

Media Release

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Climate Action
Minister for Energy and Resources
Minister for the State Electricity Commission



Thursday, 2 July 2026

NATION-LEADING PROJECT STRENGTHENS GRID FOR RENEWABLES

The largest synchronous condenser in Australia has now started operating in Elmhurst.

The Ararat Synchronous Condenser will allow an additional 600 megawatts of renewable energy generation to connect to the grid and deliver more reliable power for the west of Victoria.

The large spinning machine supports system stability and allows the electricity network to host more renewable energy.

It maintains a balance between power generation and consumption, quickly responding to sudden changes in power demand to stabilise the grid.

Australian Energy Operations is delivering and operating the project, with Victorian renewable company Beon Energy Solutions carrying out construction work.

This is just one of 12 projects being delivered as part of Victorian Labor's \$480 million investment in strengthening the state's grid so more renewable energy can flow to Victorian homes and businesses.

Together, these projects will unlock 2.3 gigawatts of clean energy, enough to power 16 per cent of Victoria's annual electricity needs, while delivering economic benefits and new opportunities for regional communities.

Only Labor will maintain the lowest electricity prices in the country, deliver the replacement energy infrastructure needed to keep the lights on and put regional jobs first.

Under the last Liberal government investment in renewables ground to a halt due to their planning restrictions – over \$4 billion in investment left the state – and they will do it again if elected.

Jess Wilson's Liberal One Nation Coalition will stop the energy transition, rip this \$18 billion in wages from regional workers, send power bills skyrocketing and leave Victorians in the dark.

Quote attributable to Minister for Energy and Resources Lily D'Ambrosio

"Only Labor will invest in the technology Victoria needs to lower bills and keep the lights on."

Quotes attributable to VicGrid Chief Executive Alistair Parker

"This project is another example of how we can work with industry partners to deliver the energy infrastructure Victoria needs while ensuring local communities share in the long-term social and economic benefits."

Quotes attributable to Australian Energy Operations Chief Executive Glen Thomson

"The Victorian Government should be congratulated for their vision and foresight to invest in this type of technology to support system strength in the grid and underpin further renewable generation investment in this part of Western Victoria."