

Yackandandah Community Battery launched by Energy Minister

The Victorian Energy Minister Lily d'Ambrosio today launched the first community-scale battery by Indigo Power and Totally Renewable Yackandandah (TRY) as part of a push for 100% renewable energy in the town of Yackandandah.

The 274 kWh battery and 65 kW solar installation is the first community-owned behind-the-meter solar power system to supply retail electricity customers in Australia and will provide power to more than 40 Yackandandah households around the clock.

Juliette Milbank from Totally Renewable Yackandandah said that the battery is a key step for the town to reach its 100% renewable energy target.

“This is a vital step to getting the town of Yackandandah toward its 100% target. We know that not only do we need more solar, but also storage to ensure the community has access to clean energy at all times,” Ms Milbank said.

“For residents that can't afford their own solar panels or don't own their own home, this enables them to participate in the renewable energy transition and receive the benefits from it.”

The project is a partnership between TRY and local community owned energy provider and social enterprise, Indigo Power, and will provide clean energy to members of the Yackandandah Community Energy Hub . Indigo Power Managing Director Ben McGowan said this is hopefully the first of many such projects across the region.

“This is a fantastic flagship project, to connect the local community to locally generated, community owned renewable energy, from the solar panels during the day, and from the battery during the day, but also , during the early evening rush and into the night,” Mr McGowan said.

“Many communities across the North East are looking at what's happening here in Yackandandah and saying they want something similar. I think we'll see many more community scale batteries like this across our region.”

The battery was supported by \$171,00 from the Victorian Government New Energy Jobs fund, a \$100,000 loan taken out by Indigo Power and underwritten by Sustainability Victoria, as well as donations from philanthropists and the local community.

The launch also coincided with the end of a project to establish the town's third microgrid trial . This project coordinated by TRY, DELWP and Mondo, demonstrates the possibilities for smarter control of network electricity flows for the benefit of residents and the network.

Media contacts:

Indigo Power:
Cambell Klose 0490 436 948

TRY:
Juliette Milbank 0439 637 115