

Media Release

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YACKANDANDAH ACHIEVES ENERGY PREPAREDNESS MILESTONE WITH TWO-YEAR CAMPAIGN

This week marks the successful conclusion of a two-year initiative aimed at ensuring Yackandandah's energy preparedness for sustained outages and emergencies. Funded by Emergency Recovery Victoria, Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) has collaborated with emergency service providers and the community to enhance the town's resilience.

The project involved a comprehensive assessment of key buildings across Yackandandah, resulting in the strategic installation of generator plug-in points at four main locations, including the Public Hall and Senior Citizens Centre. Additionally, solar panels and batteries were installed at the hall and community centre, reducing emissions, saving money, and providing immediate backup power. The initiative also saw the acquisition of two trailer-mounted diesel generators for deployment as needed, either within Yackandandah or the surrounding district.

In addition, the works improve the ability of community facilities to continue operating despite minor outages, which often take longer to resolve in regional areas, ensuring key services are more available to residents.

“Emergency Recovery Victoria is proud to have supported the Yackandandah Emergency Readiness project, and to have worked with Totally Renewable Yackandandah. This project is a positive example of ERV’s ongoing work with community and council to build stronger, safer and more prepared communities,” said Mariela Diaz, Emergency Recovery Victoria CEO

“A huge thanks to Emergency Recovery Victoria for enabling this dynamic and collaborative undertaking across Yackandandah. Whilst we hope the works are never needed, the backup generators, Starlink satellite receivers, and enabled buildings provide great practical options for our energy supply to support people after emergencies,” said Mr. Matthew Charles-Jones, President of TRY.

Totally Renewable Yackandandah, an award-winning community group, has been on a decade-long journey with their community to shift the town’s electricity supply to 100% renewable power. The group has focused on building energy resilience, strengthening the local economy and reducing carbon emissions. Their efforts include microgrid and virtual power plant trials, a neighbourhood battery, and shared purchasing of solar panels, batteries and heat pump hot water services.

For more information about TRY and its projects, visit www.totallyrenewableyack.org.au.

