aboriginal Parties, 14 Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations and other not-for-profit First Peoples' organisations.

Managing the transition away from fossil fuels

We're taking decisive action on climate change by harnessing abundant renewable resources for energy – reducing emissions, cutting energy bills and securing a clean, reliable energy future for all Victorians

Close coal-fired generation

We're providing market certainty for new renewable investment with agreed closure timelines for coal assets. Under a transition agreement, Yallourn Power Station will close in 2028, four years earlier than originally scheduled. We have also made a transition agreement with Loy Yang A Power Station, to close in 2035. This certainty will help secure investment for replacement renewables and energy storage.

Transition heavy industry to renewable alternatives

The Energy Innovation Fund (EIF) supports commercialising innovative, emerging and transformational renewable energy technologies and projects. The first EIF round of grants was dedicated to offshore wind and the second round to renewable technology supporting Victoria's net zero transition. The third EIF round was launched on 25 June 2025 with \$10 million for industrial electrification projects focused on food and beverage processing and manufacturing.

We know electrification isn't commercially or technically feasible for all industrial uses. For the heavy industry and gas-powered generation sectors, which account for around 40% of our gas consumption, cost-competitive renewable gases like biomethane and renewable hydrogen will be critical to transition away from fossil gas. In addition to energy efficiency and electrification the Gas

Substitution Roadmap highlights the need for a thriving gas sector to meet legislated emissions reduction targets.

That's why we're supporting renewable gas. We have led public consultation on the **Industrial Renewable Gas Guarantee** and are engaging with the Commonwealth and states and territories to drive investment and scale-up renewable gas production. A new renewable gas industry will reduce emissions and offer new job opportunities across Victoria, particularly in regional areas.

We continue to collaborate with the Australian Government and other states and territories to implement the **2024 National Hydrogen Strategy**. Victoria is leading the National Hydrogen First Responders training project which will be critical for the safe operation of hydrogen technology at scale.

Electrify government operations

While we work to support households, businesses and industry to transition from fossil fuels, we're also taking action to transition our own government operations.

New government buildings will continue to be built all-electric and from 2025, all new government office buildings and tenancy fit-outs will need to meet at least a 6-star energy performance rating. We're also introducing a new policy for all departments and agencies to factor in options to replace gas-fired assets with electric ones at end-of-life in existing government buildings and establishing a Government Buildings Efficient Electric Energy Study to demonstrate the benefits of electrification and inform future policies.

Hydrogen Park Murray Valley



Renewable hydrogen has the potential to make a big contribution to sustainable transport. To that end, the Victorian Government is working with project proponents to explore development pathways for producing renewable hydrogen at scale.

The Hydrogen Park Murray Valley project is under development and, once complete, its 10MW electrolyser will be the largest electrolyser operating on the Eastern seaboard.

The hydrogen produced by the facility can be used in several sectors including transport; with the facility having potential as a refueller for heavy road vehicles, and as a source for renewable hydrogen as sustainable fuels markets develop.

Creating and supporting new energy jobs

Victoria's energy transformation unlocks major economic benefit for our state by creating thousands of jobs and strengthening local supply chains in new, exciting industries.

Maximise investment opportunities and local supply chain growth

To meet demand for energy-efficient hot water appliances, we're investing in Victoria's appliance manufacturing industry with an **Industry**Diversification Program. This will support businesses to ride the wave of expanding electric appliance manufacturing and help gas appliance manufacturers upgrade their facilities and reskill their workforce.

We continue to annually refresh the **Renewable Energy Investment Prospectus** which showcases our potential to local and international investors, attracting expertise and capital to accelerate our renewable energy transition. The prospectus includes estimated demand for the renewable energy components required to meet targets, encouraging certainty and growth in local supply chains. It is now also publicly available on the DEECA website, to maximise its use and impact.

Build the energy workforce of the future

We expect Victoria's energy workforce to grow by more than 60% by 2040 to 67,000 workers.

To unlock economic prosperity from meeting our renewable energy targets, we must invest in a skilled and inclusive workforce, and we remain committed to increasing energy workforce diversity.

The **Victorian Energy Jobs Plan** will help identify actions we need to take to develop our energy workforce to support this transition.

The Plan sets out objectives to help:

- support more people to enter and excel in the energy workforce, including transitioning workers
- increase diversity in the energy workforce by supporting underrepresented groups to enter, such as women, people with disabilities and First Peoples
- identify how Victoria's education and training sector can support the needs of the current and future energy workforce
- support local communities across Victoria to benefit from energy sector jobs and skills development
- improve industry confidence and increase renewable energy investment in Victoria.

The Women in Energy Strategy will help support the full participation of women in Victoria's renewable energy transition, addressing their historically low representation in the sector. By bringing together industry, education, government and stakeholders to tackle the key barriers facing women in the energy workforce, this strategy will benefit both women and the wider Victorian community, including:

- a greater pool of talent to draw on, meaning more skilled workers to fill industry vacancies
- better organisational performance resulting from a diverse workforce
- a sustainable workforce with less staff turnover as a result of a more inclusive workplace culture

- enhanced visibility of women working in careers that are male-dominated
- a just and fair transition that produces benefits that women will share in.

The Victorian Energy Jobs Plan and the Women in Energy Strategy are expected to be released in 2026.

Building on its success, we're extending **Solar Victoria's training program** over the next three years. The program trains plumbers and fourth year apprentices in heat pump design and installation, upskills the construction industry to deliver 7-star and all-electric homes and mentors electricians working on rooftop solar installations and electrification.

We're exploring how Victoria's education and training sector can support the needs of the current and future energy workforce. The SEC is running a comprehensive student education program to inform, inspire and empower students to take part in the energy transition and the opportunities it brings, providing practical examples of jobs and career pathways. The SEC is delivering in-depth, meaningful interactions with high school students through its incursion program and excursions to its projects.

We're funding establishment of the **Wind Worker Training Centre**, to train and upskill wind workers for Victoria's shift to renewables. We're also partnering with the Australian Government and Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre to support the **\$40 million National Training Centre in New Energy Skills** to reskill thousands of plumbers and gas fitters for Victoria's energy transition, including in relation to heat pump technologies.

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom have ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria's Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

