

Climate Ready Hume



Update 16 – February 2021

Welcome to our newsletter combining news and information on renewable energy and climate change adaptation in our region and beyond.

The Victorian Government is committed to [being climate ready and resilient by 2050](#) and is helping our regional communities and organisations work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change by investing \$9.3 million in the [Supporting our Regions to Adapt program](#).



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Hume region is working with our communities to develop a Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (RAS) identifying our regional priorities, the necessary skills and knowledge required by communities, and to fund local adaptation and mitigation projects.

Climate Ready Hume project update

Thanks for joining the Climate Ready Hume team in our first newsletter of 2021. We were busy over the new year writing the draft RAS with our partners and are excited to now be preparing a version for public consultation.

In the draft RAS, climate change risks and priorities are being represented across six themes, including case studies and stories of your adaptation activities in the region. The RAS themes are:



- Preparing for and recovering from emergencies
- Caring for our natural environment
- Embracing renewable energy
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Enhancing neighbourhoods and built environment
- Strengthening the economy and workforce

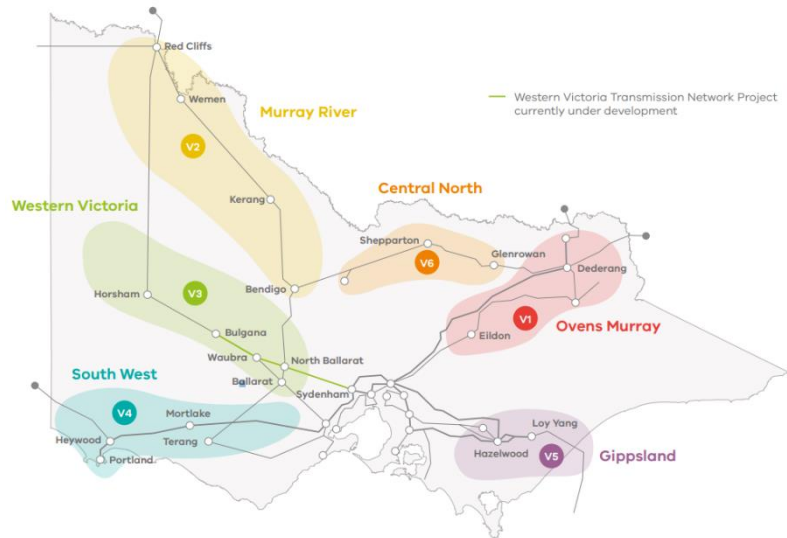
Dates for Draft RAS consultation and release of supporting resources will be in the next CRH update. Get in touch with the team at climateready.hume@delwp.vic.gov.au

Development of Renewable Energy Zones across Victoria

The Victorian Government is committed to the development of six [Renewable Energy Zones](#) (REZs) across the state (see map). REZs are areas of abundant renewable energy resources such as solar and

wind, the full development of which can ensure the timely and cost-effective delivery of secure and clean energy for Victoria.

The Victorian Government will develop a Renewable Energy Zone Development Plan to ensure that investments are coordinated, timely and deliver positive outcomes for Victoria and local communities. The REZ Development Plan will be backed by a \$540 million REZ Fund, which will be administered by a new body known as [VicGrid](#).



The first step in the REZ Development Plan is the release of the [Victorian Renewable Energy Zones Development Plan Directions Paper \(PDF, 7.5 MB\)](#). The Government is interested in hearing from a wide range of stakeholders including energy market participants, local governments and consumer, environmental and local community groups on VicGrid’s establishment and REZ development matters.

Written submissions to the REZ Development Plan Directions Paper are welcome before midnight **Wednesday, 31 March 2021** via email to REZDevelopment@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Funding your local environmental projects

Check out these DELWP environmental grants

- * [Aboriginal Caring for Country \(closes 22 April 2021\)](#)
- * [Community Volunteer Action grants - Stream 1 - Strengthening Environmental volunteering \(closes 1 April 2021\)](#)
- * [Community Volunteer Action grants - Stream 2- Biodiversity on-ground action and stewardship \(closes 1 April\)](#)
- * [Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity grants \(opens March 2021 and close 31 July 2021\)](#)
- * [Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program \(18 March 2021\)](#)



Solar on Public Buildings program update

Volunteer committees of management on DELWP land in Hume region, and across the state, are set to save thousands of dollars on power bills with the installation of solar PV systems, thanks to funding from the Victorian Government Solar on Public Buildings Program.

An initial round of 75 approved sites in Hume region will shortly receive an energy audit which, where appropriate, will be followed by the installation of a solar system designed to meet the needs of the facility.

Solar Battery rebates now available across every Victorian postcode

The Solar Homes program is supporting eligible Victorian households in all postcodes to install a solar battery, by providing a point of sale discount up to a maximum of \$4,174.

Click on the links for more information about the [solar battery rebate](#) and [how to apply](#). Call 1300 376 393 or email enquiries@team.solar.vic.gov.au

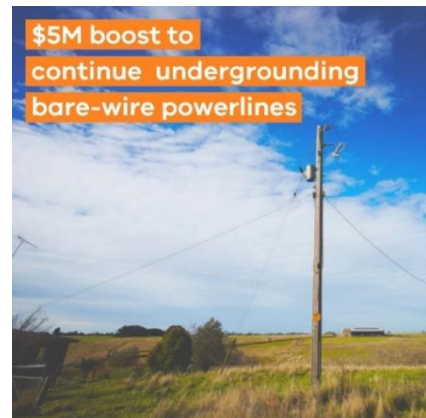


Funding to put powerlines underground

The Victorian Government is burying bare-wire powerlines across bushfire-affected properties in Alpine, Towong and East Gippsland shires. The scheme will help build community resilience and safety by reducing the risk of electricity-started bushfires.

Property owners with bare-wire electrical lines can [apply now](#) to have their **Private Overhead Electric Lines (POELs)** put underground. Applications **close 30 April 2021**.

Contact the POEL Scheme Project Team on 03 9918 7315.



Battery to be co-located with Hume Dam hydro power station



This month the NSW government announced the [Meridian 20MW Battery Energy Storage system \(BESS\)](#) project has received Development Consent. This battery project is co-located alongside the Hume Dam hydro power station, 20km upstream of Albury-Wodonga. [Click here](#) to find out more.

The project will supply firm dispatchable capacity for both the NSW and Victorian electricity grids contributing to overall grid stability. The Hume BESS will be operable later in 2021.

Solar panel recycling initiatives

How to sustainably manage solar PV panels at the end of their working life is an important issue for everyone to consider.

Australia has just one dedicated solar panel recycling company [Reclaim PV Recycling](#), who recently locked in plans to develop its first processing facility in an industrial Adelaide suburb and aims to recycle tens of thousands of PV panels a year.



A \$3 million federal government grant awarded to Melbourne-based company, [Ojas group](#), RMIT and The University of Melbourne is being used to set up a first of its kind solar panel upcycling plant, to transform solar panel waste into value-added materials. The project claims to be able to up-cycle 97 per cent of each PV panel. [Click here](#) to learn more.

This partnership will be known as [Elecsome](#) and has plans to build a national network of collection points and facilities. This includes setting up the factories in regional areas, creating employment opportunities, and for each factory to have a capacity of 50 tonnes of solar panel throughput.

Bathurst Regional Council embraces textile recycling

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports about 800,000 tonnes of textile, leather and rubber waste was discarded in the 2018-19 financial year, with almost 75 per cent sent directly to landfill.

Bathurst Regional Council has partnered with Sydney-based company Textile Recyclers Australia (TRA) to offer a three-month clothing recycling trial, in what is believed to be a first for regional NSW.



The project is well supported by the local community with more than 1,600 kilos of textiles recycled in the first month of the trial.

[Click here](#) to read the ABC report on the textile recycling trial and to learn more about the repurposing of the fibres and how they are being used as new fabrics and materials.

Project EDGE – calling for participants in a DER trial in Hume region



[Mondo](#) is seeking [expressions of interest](#) from homeowners and businesses in Hume region who wish to participate in a first of its kind distributed energy market place trial known as [Project EDGE \(Energy Demand & Generation Exchange\)](#).

Project Edge will initially involve around 50 residential customers and scale up to 1000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers within Hume region. The ultimate goal of the 3 year trial being to aggregate 10 MW of power.

[Click here](#) to learn more about distributed energy resources (DER).

The \$28 million trial will provide [AEMO](#), AusNet and Mondo visibility and active control of the DER, to create a simulated market and trading mechanisms to maximise the economic value of DER assets and contribute to the management of challenges associated with a decentralised grid.



Events and podcasts

Climate Science talks 26 February, 7pm Benalla Town Hall

Benalla Sustainable Future Group has secured two expert climate scientists [Dr Lynette Bettio](#) (Bureau of Meteorology) and Dr Leanne Webb (CSIRO, UNSW) to talk on **Climate Change - the present facts, and the future projections.**



**Benalla
Sustainable
Future
Group**

The Mayor of Indigo Shire, Jenny O'Connor, will also talk about her Shire's declaration of a [Climate Emergency](#), and their proposed actions in response to that declaration.

A Q&A session and a light supper will conclude the evening.

When: Friday 26 February 6.45pm for a 7pm start

Where: Benalla Town Hall, 82-86 Nunn St Benalla.

A free event but booking essential. RSVP by sending names and contact phone numbers to: 0438625638 or email bsfginc@gmail.com

Building your Soil Sponge

Interested in increasing the water holding capacity of your soil? Wanting to learn more about the concept of “soil carbon as a sponge” and its crucial role in repairing the soil water cycle and in-soil reservoir? The following workshops are being held in our region:

Yea - 3 March - Contact Kerstie Lee kerstiel@gbcma.vic.gov.au for information on the Yea session with [Walter Jehne](#). Limited places remaining and registration is essential.

Shepparton region - 4 and 5 March - Hosted by [Vic No-Till](#) and includes a farm visit on 5 March. Contact Penny Stemp penny@vicnotill.com.au for further details. Cost associated.



[Podcasts Resources | Climate Council](#)

Get the latest climate change news and information on the go from **Australia's** leading climate scientists and experts.

Topics include climate science information, investigating extreme weather, solutions and how you can make a difference to help tackle climate change.

Wondering how Victoria’s regions are transitioning to renewable energy?

[Visit the link](#) to see how Hume and other regions are making the transition to renewable energy and access all the regional renewable energy roadmaps.

For further information about Climate Ready Hume contact:

Kristy Roche, Project Manager

Email: climateready.hume@delwp.vic.gov.au

Climate Ready Hume | Hume Region

Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

